

## INFORMATION PAPER

SUBJECT: Political Activities

## 1. BACKGROUND:

a. DoD encourages all active duty Military and Civilian personnel and their eligible family members to register and vote. DoD will support the Federal Voting Assistance Program by publishing factual information about registration and voting laws, with special emphasis on absentee voting requirements. Additionally, Commanders will provide voting assistance officers at every level of command, and ensure that they are trained and equipped to provide voting assistance. Recommendation below is verbatim from "DoD Public Affairs Guidance Concerning Political Campaigns and Elections Addresses Pass to all Subordinate Commands."

## 2. RECOMMENDATION: Commanders should ensure the following:

a. No member of the uniformed services shall attempt to influence the vote of any other member, or to require any member to march to any polling place or place of voting.

b. As a matter of long-standing policy, DoD personnel acting in their official capacity may not engage in activities that associate DoD with any partisan political campaign or election, candidate, cause or issue.

c. The DoD does not engage in partisan political activities. Therefore, its interaction with candidates for political office must not imply or appear to imply sponsorship, approval, or endorsement of any such candidates or political views.

d. DoD personnel must forward all inquiries from political campaign organizations to a public affairs officer for awareness and appropriate action.

e. All Military personnel, including National Guard and Reserve Forces, are prohibited from wearing military uniforms at political campaign or election events.

f. No Military personnel, including National Guard and Reserve Forces, acting in their official capacity, may engage in public commentary, including speeches and written submissions offered for publication, concerning political campaigns or elections absent prior clearance.

g. Military members on active duty and members of full-time National Guard shall not distribute partisan political campaign or election literature. Those not on active duty or who are not in a full-time National Guard duty status, shall not distribute partisan political campaign or election literature while in uniform, while acting in their official capacity, or while on a military installation.

h. Installation commanders will not permit the use of installation facilities by any candidate for political campaign or election events, including: public assemblies or town hall meetings, speeches, fund-raisers, press conferences, post-election celebrations, and concession addresses.

i. DoD newspapers, magazines, and civilian enterprise publications will not publish information provided by a candidate's campaign organization, partisan advertisements and discussions, or cartoons, editorials, and commentaries dealing with political campaigns or elections, candidates, causes, or issues; they also may not conduct or publish polls, surveys, or straw votes relating to political campaigns or elections, candidates, causes, or issues.



Approved by COL Pedersen/2-2685

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PRECEDENCE TO: ROUTINE DTG: 2741449Z APR 27  
PRECEDENCE CC: ROUTINE  
TYPE: DMS SIGNED/ENCRYPTED  
FROM PLA: SECDEF WASHINGTON DC//PA//  
FROM D/N: C:US,O:U.S. GOVERNMENT,OU:DOD,OU:OSD,OU:ORGANIZATIONS,  
L:WASHINGTON DC,OU:ASD(PUBLIC AFFAIRS)(UC)  
SUBJECT: DOD PUBLIC AFFAIRS POLICY GUIDANCE CONCERNING POLITICAL  
CAMPAIGNS AND ELECTIONS ADDRESSES PASS TO ALL SUBORDINATE COMMANDS  
TEXT:  
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SUBJ: DOD PUBLIC AFFAIRS POLICY GUIDANCE CONCERNING POLITICAL  
CAMPAIGNS AND ELECTIONS ADDRESSEES PASS TO ALL SUBORDINATE COMMANDS  
REFS:

- A. SECDEF MSG 281449Z JAN 08, DOD PUBLIC AFFAIRS POLICY GUIDANCE CONCERNING POLITICAL CAMPAIGNS AND ELECTIONS
- B. DOD DIRECTIVE 1344.10, POLITICAL ACTIVITIES BY MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES ON ACTIVE DUTY
- C. 5 U.S.C. '7321-7326, THE HATCH ACT OF 1939, AS AMENDED IN 1993
- D. 5 C.F.R. PARTS 733-734, POLITICAL ACTIVITIES OF FEDERAL EMPLOYEES
- E. DOD DIRECTIVE 5230.9, CLEARANCE OF DOD INFORMATION FOR PUBLIC RELEASE
- F. DOD INSTRUCTION 5120.4, DOD NEWSPAPERS, MAGAZINES AND CIVILIAN ENTERPRISE PUBLICATIONS
- G. DOD INSTRUCTION 1100.13, SURVEYS OF DOD PERSONNEL
- H. DOD DIRECTIVE 5120.20, ARMED FORCES RADIO AND TELEVISION SERVICE (AFRTS)
- I. DOD REGULATION 5120.20-R, MANAGEMENT AND OPERATION OF AFRTS
- J. DOD INSTRUCTION 1334.1, WEARING THE UNIFORM
- K. AFI 36-2903, DRESS AND PERSONAL APPEARANCE OF AIR FORCE PERSONNEL
- L. AR 670-1, WEAR AND APPEARANCE OF ARMY UNIFORMS AND INSIGNIA
- M. NAVPERS 15665I, UNITED STATES NAVY UNIFORM REGULATIONS
- N. MCO P1020.34G, MARINE CORPS UNIFORM REGULATIONS
- O. DOD DIRECTIVE 5410.18, PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMUNITY RELATIONS POLICY
- P. DOD INSTRUCTION 5410.19, PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMUNITY RELATIONS POLICY IMPLEMENTATION
- Q. DOD DIRECTIVE 1000.04, FEDERAL VOTING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (FVAP)
- R. 2010-2011 DOD VOTING ASSISTANCE GUIDE, AS AMENDED
- S. DOD DIRECTIVE 1344.13, IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL VOTER REGISTRATION ACT (NVRA) 1. THIS PUBLIC AFFAIRS GUIDANCE SUPERCEDES THE PREVIOUS MESSAGE DATED 281449Z JAN 2008

T. DOD MEMORANDUM, POLICY GUIDANCE FOR VISITS TO INSTALLATIONS BY CANDIDATES FOR POLITICAL OFFICE, DATED NOVEMBER 4, 2008.

2. COMMANDERS SHALL COMPLY WITH THIS POLICY GUIDANCE CONCERNING POLITICAL CAMPAIGNS AND ELECTIONS. THIS GUIDANCE GOVERNS ACTIVITIES RELATING TO FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL POLITICAL CAMPAIGNS AND ELECTIONS.

CONSISTENT WITH THIS GUIDANCE, COMMANDERS SHOULD ENCOURAGE AND WELCOME VISITS BY CANDIDATES SEEKING TO RECEIVE BRIEFINGS, TOURS, OR OTHER OFFICIAL DOD INFORMATION. FURTHER, NOTHING IN THIS GUIDANCE IS INTENDED TO INHIBIT THE APPROPRIATE REPRESENTATION BY ELECTED OFFICIALS OF CONSTITUENTS WHO HAPPEN TO LIVE OR WORK ON A MILITARY INSTALLATION. FURTHERMORE, THE PROHIBITIONS OF THIS MESSAGE APPLIES WITH EQUAL FORCE TO NON-CANDIDATES WHO SEEK TO CAMPAIGN FOR OR CONDUCT ELECTION ACTIVITY ON BEHALF OF A CANDIDATE.

A CANDIDATE FOR CIVIL OFFICE AS DEFINED BY DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE DIRECTIVE 1344.10, POLITICAL ACTIVITIES OF MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES, MAY NOT BE PERMITTED TO ENGAGE IN CAMPAIGN OR ELECTION-RELATED ACTIVITIES (E.G., PUBLIC ASSEMBLIES, TOWN HALL MEETINGS, SPEECHES, FUND-RAISERS, PRESS CONFERENCES, POST-ELECTION CELEBRATIONS, AND CONCESSION ADDRESSES) WHILE ON A UNITED STATES MILITARY INSTALLATION, WHICH INCLUDES OVERSEAS INSTALLATIONS AND AREAS UNDER THE OPERATIONAL CONTROL OF COMBAT OR PEACEKEEPING FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES MILITARY.

3. THIS MESSAGE SUPERSEDES REF. A, AND SHALL REMAIN IN EFFECT UNTIL AMENDED. ADDRESSEES WILL ENSURE WIDEST DISSEMINATION, IMPLEMENTATION, AND COMPLIANCE.

4. NATIONAL GUARD ARMORIES AND OTHER STATE FACILITIES SHOULD REVIEW APPLICABLE STATE LAW FOR ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE AND RESTRICTIONS.

5. POLITICAL CAMPAIGNS AND ELECTIONS DEFINED. A POLITICAL CAMPAIGN OR ELECTION BEGINS WHEN A CANDIDATE, INCLUDING AN INCUMBENT OFFICE-HOLDER, MAKES A FORMAL ANNOUNCEMENT THAT HE OR SHE SEEKS TO BE ELECTED TO A FEDERAL, STATE, OR LOCAL POLITICAL OFFICE. A POLITICAL CAMPAIGN OR ELECTION ALSO BEGINS WHEN AN INDIVIDUAL FILES A CANDIDACY WITH THE FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION OR EQUIVALENT STATE OR LOCAL REGULATORY OFFICE. ONCE INITIATED, A POLITICAL CAMPAIGN OR ELECTION DOES NOT END UNTIL ONE WEEK AFTER THE CONCLUSION OF THE RELEVANT ELECTION.

6. GENERAL POLICY. AS A MATTER OF LONG-STANDING POLICY, DOD PERSONNEL ACTING IN THEIR OFFICIAL CAPACITY MAY NOT ENGAGE IN ACTIVITIES THAT ASSOCIATE DOD WITH ANY PARTISAN POLITICAL CAMPAIGN OR ELECTION, CANDIDATE, CAUSE OR ISSUE.

THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE DOES NOT ENGAGE IN PARTISAN POLITICAL ACTIVITIES. THEREFORE, ITS INTERACTION WITH CANDIDATES FOR POLITICAL OFFICE MUST NOT IMPLY OR APPEAR TO IMPLY SPONSORSHIP, APPROVAL, OR ENDORSEMENT OF ANY SUCH CANDIDATES OR POLITICAL VIEWS.

POLITICAL ACTIVITY BY MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES CONTINUES TO BE GOVERNED BY REF. B. POLITICAL ACTIVITY BY FEDERAL CIVILIAN PERSONNEL CONTINUES TO BE GOVERNED BY REFS. C AND D.

7. INQUIRIES FROM POLITICAL CAMPAIGN ORGANIZATIONS. DOD PERSONNEL MUST FORWARD ALL INQUIRIES FROM POLITICAL CAMPAIGN ORGANIZATIONS TO A PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER (PAO) FOR AWARENESS AND APPROPRIATE ACTION. IN RESPONSE TO SPECIFIC INQUIRIES, PAOS WILL ONLY PROVIDE INFORMATION THAT IS AVAILABLE TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC. REF. E PERTAINS. THIS DOES NOT APPLY TO INQUIRIES FROM THE OFFICIAL OFFICES OR STAFF OF ELECTED OFFICIALS.

8. DOD NEWSPAPERS, MAGAZINES, AND PUBLICATIONS. PER REF. F, DOD NEWSPAPERS, MAGAZINES, AND CIVILIAN ENTERPRISE PUBLICATIONS WILL NOT PUBLISH INFORMATION PROVIDED BY A CANDIDATE'S CAMPAIGN ORGANIZATION, PARTISAN ADVERTISEMENTS AND DISCUSSIONS, OR CARTOONS, EDITORIALS, AND COMMENTARIES DEALING WITH POLITICAL CAMPAIGNS OR ELECTIONS, CANDIDATES, CAUSES, OR ISSUES. PER REF. G, DOD NEWSPAPERS AND CIVILIAN ENTERPRISE PUBLICATIONS MAY NOT CONDUCT OR PUBLISH POLLS, SURVEYS, OR STRAW VOTES RELATING TO POLITICAL CAMPAIGNS OR ELECTIONS, CANDIDATES, CAUSES, OR ISSUES.

9. ARMED FORCES RADIO AND TELEVISION SERVICE (AFRTS) PER REFS. H AND I, AFRTS WILL PROVIDE A FREE FLOW OF BALANCED, INFORMATIONAL COVERAGE OF POLITICAL CAMPAIGNS AND ELECTIONS PROVIDED BY U.S. COMMERCIAL AND PUBLIC NETWORKS FREE OF CHARGE. AFRTS WILL EXERCISE GREAT CARE TO PROVIDE NEWS REGARDING POLITICAL CAMPAIGNS AND ELECTIONS ABSENT POLITICAL COMMENT, ANALYSIS, OR INTERPRETATION. ALTHOUGH AFRTS MAY INCLUDE POLITICAL COMMENT, ANALYSIS, OR INTERPRETATION FROM SOURCES PROVIDED BY U.S. COMMERCIAL AND PUBLIC NETWORKS FREE OF CHARGE AS PART OF ITS INFORMATIONAL COVERAGE, AFRTS WILL NOT SUPPORT OR OPPOSE ANY CANDIDATES, CAUSES, OR ISSUES. ADDITIONALLY, AFRTS WILL NOT BROADCAST ADVERTISEMENTS OR ANNOUNCEMENTS PAID FOR BY A CANDIDATE, AN ORGANIZED POLITICAL PARTY, OR A PRIVATE GROUP SEEKING TO INFLUENCE THE OUTCOME OF A POLITICAL CAMPAIGN OR ELECTION.

10. USE OF INSTALLATION FACILITIES BY CANDIDATES.

A. INSTALLATION COMMANDERS WILL NOT PERMIT THE USE OF INSTALLATION FACILITIES BY ANY CANDIDATE FOR POLITICAL CAMPAIGN OR ELECTION EVENTS, INCLUDING: PUBLIC ASSEMBLIES OR TOWN HALL MEETINGS, SPEECHES, FUND-RAISERS, PRESS CONFERENCES, POST-ELECTION CELEBRATIONS, AND CONCESSION ADDRESSES. THIS POLICY DOES NOT PROHIBIT MEMBERS OF CONGRESS AND OTHER ELECTED OFFICIALS FROM VISITING MILITARY INSTALLATIONS TO RECEIVE BRIEFINGS, TOURS, OR OTHER OFFICIAL DOD INFORMATION. INSTALLATION COMMANDERS WILL ENSURE THAT CANDIDATES WHO VISIT MILITARY INSTALLATIONS TO CONDUCT OFFICIAL BUSINESS DO NOT ENGAGE IN ANY POLITICAL CAMPAIGN OR ELECTION ACTIVITY DURING THE VISIT. THE PRECEDING PROHIBITION DOES NOT APPLY TO THE PRESIDENT, VICE PRESIDENT OR SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

B. THIS PROHIBITION DOES NOT LIMIT ACCESS TO A UNITED STATES INSTALLATION BY A CANDIDATE WHO HOLDS A CIVIL OFFICE WITH RESPONSIBILITIES THAT AFFECT THAT INSTALLATION OR THOSE WHO LIVE OR WORK THERE, IN THE FOLLOWING SITUATIONS:

1) WHEN THE CANDIDATE SEEKS TO CONDUCT OFFICIAL BUSINESS ON THE INSTALLATION; OR

2) WHEN THE CANDIDATE SEEKS TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF ACTIVITIES, SERVICES, OR RESOURCES THAT ARE AVAILABLE TO HIM OR HER BY VIRTUE OF LAW OR POLICY, SUCH AS RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES OPEN TO THE PUBLIC OR ENTITLEMENTS OR BENEFITS SUCH AS MEDICAL FACILITIES, COMMISSARIES, OR POST/BASE EXCHANGES.

INSTALLATION COMMANDERS SHOULD ENSURE THAT CANDIDATES WHO ENTER AN INSTALLATION FOR ONE OF THE TWO PURPOSES NOTED IN PARAGRAPHS 10B(1) AND 10B(2) DO NOT ENGAGE IN ANY CAMPAIGN OR ELECTION ACTIVITY DURING THE VISIT.

A. CANDIDATES WHO ARE NOT CURRENT OFFICE HOLDERS OR SERVING GOVERNMENTAL OFFICIALS SHOULD HAVE THE SAME ACCESS TO INSTALLATIONS AS ANY UNOFFICIAL VISITOR.

B. INSTALLATION COMMANDERS SHOULD COORDINATE WITH THEIR LEGAL OFFICE AND FORWARD NOTICE OF CONTACT FROM A PRESIDENTIAL OR VICE PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN TO THEIR LOCAL SERVICE PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE FOR COORDINATION WITH THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY CONCERNED.

E. WHEN ANALYZING A CANDIDATE'S REQUEST FOR ACCESS TO AN INSTALLATION, THE COMMANDER SHOULD FIRST DETERMINE WHETHER THE REQUEST IS TO CONDUCT OFFICIAL, PERSONAL, OR CAMPAIGN BUSINESS. THE FOLLOWING TYPES OF REQUESTS ARE PRESUMED TO BE FOR POLITICAL PURPOSES AND SHALL GENERALLY BE DENIED: REQUEST FOR ACCESS TO MILITARY INSTALLATIONS OR FACILITIES FROM CAMPAIGN ORGANIZATIONS - AS OPPOSED TO THE OFFICIAL STAFF OF THE OFFICE THAT THE CANDIDATE CURRENTLY HOLDS; REQUESTS FOR ACCESS TO MILITARY INSTALLATIONS OR FACILITIES BY SPOUSES OR FAMILY MEMBERS OF CANDIDATES WHEN SUCH SPOUSES OR FAMILY MEMBERS ARE NOT OTHERWISE ENTITLED TO ACCESS BY LAW OR POLICY OR WHO OTHERWISE DO NOT HAVE AN INDEPENDENT OFFICIAL PURPOSE; AND REQUESTS FOR ACCESS TO MILITARY INSTALLATIONS OR FACILITIES THAT INCLUDE ACCOMPANIMENT BY CAMPAIGN STAFF AND/OR PRESS.

F. TO AVOID THE APPEARANCE OF PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT, INSTALLATION COMMANDERS SHOULD OFFER ALL CANDIDATES FOR CIVIL OFFICE WHO ARE NOT CURRENT MEMBERS OF CONGRESS OR SERVING GOVERNMENTAL OFFICIALS THE SAME ACCESS TO INSTALLATIONS AS ANY OTHER UNOFFICIAL VISITOR.

G. INSTALLATION COMMANDERS SHOULD CONSULT THE OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS FOR GUIDANCE OR INSTRUCTIONS REGARDING SPECIFIC VISITATION REQUESTS.

11. MEDIA COVERAGE OF INSTALLATION VISITS. BEFORE AN INSTALLATION COMMANDER INVITES A CANDIDATE ONTO AN INSTALLATION TO PARTICIPATED IN

OFFICIAL BUSINESS OR OTHERWISE GRANTS A CANDIDATE ACCESS FOR SUCH PURPOSES, THE COMMANDER SHOULD COORDINATE WITH HIS OR HER LEGAL ADVISOR AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER. THE MEDIA MAY BE GRANTED ACCESS TO COVER THE CANDIDATE'S OFFICIAL BUSINESS. WHEN AN INSTALLATION COMMANDER INVITES A CANDIDATE TO AN INSTALLATION TO PARTICIPATE IN OFFICIAL BUSINESS, AND THE MEDIA IS GRANTED ACCESS TO COVER THE EVENT, THE CANDIDATE MAY APPEAR ON CAMERA AND IN PHOTOGRAPHS AS AN OFFICIAL PARTICIPANT AND MAY MAKE A STATEMENT OR ANSWER QUESTIONS ABOUT THE OFFICIAL BUSINESS BEING CONDUCTED. UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES MAY A CANDIDATE RECEIVE APPROVAL TO MAKE A CAMPAIGN OR ELECTION-RELATED STATEMENT OR TO RESPOND TO A CAMPAIGN OR ELECTION-RELATED MEDIA QUERY. THE INSTALLATION COMMANDER WILL NOT REQUEST THAT THE CANDIDATE'S REMARKS BE REVIEWED BEFOREHAND; HOWEVER, NO FOOTAGE, PHOTOGRAPHS, OR STATEMENTS TAKEN OR RECORDED DURING SUCH OFFICIAL BUSINESS MAY BE USED BY THE CANDIDATE'S CAMPAIGN FOR ANY CAMPAIGN OR ELECTION-RELATED PURPOSE. WHEN A CANDIDATE FOR CIVIL OFFICE ARRIVES OR DEPARTS A MILITARY INSTALLATION VIA MILITARY AIRCRAFT, THE INSTALLATION COMMANDER WILL NOT AUTHORIZE MEDIA COVERAGE OF THE ARRIVAL OR DEPARTURE IF THE ELECTED OFFICIAL'S ITINERARY INCLUDES POLITICAL CAMPAIGNING OR ELECTION ACTIVITY IN THE LOCAL COMMUNITY. THE PRECEDING PROHIBITION DOES NOT APPLY TO THE PRESIDENT, THE VICE PRESIDENT, OR THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. WHEN THE PRESIDENT, VICE PRESIDENT, OR SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE ARRIVES OR DEPARTS A MILITARY INSTALLATION VIA MILITARY AIRCRAFT AND PART OF THAT OFFICIAL'S ITINERARY INCLUDES POLITICAL CAMPAIGN OR ELECTION ACTIVITY IN SUPPORT OF A PARTICULAR CANDIDATE, THE INSTALLATION COMMANDER WILL ALLOW THE MEDIA A PHOTO OPPORTUNITY TO COVER THE ARRIVAL OR DEPARTURE OF THE PRESIDENT, VICE PRESIDENT, OR SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE. INSTALLATION COMMANDERS ANTICIPATING A VISIT BY THE PRESIDENT, VICE PRESIDENT, OR SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE THAT MAY INVOLVE POLITICAL CAMPAIGN OR ELECTION ACTIVITIES SHOULD COORDINATE WITH OSD-LA, AND STAFF ASSISTANTS PLANNING THE VISIT TO ENSURE ALL CONCERNED ARE AWARE OF THE PROVISIONS OF DOD'S PUBLIC AFFAIRS POLICY GUIDANCE.

12. SUPPORT OF POLITICAL EVENTS BY MILITARY PERSONNEL. DOD MAINTAINS A LONG-STANDING POLICY THAT DOD PERSONNEL ACTING IN THEIR OFFICIAL CAPACITY MAY NOT ENGAGE IN ACTIVITIES THAT ASSOCIATE DOD WITH ANY PARTISAN POLITICAL CAMPAIGN OR ELECTION, CANDIDATE, CAUSE, OR ISSUE. CONSISTENT WITH THIS POLICY GUIDANCE, INSTALLATION COMMANDERS WILL DECLINE REQUESTS FOR MILITARY PERSONNEL TO APPEAR IN OR SUPPORT POLITICAL CAMPAIGN OR ELECTION EVENTS. ALL MILITARY PERSONNEL, INCLUDING NATIONAL GUARD AND RESERVE FORCES, ARE PROHIBITED FROM WEARING MILITARY UNIFORMS AT POLITICAL CAMPAIGN OR ELECTION EVENTS. REFERENCES J, K, L, M AND N PERTAIN. THIS POLICY IS NOT APPLICABLE TO THE PROVISION OF JOINT ARMED FORCES COLOR GUARDS AT THE OPENING CEREMONIES OF THE NATIONAL CONVENTIONS OF THE REPUBLICAN, DEMOCRATIC,

AND OTHER POLITICAL PARTIES FORMALLY RECOGNIZED BY THE FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION.

13. PUBLIC COMMENTARY BY MILITARY PERSONNEL. NO MILITARY PERSONNEL, INCLUDING NATIONAL GUARD AND RESERVE FORCES, ACTING IN THEIR OFFICIAL CAPACITY, MAY ENGAGE IN PUBLIC COMMENTARY, INCLUDING SPEECHES AND WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS OFFERED FOR PUBLICATION, CONCERNING POLITICAL CAMPAIGNS OR ELECTIONS ABSENT PRIOR CLEARANCE. REFS. B, E, F, O, AND P PERTAIN.

14. POLITICAL CAMPAIGN OR ELECTION LITERATURE. MILITARY MEMBERS ON ACTIVE DUTY AND MEMBERS ON FULL-TIME NATIONAL GUARD DUTY SHALL NOT DISTRIBUTE PARTISAN POLITICAL CAMPAIGN OR ELECTION LITERATURE. THOSE NOT ON ACTIVE

DUTY AND WHO ARE NOT IN A FULL-TIME NATIONAL GUARD DUTY STATUS, SHALL NOT

DISTRIBUTE PARTISAN POLITICAL CAMPAIGN OR ELECTION LITERATURE WHILE IN UNIFORM, WHILE ACTING IN THEIR OFFICIAL CAPACITY, OR WHILE ON A MILITARY INSTALLATION. INSTALLATION COMMANDERS WILL ONLY ALLOW DISTRIBUTION OF POLITICAL CAMPAIGN OR ELECTION LITERATURE ON INSTALLATIONS AS AUTHORIZED BY MILITARY DEPARTMENT REGULATIONS.

15. FILMING, PHOTOGRAPHING, OR TAPING ON MILITARY INSTALLATIONS. INSTALLATION COMMANDERS WILL NOT ALLOW CANDIDATES OR THEIR AGENTS TO FILM, PHOTOGRAPH, OR TAPE MILITARY EQUIPMENT (E.G. SHIPS, TANKS, AND AIRCRAFT) FOR USE IN POLITICAL CAMPAIGN OR ELECTION ADVERTISEMENTS, COMMERCIALS, OR LITERATURE. ABSENT EXCEPTIONAL OPERATIONAL SECURITY CONCERNS, THIS GUIDANCE DOES NOT APPLY TO CANDIDATES OR THEIR ASSISTANTS WHO ELECT TO FILM, PHOTOGRAPH, OR TAPE MILITARY EQUIPMENT FROM A LOCATION OUTSIDE THE CONFINES OF AN INSTALLATION. THIS DOES NOT APPLY TO IMAGERY OF ELECTED OFFICIALS CAPTURED WHILE ON OFFICIAL BUSINESS OR TRAVEL.

16. FEDERAL VOTING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM. DOD ENCOURAGES ALL ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY AND CIVILIAN PERSONNEL AND THEIR ELIGIBLE FAMILY MEMBERS TO REGISTER AND VOTE. CONSISTENT WITH REFS. O AND P, DOD WILL SUPPORT THE FEDERAL VOTING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM BY PUBLISHING FACTUAL INFORMATION ABOUT REGISTRATION AND VOTING LAWS, WITH SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON ABSENTEE VOTING REQUIREMENTS. ADDITIONALLY, COMMANDERS WILL PROVIDE VOTING ASSISTANCE OFFICERS AT EVERY LEVEL OF COMMAND, AND ENSURE THEY ARE TRAINED AND EQUIPPED TO PROVIDE VOTING ASSISTANCE. ALL PERSONS ASSISTING IN THE VOTING PROCESS SHALL TAKE ALL NECESSARY STEPS TO PREVENT FRAUD AND TO PROTECT VOTERS AGAINST ANY COERCION, INCLUDING THE FOLLOWING: NO MEMBER OF THE UNIFORMED SERVICES SHALL ATTEMPT TO INFLUENCE THE VOTE OF ANY OTHER MEMBER, OR TO REQUIRE ANY MEMBER TO MARCH TO ANY POLLING PLACE OR PLACE OF VOTING AS PRESCRIBED UNDER 18 U.S.C. 608 AND 609 [NEW REFERENCE]. NOTHING IN THIS GUIDANCE SHALL BE CONSIDERED TO PROHIBIT FREE DISCUSSION ABOUT POLITICAL ISSUES OR CANDIDATES FOR PUBLIC OFFICE AS PRESCRIBED IN 18 U.S.C 596, 608 AND 609 [NEW REFERENCE AS ABOVE].

COMMANDERS RESPONSIBLE FOR OPERATION OF MILITARY POST OFFICES SHOULD ENSURE EXPEDITIOUS PROCESSING OF BALLOTING MATERIAL AND PROPER POSTMARKING AND DATE STAMPING OF ABSENTEE BALLOTS. VOTING ASSISTANCE INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE THROUGH THE DIRECTOR, FEDERAL VOTING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM, 1155 DEFENSE PENTAGON, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-1155. VOTING ASSISTANCE INFORMATION ALSO IS AVAILABLE BY TELEPHONE AT COMMERCIAL (800) 438-8683, (703) 588-1584, DSN 425-1584, BY FAX (703) 696-1352, DSN 426-1352, BY E-MAIL (ALL LOWER CASE) [VOTE@FVAP.GOV](mailto:VOTE@FVAP.GOV) <[MAILTO:VOTE@FVAP.GOV](mailto:VOTE@FVAP.GOV)> , OR AT WEBSITE [WWW.FVAP.GOV](http://WWW.FVAP.GOV) <[HTTP://WWW.FVAP.GOV](http://WWW.FVAP.GOV)> .

17. NATIONAL VOTER REGISTRATION ACT. ARMED FORCES RECRUITMENT OFFICES MUST REVIEW REF. Q TO ENSURE COMPLIANCE WITH THE NATIONAL VOTER REGISTRATION ACT.

18. INSTALLATION FACILITIES AS POLLING PLACES:

A. IF AS OF DEC. 31, 2000, AN INSTALLATION FACILITY WAS DESIGNATED AS AN OFFICIAL POLLING PLACE BY A STATE OR LOCAL ELECTION OFFICIAL OR HAS BEEN USED AS A POLLING PLACE SINCE JAN. 1, 1996, INSTALLATION COMMANDERS SHALL

NOT DENY THE USE OF THAT FACILITY AS A POLLING PLACE FOR FEDERAL, STATE, OR LOCAL ELECTIONS. THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE OR THE SECRETARY OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENT CONCERNED MAY GRANT A WAIVER OF THE REQUIREMENT TO ALLOW USE OF THE FACILITY IF THAT SECRETARY DETERMINES THAT LOCAL SECURITY CONDITIONS REQUIRE PROHIBITION OF THE DESIGNATION OR USE OF THAT FACILITY AS AN OFFICIAL POLLING PLACE FOR ANY ELECTION. BECAUSE LOCATING POLLING PLACES ON A MILITARY INSTALLATION MAY CAUSE DOD PERSONNEL INADVERTENTLY TO VIOLATE ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING STATUTES: 18 U.S.C. 592, 593, 594, 596, 602, 603, 606, 607, AND 609; INSTALLATION COMMANDERS SHOULD ENSURE THAT ALL ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY PERSONNEL REMAIN CLEAR OF SUCH POLLING PLACES EXCEPT AS NECESSARY TO EXERCISE THEIR INDIVIDUAL VOTING RIGHTS.

B. WITH RESPECT TO ANY INSTALLATION FACILITY NOT COVERED BY PARA.17.A, INSTALLATION COMMANDERS SHOULD NOT ALLOW THE USE OF INSTALLATION FACILITIES AS POLLING PLACES FOR FEDERAL, STATE, OR LOCAL ELECTIONS.

19. THE POINT OF CONTACT FOR MEDIA QUESTIONS REGARDING DOD PUBLIC AFFAIRS POLICY GUIDANCE CONCERNING POLITICAL CAMPAIGNS AND ELECTIONS IS MAJ APRIL CUNNINGHAM, OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS (OASD(PA)), DOD PRESS OPERATIONS OFFICE, AT COMMERCIAL (703) 697-5131 OR DSN 227-5131. ADDITIONALLY, LEGAL INTERPRETATION OF THIS GUIDANCE IS AVAILABLE FROM LOCAL LEGAL ADVISORS. THE DOD GENERAL COUNSEL IS THE FINAL AUTHORITY IN DOD FOR RESOLUTION OF DISPUTES OR OTHER SIGNIFICANT POTENTIAL PROBLEMS CONCERNING LEGAL INTERPRETATION OF THIS GUIDANCE.

20. CONCERNS AND ISSUES INVOLVING FEDERAL CANDIDATES. ISSUES ARISING BEYOND THE SCOPE OF THIS PAG SHOULD BE FORWARDED TO THE SERVICES FOR RESOLUTION. SERVICE PUBLIC AFFAIRS ARE DIRECTED TO NOTIFY OASD (PA) OF ALL CONCERNS, DISPUTES, UNRESOLVED ISSUES, OR POTENTIAL PROBLEMS

REGARDING FEDERAL CANDIDATES. THE OASD (PA) POINT OF CONTACT IS MAJ APRIL CUNNINGHAM, DOD PRESS OPERATIONS OFFICE, AT COMMERCIAL (703) 697-5131 OR DSN 227-5131.

21. ULTIMATE AUTHORITY FOR RESOLUTION OF ANY ISSUES OR PROBLEMS RELATED TO ELECTED OFFICIALS ON MILITARY INSTALLATIONS LIES WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE GENERAL COUNSEL. INQUIRIES SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO THE DIRECTORS OF HOUSE AFFAIRS, SENATE AFFAIRS, COMMUNICATIONS, OR INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS AS APPROPRIATE.

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ORIGINAL TO RECIPIENTS:

C:US,O:U.S. GOVERNMENT,OU:DOD,OU:OSD,OU:ADDRESS LISTS,CN:AL 8777(UC)  
[AIG 8777]

ORIGINAL CC RECIPIENTS:

C:US,O:U.S. GOVERNMENT,OU:DOD,OU:OSD,OU:ORGANIZATIONS,L:WASHINGTON DC,OU:ASD(PUBLIC AFFAIRS)(UC)  
[SECDEF WASHINGTON DC//PA//]

C:US,O:U.S. GOVERNMENT,OU:DOD,OU:OSD,OU:ORGANIZATIONS,L:WASHINGTON DC,OU:ASD(PUBLIC AFFAIRS)(UC)  
[SECDEF WASHINGTON DC//PA//]

PROFILED DISSEMINEEES:

NCCS OSD ALT(UC) @ DA ACC COMPONENTS(UC) @ WASHINGTON DC @ CONUS @ ORGANIZATIONS @ ARMY (TO) NCCS OSD(UC) @ DA ACC COMPONENTS(UC) @ WASHINGTON DC @ CONUS @ ORGANIZATIONS @ ARMY (TO) OSDNTS(UC) @ DA ACC COMPONENTS(UC) @ WASHINGTON DC @ CONUS @ ORGANIZATIONS @ ARMY (TO) [DMSFORJAN@PTSC.PENTAGON.MIL](mailto:DMSFORJAN@PTSC.PENTAGON.MIL) (CC) [DMS.PA.V3@OSD.MIL](mailto:DMS.PA.V3@OSD.MIL) (CC)

[PROFILE.SECURITYDMS@DODIG.MIL](mailto:PROFILE.SECURITYDMS@DODIG.MIL) (CC) DA ID: 888892

MTSID: c=US;a=DMS;p=GOV+DMS+NIPR;l=AVTAYZ36-080128144916Z-18673

SIGNED BY: C:US,O:U.S. Government,OU:DoD,OU:OSD,OU:ORGANIZATIONS,  
L:WASHINGTON DC,OU:ASD(PUBLIC AFFAIRS)(uc) \*\*\*  
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ENCRYPTED BY: C:US,O:U.S. Government,OU:DoD,OU:OSD,OU:ORGANIZATIONS,  
L:WASHINGTON DC,OU:ASD(PUBLIC AFFAIRS)(uc) \*\*\*  
VALIDATED \*\*\*

MESSAGE TYPE: OTHERORG

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