



The USATC&FJ Inspector General Update



“First be right, then go forward”

FY22 4th Quarter

Guidance on Political Activities of Soldiers and Federal Employees

While the Department of Defense encourages Soldiers and DA Civilians to carry out their obligations of citizenship, there are several policies that provide left and right limits on participation in political activities, including DOD Directive 1344.10, AR 600-20, and the Hatch Act.

All Soldiers may engage in the following activities:

- Register, vote, and express opinions on political candidates and issues, but not while on duty, in uniform, or by speaking on behalf of the armed forces.
- Write letters to the editor of a newspaper expressing personal views on political issues/concerns.
 - Letters cannot be part of an organized letter-writing campaign or solicitation of votes for or against a political party, partisan cause, or candidate.
 - Letters must clearly state that the views are those of the individual and not DOD/U.S. Army.
 - Display a political bumper sticker on his/her private vehicle.
- Make monetary contributions to a political campaign or organization.
- Attend political meetings, rallies, debates, conventions, or activities (only as a spectator, and never in uniform).

All Soldiers shall not engage in the following activities:

- Speak before a partisan political gathering.
- Serve in any official capacity with a partisan political club.

Perception matters!

All Soldiers must avoid inferences or perceptions that their political activities imply or appear to imply official sponsorship, approval, or endorsement.

Social media restrictions:

- Soldiers must not comment, post, or link to material that violates UCMJ, DOD, or Army regulations (e.g., showing contempt for public officials, releasing sensitive information, or posting unprofessional material prejudicial to good order and discipline or Service).
- Soldiers on active duty/SES (career/non-career) may not share or re-tweet comments or tweets from the social media accounts of a political party or candidate running for partisan office.
- Civilian personnel may generally express their personal views on public issues or political candidates via social media platforms; however, if they are identified as a DOD/Army employee on this platform, they must clearly and prominently state that these views are not affiliated with DOD.
- Civilians cannot send political emails or post political messages to social media while in a Federal building, even if using a personal device.
- Employees may never use Government equipment to engage in political activities.

Restrictions for US Army Reserve (USAR)/Army National Guard (ARNG) Soldiers:

- USAR/ARNG Soldiers (not on active duty) may run for political office, and include or permit the inclusion of their current or former specific duty, title, or position, or photographs in uniform, when displayed with other non-military biographical details.
- A USAR Soldier (not on active duty) may not, in campaign literature, websites, social media, and advertising use photographs of themselves in uniform as their primary graphic representation.
- Any information about their military affiliation must also include a disclaimer that the information/photographs do not imply DOD/Army endorsement.

Federal Employees -Non SES- related positions:

- While in their personal capacities, may volunteer with a political campaign or political organization (i.e., organizing rallies/meetings, making phone calls on behalf of a candidate, serving as a delegate to a party convention, and working for a political party).
- Prohibited from soliciting, accepting, or receiving political contributions.
- Regardless of employment status, all Federal employees are restricted from engaging in political activity while on duty or in a Federal building.

References

- DOD Directive 1344.10, “Political Activities by Members of the Armed Forces”
 - AR 600-20 (Army Command Policy)
 - Hatch Act of 1939
- Information Paper (Political Activities of Soldiers and Civilian Employees), 12 April 2022.



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IG Update 22-8: Guidance on Army Directive 2022-09 (Soldier Tattoos)

On 22 June 2022, the Secretary of the Army released AD 2022-09, updating policies related to allowable placement of tattoos for currently serving Soldiers and applicants for enlistment or appointment. This new directive applies to Regular Army, Army National Guard, Army National Guard of the United States, and U.S. Army Reserve Soldiers.

Effective immediately Soldiers are authorized:

- One visible tattoo on each hand (including the palm), not to exceed 1 inch in measurement in all directions; an unlimited number of tattoos between the fingers (can't be visible when fingers are closed); and one ring tattoo on each hand.
- One tattoo on the back of the neck (not to exceed 2 inches in measurement).
- One tattoo behind each ear (not to exceed 1 inch measurement in all directions, not to extend forward the ear lobe.)

Soldiers are still not authorized to have tattoos on the following body parts:

- the head and face, and
- inside the eyelids, mouth, and ears.

However, permanent makeup, such as those that darken the eyebrows or mimic eyeliner remains authorized, in accordance with AR 670-1.

Tattoo designs cannot contain any extremist, indecent, sexist or racist words or images.

Company-level commanders will continue to perform annual inspections of tattoos to ensure they remain within regulations.

Commanders will counsel Soldiers who have tattoos that do not meet regulation. These Soldier(s) will have 15 days to consider all options and respond in accordance with AR 670-1 (e.g., seek medical and or legal advice, appeal the finding, pursue procedures to have the tattoo removed or altered, or not to remove or alter the tattoo). Non-compliance could lead to separation.

Soldiers may continue to submit religious accommodation request waivers to Army regulation per procedures outlined in AR 600-20.

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FJ IG 24 Hour Hotline
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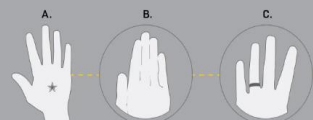
ARMY TATTOO

POLICY UPDATE

3 NEW OPTIONS

The previous Army Tattoo Policy as described in AR 670-1 states tattoos or brands, regardless of subject matter, were prohibited on the head, face, neck, below the wrist bone, and hands, except Soldiers may have one ring tattoo on each hand. AR 670-1 will be updated to reflect the following.

- 1** One tattoo is allowed on each hand. Not to exceed 1" in all directions.
- 2** Tattoos between the fingers are permitted as long as they are not visible when the fingers are extended and joined.
- 3** One ring tattoo per hand is still allowed.



■ Authorized Area
 ■ Unauthorized Area with Exceptions



2 One tattoo behind the ear is permitted. Not to exceed 1" in measurement in all directions, and must not be forward of, or below, the ear lobe.



3 One tattoo is allowed on the back of the neck. Not to exceed 2" in all directions. Tattoo cannot extend to the sides of the neck and cannot be visible from the front or sides.



PROHIBITED

No tattoos that represent racism, discrimination, indecency, extremist / supremacist philosophies, lawlessness, violence or are sexually explicit.

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References/Resources

- AD 2022-09 (Soldier Tattoos)
- AR 600-20 (Army Command Policy)
- AR 601-210 (Regular Army and Reserve Components Enlistment Program)
- AR 670-1 (Wear and Appearance of Army Uniforms and Insignia)
- DA PAM 670-1 (Guide to Wear and Appearance of Army Uniforms and Insignia)