

Keeping It Legal

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Political Activities

Learn What is Permissible—And What Isn't

As the November general election approaches, campaign advertisements are everywhere, political sentiments are running high, and you may be wondering what activities are permissible for military members and Department of Defense civilians. Members are encouraged to carry out their rights and responsibilities of United States citizenship. However, there are limits to permissible political activities for active duty members and civilian employees, and members should be careful to distinguish between protesting human rights issues, like institutionalized racism, and engaging in unauthorized political activity.

Military members may vote, donate money to political campaigns, sign petitions, join a political club, and express political views. However, military members may not express political views when it is unclear whether the DoD is endorsing the opinion. For example, military members may



Since President Trump is a candidate for office, this Airman should not display campaign swag like the "Make America Great Again" hat while in uniform.

not serve in an official capacity in a political club while on duty or wearing their uniform, and may not participate in political activity while in a federal government building or a government vehicle.

Military members also may not use their official authority to influence an election, or solicit, accept, or receive political contributions. When political views are expressed on social media, service members must make it clear that there is no DoD endorsement. Military

members may follow, like, and friend a political candidate, but they may not retweet or share a statement from a political candidate.

Finally, DoD civilians may not use social media for political activity while on duty, or in the workplace. Similar to service members, DoD civilians may not solicit, accept, or receive contributions for a political campaign, or use official authority to influence via social media.

—43 AMOG/JA

MILITARY JUSTICE:

Art. 15's:

- Leaving scene of accident; failure to obey lawful order; false official statement — TSgt red. to SSgt, reprimand*, FF \$1750x2*
- Drunk driving, no personal injury — A1C red. to Amn, reprimand
- Marijuana use — ED 45 days*, SSgt red. to SrA, reprimand*, FF \$1373.25x2*
- Marijuana use — SSgt red. to SrA, reprimand

*suspended
FF = forfeitures
Red. = reduction
ED = extra duty

LEGAL ASSISTANCE:

Due to mission requirements, our office is currently providing legal assistance remotely.

We will provide notaries, powers of attorneys, and attorney consultations by appointment.

To request an appointment, you may call 910-394-2341, send an email to 43AMOG.JA.LegalAssistance.us.af.mil, or visit <https://www.pope.af.mil/Units/Legal-appointment>.

For after-hours emergencies, call the Command Post (394-9000) to reach a JAG.

Extended Tax-Filing Deadline Approaching!

The Treasury Department and IRS have announced that the federal income tax filing due date is automatically extended from 15 April 2020 until 15 July 2020. In addition, taxpayers can defer federal in-

come tax payments due on 15 April 2020 until 15 July 2020, without incurring penalties or interest. The deferment applies to all taxpayers. There is no need to file any additional forms to qualify.