

**INFORMATION PAPER**

SUBJECT: 2014 Political Activity Reminder

1. Purpose. To provide general guidance to Fort Belvoir civilian and active duty (AD) military personnel on the laws and policies related to participation in political activity.

2. Definition. Political activity (PA) is any activity directed toward the success or failure of a political party, candidate for partisan political office, or partisan political group.

3. **Limitations on Civilian Employees.** DoD civilian employee participation in PA is regulated by the Hatch Act (5 U.S.C. §§ 7321-7326) and DoD policy (DoDD 5500.7-R, Joint Ethics Regulation, Ch. 6).

BLUF: All civilian employees may express personal opinions and make monetary contributions to a campaign; however, only “less restricted” employees may actively participate in campaign events. The tables below outline the rules for the different groups of civilian employees:

**Groups of Civilian Employees**

<u>Group 1 (Further Restricted)</u>	<u>Group 2 (Further Restricted)</u>	<u>Group 3 (Less Restricted)</u>
--Presidential appointees confirmed by the Senate -- Non-career SES employees	--Career members of SES --Contract Appeals Board --Intel Agencies (NSA, DIA, NGA) --Other agencies such as the FEC	--Most Federal and DoD Civilian Employees --Schedule C Appointments

**General Rules on PA**

<u>Further Restricted Employee Groups</u>	<u>Less Restricted Employee Group</u>
--Expressly prohibited from taking an active part in any political activity	--In <u>personal</u> capacity, may volunteer with political campaign or organization. --Prohibited from soliciting/receiving political contributions

4. **Limitations on Military Members.** Participation in PA by military personnel is regulated by DoDD 1344.10. AD personnel may not engage in partisan PA, and all military personnel should avoid the inference that their own activities imply DoD sponsorship, approval, or endorsement of a candidate, campaign or cause. The following table pertains to AD military personnel:

<u>Permissible Political Activity</u>	<u>Prohibited Political Activity</u>
--Express personal opinions --Make monetary contributions --Attend political events in civilian clothes	--Campaign for a partisan candidate --Engage in partisan fundraising activities --Serve as an officer of partisan clubs --Speak before a partisan gathering

5. **PA in Federal Buildings.** All federal employees are prohibited from engaging in PA while on-duty or in a federal building. At those times, employees should not send or forward political emails or post political messages on social media (even if using a personal cell phone). Never use government equipment and/or resources to engage in PA.