



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE  
WASHINGTON DC

17 August 2010

MEMORANDUM FOR ALMAJCOM/CV

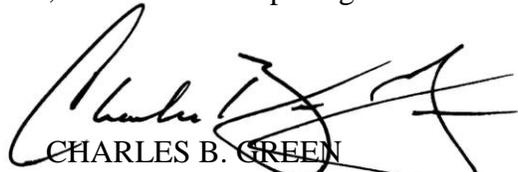
FROM: HQ USAF/SG  
1780 Air Force Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20330-1780

SUBJECT: Electronic Cigarette Use

This memorandum is to alert all Airmen about the safety concerns regarding a new type of tobacco product. Electronic cigarettes, also known as “e-cigs,” are battery operated devices that look like conventional cigarettes. The e-cig contains a cartridge filled with nicotine, which is delivered to the user as a vapor. Water vapor is emitted from the end of the device to mimic the appearance of smoke. Advertisements claim electronic cigarettes are a healthier way to smoke but one sample tested by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) contained diethylene glycol—a toxic chemical used in antifreeze. Other samples tested by the FDA contained cancer-causing agents yet there are no health warnings on these products similar to those seen on conventional cigarette packages.

Manufacturers offer cartridges with decreasing levels of nicotine with the idea that they can be used to help someone quit smoking. No studies have been done to demonstrate the safety or effectiveness of these products as tobacco cessation aids and they are not approved by the FDA as a drug delivery device. Commanders also need to be aware that the cartridges used in these devices are replaceable and could be used to discreetly deliver substances other than nicotine.

Due to the nature, appearance, and safety concerns of electronic cigarettes, they are considered to be in the same category of tobacco products whose use is governed by Air Force Instruction (AFI) 40-102, *Tobacco Use in the Air Force*. This new product will be reflected in the upcoming revision of AFI 40-102 due out this fall. Should you have any questions regarding the use of electronic cigarettes, my point of contact is Lieutenant Colonel Dan Kulund, AFMSA/SG3O, (703) 588-7267, DSN 425-7267, or dan.kulund@pentagon.af.mil.

  
CHARLES B. GREEN  
Lieutenant General, USAF, MC, CFS  
Surgeon General

cc: ALMAJCOM/SG

SG Doc 10-0016