



Share Your Voice / Know Your Limits

Public Demonstrations

For Active Duty Military

CAN

Express your opinions and participate in peaceful non-partisan public demonstrations when OFF-DUTY and NOT in uniform.

CAN'T

Engage in partisan political activity or act in a manner that could imply Army approval or disapproval of any political party, campaign or candidate in a partisan election.

Actively participate in a public demonstration that is organized by a political party, campaign or candidate.

Actively participate in a public demonstration that is likely to become violent or a breach of the peace.

MUST

Follow all orders and directives about specific activities that may be issued by appropriate civil and military authorities or found in the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

SHOULD

Review Department of Defense Directive 1344.10, Department of Defense Instruction 1325.06 and Army Regulation 600-20 for basic guidance concerning participation in protests and other political activities.

CAN

Remember you represent the Army when you are on- or off-duty; be wise with the use of your social media accounts to express your personal views.

Donate money, sign petitions and express your personal opinions when you are off-duty and not in an official capacity.

Follow, friend or like a political party or candidate running for partisan office on a personal social media account, when off-duty.

CAN'T

Post, share or link to material from a partisan political party, group or candidate, even when off duty. This restriction also applies to "Further Restricted" civilian employees, such as members of the Senior Executive Service.

All Army Team members should **Think, Type, Post**:

Think about the message being communicated and who could potentially view it.

Type a communication that is consistent with Army Values.

Post only those messages that demonstrate dignity and respect for self and others.

For Army Civilians

CAN

Express your opinions and participate in peaceful non-partisan public demonstrations, when OFF-DUTY and NOT wearing an official uniform or identifying badge.*

CAN'T

Engage in a political activity in a manner that could imply Army approval or disapproval of any political party, campaign or candidate in a partisan election.

MUST

Follow all orders and directives that may be issued by appropriate civil authorities.

SHOULD

Review the provisions of the Hatch Act of 1939 (5 U.S. Code Sections 7321-7326) and Office of Special Counsel guidance concerning permitted and prohibited political activities.

*The rules regarding political activities for a limited class of employees, such as members of the Senior Executive Service, may be more restrictive.

Social Media

CAN

Post, share or link to material from a partisan political party, group or candidate, when off-duty and not in a government building, but not to subordinates.

Friend, follow and like a political candidate when off-duty and not in a government building.

Identify a political affiliation on a personal social media profile.

CAN'T

Post partisan political articles, websites or political cartoons, memes or gifs while on-duty, in a federal building, or using a government computer, including on a personal device, during your duty hours.

Refer to your official title or position while engaged in political activity on social media.

Suggest or ask anyone to make financial contributions whether on- or off-duty and whether or not using an alias.

Link to the political contribution page of any partisan group, or like, share or retweet a solicitation, including an invitation to a fundraising event.

Engage in political activity on an account that is used for official business.

Hatch Act: <https://osc.gov/Services/Pages/HatchAct.asp=x>

Hatch Act Social Media Guide: <https://osc.gov/Documents/Hatch%20Act/Social%20Media%20Quick%20Guide.pdf>

DoD Directive 1344.10: <https://www.esd.whs.mil/Portals/54/Documents/DD/issuances/dodd/134410p.pdf>

Army Social Media Guidance: <http://www.army.mil/socialmedia/soldiers>

Resources