

# ARMY RESERVE POLITICAL ACTIVITIES



All Soldiers **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.

## FOR SOLDIERS NOT ON ACTIVE DUTY

### TPU SOLDIERS NOT IN AN IDT, AT, ADT STATUS

#### CAN'T

- ▶ Participate in any partisan political activity **IN UNIFORM**, or otherwise act in a manner giving rise to appearance of official sponsorship, approval or endorsement of the US Army, Army Reserve, or any entity in the Defense Department.

#### SHOULD

- ▶ Review DoD Directive 1344.10, DoD Instruction 1325.06 and AR 600-20 for basic guidance concerning participation in protests and other political activities. DoDD 1344.10, paragraph 4.1.2 lists all political activities permitted for Soldiers not on active duty and when not in uniform or otherwise giving the appearance of Army endorsement.

#### CAN

- ▶ Express your opinion on political candidates and issues, and join partisan Political clubs.
- ▶ Engage in activities prohibited for Soldiers on Active Duty such as speaking before a partisan political gathering, march or ride in a partisan political Parade, or perform duties for a partisan political committee or candidate **WHEN NOT IN UNIFORM OR OTHERWISE GIVING THE INFERENCE OR APPEARANCE OF OFFICIAL SPONSORSHIP**.

### TPU SOLDIERS DURING BATTLE ASSEMBLY

#### CAN'T

- ▶ Participate in any partisan political activity **IN UNIFORM**, or otherwise act in a manner giving rise to appearance of official sponsorship, approval or endorsement of the US Army, Army Reserve, or any entity in the Defense Department.

#### SHOULD

- ▶ Avoid any activity during BA that would constitute an abuse of a Soldier's position, misuse of government property or



resources, or endorsement of political candidates or issues as a representative of the Armed Forces.

#### CAN

- ▶ Promote and encourage others to exercise their right to vote.
- ▶ Display a political bumper sticker on the member's private vehicle.
- ▶ Participate fully in the Federal Voting Assistance Program.

## SOCIAL MEDIA FOR TPU SOLDIERS NOT IN AN IDT, AT, OR STATUS

#### CAN'T

- ▶ Use a government computer to engage in partisan political activity.
- ▶ Refer to your official title or position while engaged in political activity on social media.
- ▶ Engage politically on social media that gives rise to the appearance of official sponsorship, approval, or endorsement of the Army or Army Reserve.

#### MUST

- ▶ Refrain from linking your membership in the US military with partisan political activities including use of your image in uniform accompanying a partisan political statement or endorsement.

#### CAN

- ▶ Post, share or link to material from a partisan political party, group or candidate, but not to subordinates.
- ▶ Friend, follow and like a political candidate.
- ▶ Identify political affiliation on a personal social media profile.

## FOR SOLDIERS ON ACTIVE DUTY

### TPU SOLDIERS ON AT, ADT, MOBILIZED, AND AGR SOLDIERS

#### 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.
- ▶ 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.

#### SHOULD

- ▶ Review DoD Directive 1344.10, DoD Instruction 1325.06 and AR 600-20 for basic guidance concerning participation in protests and other political activities.

#### CAN

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

## RESOURCES

▶ Hatch Act: <https://osc.gov/Services/Pages/HatchAct.aspx> ▶ 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>