



PERSONNEL AND
READINESS

UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
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INFO MEMO

March 14, 2006, 11:40 AM

FOR: Deputy Secretary of Defense

FROM: Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness

SUBJECT: Political Activities by Members of the Armed Forces

- Department of Defense Directive 1344.10, *Political Activities by Members of the Armed Forces on Active Duty* (August 2, 2004) contains a list of examples of permissible and prohibited political activities for members of the Armed Forces while on active duty (TAB A).
 - Members on active duty may not participate in partisan political campaigns or conventions, *except* as a spectator when *not* in uniform, or make public speeches in the course thereof.
- Reserve or National Guard members not on active duty are *not* subject to most of these restrictions. They are, however, subject to the provisions of Department of Defense Instruction 1334.01, *Wearing of the Uniform* (October 25, 2005), at all times.
 - It is DoD policy that the wearing of the uniform by members of the Armed Forces (including retired members and members of the Reserve components) is prohibited during or in connection with furthering political activities, private employment or commercial interests, when an inference of official sponsorship for the activity or interest may be drawn.
- Members of the Armed Forces may not attend partisan political events in uniform, even if only as “honorees.” A sharply limited exception is made to provide Armed Forces color guards for national-level political conventions.
- Active-duty members may not make speeches at partisan political events, in or out of uniform.
- Reserve component members not on active duty may make speeches at partisan political events, but may not do so in uniform, and must comply with the general



requirement that “any activity that may be viewed as associating the Department of Defense . . . or any component . . . directly or indirectly with a partisan political event shall be avoided.”

COORDINATION: None.

Attachment:

As stated

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