



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
409th Contracting Support Brigade (Europe)  
UNIT 29203  
APO AE 09263

CCE-EU

19 January 2012

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Acceptance of Gifts from contractors under the Joint Ethics Regulation

1. The Joint Ethics Regulation (JER) is founded on the main principle that government service is a public trust, requiring employees to place loyalty to the Constitution, laws and ethics principles above private gain. The JER's general prohibition on gifts from outside sources is that employees shall not, directly or indirectly, solicit or accept a gift from a prohibited source, or solicit or accept a gift given because of the employee's official position.
2. The area in which this public trust weighs most heavily is government contracting. Our organization is entrusted with the funds of requiring activities and is responsible for the proper use of those funds. The JER cautions that even though acceptance of a gift may be permitted by various exceptions, it is never inappropriate and frequently prudent for an employee to decline a gift offered by a prohibited source or because of his official position.
3. Based on our role in the government procurement process, I see no situation in which it is appropriate for an employee or an organization in my command to accept a gift from a contractor, even though the gift may fit into an exception under the JER, for example, a gift of a value of \$20 or less. This includes gifts of nominal value, to include food, given to the organization. Therefore, I direct that no employee may accept a gift from contractor personnel even though there may be a plausible theory for acceptance of that gift.
4. If there are any questions about the propriety of an interaction with contractor personnel, employees are free to consult with the command's ethics counselors to obtain advice about the JER and its prohibitions. The conduct of any employee of the 409th Contracting Support Brigade (Europe) should be beyond reproach. Thank you for your commitment to excellence and ethical conduct.

  
DEBRA D. DANIELS  
COL, EN  
Commanding

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