



DEPARTMENTS OF THE ARMY AND THE AIR FORCE
JOINT FORCE HEADQUARTERS - NEW YORK
330 OLD NISKAYUNA ROAD
LATHAM, NY 12110-3514

MNAG-TAG

13 November 2019

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

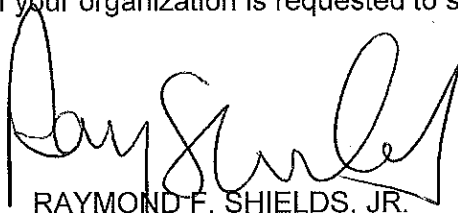
SUBJECT: Political Activity by New York Army and Air National Guard Personnel

1. With our nation engaged in ongoing election cycles, I encourage members of the New York National Guard to exercise their right to participate in our political process. However, political activity for National Guard personnel can be problematic as certain restrictions apply to all of our members including our traditional part-time force, while others apply only to our full-time force. This memorandum briefly outlines the restrictions that apply to all our members regardless of status and provides additional guidance to our full-time force including individuals who are mobilized or are serving on Active Duty Operational Support (ADOS) orders.
2. Political activity is defined as an activity directed towards the success or failure of a political party, a candidate for partisan political office or a partisan political group. Political activity does not include legislation, ballot initiatives focused on issue-oriented campaigns, candidacy in a nonpartisan election or attending a march/rally.
3. Although, our traditional part-time personnel may participate in political activity and run for elected office; our service uniform standards (Army Regulation 670-1 and Air Force Instruction 36-2903) apply regardless of status. They specifically prohibit the wearing of any service uniform "in connection with the furtherance of any political or commercial interests" or when "participating in public speeches, interviews, picket lines, marches, rallies, or public demonstrations..." The bottom line is, do not wear your uniform in connection with a political activity unless specifically authorized to do so by a competent authority.
4. All our members regardless of status, including our traditional part-time personnel may not engage in any political activity while in a duty status, in a federal building, in a state owned armory or while using a government vehicle. This includes using DoD email or displaying campaign material in their workspace.
5. In addition to the uniform restrictions outlined above, Department of Defense Directive (DoDD) 1344.10 (Political Activities by Members of the Armed Forces) prohibits all of our members regardless of status, including traditional part-time personnel from using our official position to endorse a political candidate or cause. Even the appearance of an endorsement must be avoided by all personnel.
6. Restrictions for full-time National Guard members are even more rigorous. Our Title 5 Employees and Technicians are subject to the federal "Hatch Act" which prohibits, among other things, running for any partisan political office. Similarly, our full-time military personnel including Active Guard Reserve (AGR)/ADOS and any member on Active Duty for more than 270 days are subject to restrictions under DoDD 1344.10, which mirror the prohibitions of the Hatch Act.

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7. If you have a question, contact the Staff Judge Advocate (SJA) before engaging in any political activity. The SJA can be reached at (518) 786-4541. You may also contact the Government Affairs office at (518) 786-4580 for further guidance if your organization is requested to support a potentially political event.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ray Shields", written in a cursive style.

RAYMOND F. SHIELDS, JR.
Major General, NYARNG
The Adjutant General

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