



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
WASHINGTON DC 20310-0200

26 JUN 2012

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: 2012 Election Year Guidance

1. Army commanders and leaders must comply with Department of Defense (DoD) and Army policies concerning participation of Army personnel in political activities and use of Army facilities for political events throughout election year 2012.
2. The enclosed 2012 DoD Public Affairs Guidance for Political Campaigns and Elections reiterates 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. It also provides guidance on visits to installations and use of facilities by candidates, support of political events by military personnel, and voting assistance. Of note, this year's guidance contains a Questions and Answers section and a section addressing Online/Social Media.
3. Army Regulation (AR) 360-1 provides additional policy and procedural guidance when considering requests for use of Army facilities by candidates or military involvement in election year activities. Installation commanders will not permit the use of installation facilities by any candidate or individual representing a candidate for political assemblies, meetings, fund-raising events, press conferences, or any other activity that could be construed as political in nature.
4. Members of Congress and other elected officials, whether or not candidates for re-election, may visit Army installations to receive briefings, attend official events, and receive tours. Requests from Members of Congress to visit an installation should be referred to the Office of the Chief of Legislative Liaison (OCLL) (see AR 1-20 for reporting requirements). The media may be granted access to cover a candidate's official visit to an installation. Candidates who are not current Members of Congress or serving governmental officials may be given the same access to installations as that to which any other unofficial visitor is entitled.
5. Prior to visiting an installation on official business, political candidates shall be informed that they will refrain from making campaign or election-related statements or responding to campaign or election-related queries while on the installation.

SUBJECT: 2012 Election Year Guidance

6. In a change, this year's guidance directs installation officials to inform candidates and their staffs that footage, photographs, or statements taken or recorded during official installation visits may be used for campaign or election-related purposes. However, while the candidate may highlight support of the Armed Forces, nothing should be used to imply or appear to imply DoD or military personnel sponsorship, approval, or endorsement of the candidate.

7. Requests from candidates to film or tape campaign commercials on Army installations and facilities will be denied. Additionally, installation commanders shall not allow candidates or their agents to obtain imagery of military equipment (e.g., ships, tanks, and aircraft) on military installations for use in political campaign or election advertisements, commercials, or literature, except for imagery of elected officials captured in connection with official business or travel. Installation commanders should immediately notify OCLL of any concerns, disputes, unresolved issues, or potential problems involving federal candidates.

8. Army participation or support -- including troops, bands, and color guards -- to political meetings, ceremonies, or similar events is prohibited. Note, however, that a joint service color guard may participate in the national conventions of the major political parties. Requests for Army speakers at non-DoD events should be evaluated carefully to preclude participation in politically-oriented programs.

9. Army leaders and commanders should ensure that military personnel and federal employees under their leadership are familiar with the laws and policies regarding their active participation in the political process. Department of Defense Directive 1344.10 and AR 600-20, paragraph 5-3, set forth the basic guidance concerning the political activities of officers and enlisted members of the Active Army, the United States Army Reserve, and the Army National Guard. The political activities of federal civilian employees are governed by the revised Hatch Act amendments, 5 U.S.C. § 7321 - 7326, 5 C.F.R. Parts 733 - 734.

10. While active duty military members and civilian employees may participate in the political process, they are subject to restrictions that preclude them from engaging in any partisan political activity while on duty or in uniform. Army personnel may not engage in political activity while on duty. All military personnel, including National Guard and Reserve Forces, are prohibited from wearing military uniforms at political campaigns and election events.

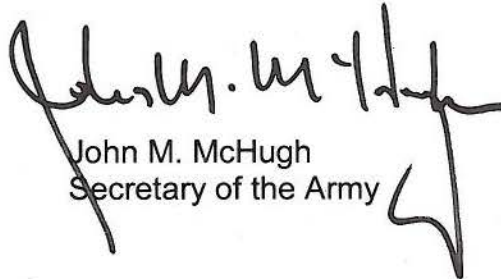
SUBJECT: 2012 Election Year Guidance

11. DoD encourages all active duty military and civilian personnel and their eligible Family members to register and vote. Commanders and Army leaders will support the Federal Voting Assistance Program. Commanders will provide voting assistance officers at every level of command and ensure that those officers have the necessary training and resources to provide voting assistance.

12. This memorandum is not intended to provide exclusive or complete guidance on election year political activities. We expect all Army commanders and leaders to exercise good judgment in handling election year issues, consistent with the Army's long-standing policy against engaging in any activities that could be interpreted as associating the Army with a particular political cause or candidate. We encourage all commanders and leaders to coordinate any potential issues with appropriate Army Command and Headquarters, Department of the Army officials as soon as possible.



Raymond T. Odierno  
General, United States Army  
Chief of Staff



John M. McHugh  
Secretary of the Army

Encl

DISTRIBUTION:

Principal Officials of Headquarters, Department of the Army  
Commander

U.S. Army Forces Command

U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command

U.S. Army Materiel Command

U.S. Army Europe

U.S. Army Central

U.S. Army North

U.S. Army South

U.S. Army Pacific

U.S. Army Africa

U.S. Army Special Operations Command

Military Surface Deployment and Distribution Command

U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command

U.S. Army Network Enterprise Technology Command/9<sup>th</sup> Signal Command (Army)

U.S. Army Medical Command

U.S. Army Intelligence and Security Command

U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command

(CONT)

SUBJECT: 2012 Election Year Guidance

DISTRIBUTION: (CONT)

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
U.S. Army Military District of Washington  
U.S. Army Test and Evaluation Command  
U.S. Army Installation Management Command  
Superintendent, United States Military Academy  
Director, U.S. Army Acquisition Support Center

CF:

Commander, U.S. Army Cyber Command  
Commander, Eighth U.S. Army  
Commander, U.S. Army Reserve Command  
Director, Army National Guard  
Director of Business Transformation  
Executive Director, Army National Cemeteries Program  
Commander, U.S. Army Accessions Command Discontinuance Task Force