



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY
107 ARMY PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20310-0107

Office, Chief Information Officer / G-6

SAIS-PRG

OCT 26 2012

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Prohibition on Using Army Information Systems and Websites for Partisan Political Activities

1. References:

- a. 5 U.S.C. §§ 7321-7326, Restrictions on Political Activities by Government Civilian Employees.
- b. 10 U.S.C. § 888, Uniform Code of Military Justice, Article 88, Contempt Toward Officials.
- c. Department of Defense (DoD) 5500.07-R, Joint Ethics Regulation, 30 August 1993, Change 7, effective 17 November 2011.
- d. DoD Directive 1344.10, Political Activities by Members of the Armed Forces, 19 February 2008.
- e. Army Regulation (AR) 25-1, Army Information Technology and Knowledge Management, 4 December 2008.
- f. AR 25-2, Information Assurance, 24 October 2007 (RAR 001, 23 March 2009).

2. Purpose: To remind the Army community that the use of government information systems and websites for partisan political activities is prohibited and to establish guidance for removing and reporting political activities on Army information systems and websites.

3. Background:

- a. Federal government communications systems and equipment may not be used except for official and authorized purposes (DoD 5500.07-R, para 2-301). Use of Army communications systems for partisan political activity is not official or authorized and, in many situations, is specifically prohibited.

SAIS-PRG

SUBJECT: Prohibition on Using Army Information Systems and Websites for Partisan Political Activities

b. The Army provides several social media tools, including Army Knowledge Online, to encourage discussion and collaboration. These tools constitute federal government information systems and may not be used for partisan political activities.

4. Policy: Effective immediately, content owners, site managers and system managers will monitor their Army information systems or websites for partisan political activity. Partisan political activity is defined as any activity directed towards the success or failure of a political party, a candidate for partisan political office or a partisan political group. Violations will be removed immediately by the content owners, site managers or system managers and will be reported to the Office of the Chief Information Officer/G-6, SAIS-PRU.

5. This guidance will be incorporated into AR 25-1. This memorandum expires 1 November 2014.

6. Points of contact.

a. For the Office of the Chief Information Officer/G-6, contact Mr. Peter Dulniawka, SAIS-PRU: (703) 545-6903 or peter.b.dulniawka.civ@mail.mil.

b. For legal concerns, contact Ms. Susan Sutherland: (703) 693-3666 or susan.b.sutherland.civ@mail.mil.



SUSAN S. LAWRENCE
Lieutenant General, GS
Chief Information Officer/G-6

DISTRIBUTION:

Principal Officials 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
- (CONT)

SAIS-PRG

SUBJECT: Prohibition on Using Army Information Systems and Websites for Partisan Political Activities

DISTRIBUTION (CONT)

U.S. Army Special Operations Command
Military Surface Deployment and Distribution Command
U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command
Eighth U.S. Army
U.S. Army Network Enterprise Technology Command/9th Signal Command (Army)
U.S. Army Medical Command
U.S. Army Intelligence and Security Command
U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command
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, U.S. Military Academy
Director, U.S. Army Acquisition Support Center

CF:

Commander, U.S. Army Accessions Command
Commander, U.S. Army Cyber Command
Director, Office of Business Transformation
Director, Army National Guard
Executive Director, Army National Cemeteries Program

ARMY STAFFING FORM For use of this form, see DA Memo 25-52; the proponent agency is AASA.		1. TRACKING NUMBER 121012020	2. TODAY'S DATE (YYYYMMDD) 20121019	3. SUSPENSE DATE (YYYYMMDD)
4. OFFICE SYMBOL SAIS-PRG		5. SUBJECT Policy on Political Activities on Army Information Systems and Websites		
6. ROUTING: (ECC USE ONLY) Initial Date		ECC POC _____ (Rank, Name, Phone) DIR, ECC _____		
SA		COMMENTS:		
CSA				
USA				
VCSA				
AASA				
DAS				
SMA				
DUSA				
VDAS				

7. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY / ACTION MEMORANDUM

Key Points

- In September, the Army Knowledge Online (AKO) program office discovered partisan discussions about the upcoming election on AKO and requested legal advice on how to manage these political activities.
- The Office of General Counsel recommended the discussions be deleted immediately and that the Chief Information Officer/G-6 prepare a memo prohibiting political activity on AKO.
- The memorandum at Tab A prohibits partisan political activity on all Army information systems and websites and protects the Army and its employees from Hatch Act violations.

Ref: Title 5 USC §§ 7321-7326, Restrictions on Political Activities by Government Employees (Hatch Act) Department of Defense (DoD) 5500.07-R, Joint Ethics Regulation, Change 7

Encl: TAB A: CIO/G-6 memorandum, subject: Political Activities on Army Information Systems and Websites
 TAB B: Information Paper: Political Activities on Army Websites
 TAB C: Comments Resolution Matrix

1. Purpose:
To issue CIO/G-6 guidance regarding political activities on Army information systems in response to the advice of the Office of General Counsel.

2. Discussion:
The Hatch Act and DoD 5500.07-R prohibit federal employees and military personnel from engaging in partisan political activities. Partisan political activity is defined as any activity directed towards the success or failure of a political party or candidate.

On 12 October, CIO/G-6 received a legal opinion from OGC regarding the use of AKO's open chat forums for partisan political activities. OGC determined that several discussion topics on AKO had to be deleted due to their partisan nature and endorsement of a particular candidate.

CIO/G-6, working with AKO, implemented OGC's recommendations by removing any political activity from the site and updating the terms of use to prohibit these activities in the future. milSuite was not found to have any violations and the terms of use already prohibit political activities.

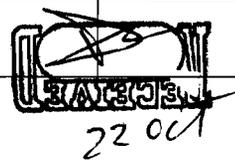
SAIS-PRG staffed the draft memorandum and received concurrence from all CIO/G-6 directorates, OGC, AKO and milSuite. The memo prohibits partisan political activity on all Army information systems and websites. This policy will protect the Army and its employees from violations of the Hatch Act.

3. Recommendation:
The CIO/G-6 sign the memorandum at Tab A.

APPROVED Mac DISAPPROVED _____ NOTED _____ SEE ME _____ COMMENT _____

102612

8. LEAD AGENCY STAFF COORDINATION			TRACKING NUMBER:	121012020
TITLE	INITIAL	TYPE OR PRINT NAME		DATE (YYYYMMDD)
Div	JB	Mr. Keith T. Dean		20121019
Act Dep	— AF	COL David P. Acevedo		20121022
Act Dlr	— AF	Ms. Anne A. Forshey		20121022
AXO		LTC Harry R. Culclasure		
Dep G6		Mr. Michael E. Krieger		
PRINCIPAL		LTG Susan S. Lawrence		
ACTION OFFICER (Name/Title/Phone Number/E-mail)		Ms. Katie Griffin 703-545-1540/katie.m.griffin6.civ@mail.mil		
FILE LOCATION: O:\P&R\PRG Policy & Governance\Policy\Projects\Political Activity on Army IS				
SACO's NAME (Name/Title/Phone Number/E-mail)		Ms. Diana M. Arnold/703.693.5853 571-256-8928/kath@SACO/diana.arnold@us.army.mil		
RECOMMENDATION FOR STAFF PRINCIPAL: CIO/G-6 sign memorandum at Tab A.				


22 OCT

9. STAFF COORDINATION						
CONCUR	NON-CONCUR	AGENCY	NAME (TITLE, LAST NAME)	PHONE	DATE (YYYYMMDD)	REMARKS
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	OGC	Ms. Susan Sutherland	703-693-3666	20121019	concur with comment
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	CXO	Mr. Richard Breakiron	703-545-1323	20121016	concur with comment
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cybersecurity	Mr. Roy Lundgren	703-545-1679	20121016	concur without comment
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	AONS	BG Joseph Brendler	703-614-5666	20121018	concur without comment
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PEO C3T	Mr. Tom Curran	443-395-8408	20121016	concur without comment
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PEO EIS	Mr. Douglas Wiltsie	703-806-4200	20121019	concur with comment
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PRU	Ms. Shelia Houston	703-545-1573	20121019	concur with comment
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	G6	Erin Wingard	693 3064	2021022	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>					
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>					
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>					
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>					
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>					
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>					
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>					
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>					

10. REMARKS BY ECC: RETURNED REQUESTING ADDITIONAL INFORMATION/CLARIFICATION

8. LEAD AGENCY STAFF COORDINATION		TRACKING NUMBER: 121012020	
TITLE	INITIAL	TYPE OR PRINT NAME	DATE (YYYYMMDD)
Div	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> JB	Mr. Keith T. Dean	20121019
Act Dep		COL David P. Acevedo	
Act Dir		Ms. Anne A. Forshey	
AXO		LTC Harry R. Culclasure	
Dep G6	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MK	Mr. Michael E. Krieger	20121024
PRINCIPAL	<i>for Max</i>	LTG Susan S. Lawrence	20121026
ACTION OFFICER (Name/Title/Phone Number/E-mail)		Ms. Katie Griffin 703-545-1540/katie.m.griffin6.civ@mail.mil	
FILE LOCATION: O:\P&R\PRG Policy & Governance\Policy\Projects\Political Activity on Army IS			
SACO's NAME (Name/Title/Phone Number/E-mail)		Ms. Kathy Kovar 571-256-8928/katherine.k.kovar.ctr@mail.mil	
RECOMMENDATION FOR STAFF PRINCIPAL: CIO/G-6 sign memorandum at Tab A.			

9. STAFF COORDINATION						
CONCUR	NON-CONCUR	AGENCY	NAME (TITLE, LAST NAME)	PHONE	DATE (YYYYMMDD)	REMARKS
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	OGC	Ms. Susan Sutherland	703-693-3666	20121019	concur with comment
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	CXO	Mr. Richard Breakiron	703-545-1323	20121016	concur with comment
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cybersecurity	Mr. Roy Lundgren	703-545-1679	20121016	concur without comment
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	AONS	BG Joseph Brendler	703-614-5666	20121018	concur without comment
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PEO C3T	Mr. Tom Curran	443-395-8408	20121016	concur without comment
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PEO EIS	Mr. Douglas Wiltsie	703-806-4200		concur with comment
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PRU	Ms. Shelia Houston	703-545-1573	20121019	concur with comment
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>					
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>					
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>					
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>					
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>					
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>					
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>					
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>					
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>					

10. REMARKS BY ECC: RETURNED REQUESTING ADDITIONAL INFORMATION/CLARIFICATION