



# ***Political Activities by Members of the Armed Forces***



Christa Specht  
Office of Legal Policy  
Office of Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel & Readiness



***This stuff really happens...***





*A picture is worth a thousand words*





# Ripped from the headlines...







# References

## Political Activities by Military Personnel and on Military Installations

- **DoD Directive 1344.10**, *Political Activities by Members of the Armed Forces*
- **2020 PAG**, *DoD Public Affairs Policy Guidance Concerning Political Campaigns and Elections*
- **DoD Instruction 1334.01**, *Wearing of the Uniform*

## For purposes of today's briefing

- **DoD Instruction 1325.06**, *Handling Dissident and Protest Activities Among Members of the Armed Forces*



# Who does DoDD 1344.10 Apply To?

- Primarily Members of the Armed Forces on Active Duty
- Expands coverage for some provisions to include Service members not on Active Duty – even retirees
- Defines Active Duty to include full-time National Guard duty



# Political Activity

**“Partisan political activity”** is activity supporting or relating to candidates representing, or issues specifically identified with, national or State political parties and associated or ancillary organizations or clubs. *DoDD 1344.10 Enclosure 2, para E2.5. (Definitions)*

**“Nonpartisan political activity”** is activity supporting or relating to candidates *not* representing, or issues *not* specifically identified with, national or State political parties and associated or ancillary organizations or clubs. Issues relating to State constitutional amendments or referendums, approval of municipal ordinances, and others of similar character are not considered under this Instruction as specifically identified with national or State political parties. *DoDD 1344.10 Enclosure 2, para E2.4. (Definitions)*



# DoD Policy

- Members on Active Duty should not engage in partisan political activity, and members not on active duty **should avoid inferences that their political activities imply or appear to imply official sponsorship, approval, or endorsement.** *DoDD 1344.10, para 4.*
  - *See too, 4.1.1.3, 4.1.1.4, and 4.1.1.9.*
- Members of the Armed Forces **may not wear the uniform during or in connection with furthering political activity or when an inference of official sponsorship for the activity may be drawn.** *DoDI 1334.01, para 3.1.2.*



# **DoDD 1344.10**

## **Organization**

- **4.1.1 Permissible Activities**
- **4.1.2 Prohibited Activities**
- **4.2 Nominees or Candidates**
- **4.3 Additional Limitations: Nominees, Candidates, Campaigning**
- **4.4 Holding and Exercising U.S. Government Office**
- **4.5 Holding and Exercising State or non-U.S. Government Office**



# Permissible Activities by Members on Active Duty

- Register and vote
- Express personal political opinion
  - In personal capacity, not as rep of Armed Forces
- Encourage others to participate in political process
- Sign a petition for a specific legislative action
  - As a private citizen/does not obligate member to engage in partisan political activity
- Write letter to editor expressing personal views
  - Not part of organized letter-writing campaign
  - Can't solicit votes for or against political party or partisan political cause or candidate
  - **Disclaimer may be required**
    - “views expressed are my own and not the Department of Defense”







# Permissible Activities by Members on Active Duty

- Donate money to political organization, party, or committee
  - Caution – Member on AD cannot give to or receive from another member on AD
  - Caution – Members not on AD must consider JER





# **PROHIBITED Activities by Members on Active Duty**

- **Participate** in partisan political fundraising activities
  - *But see, 4.1.1.9 may **attend** partisan and nonpartisan political fundraising activities when not in uniform and when no inference or appearance of official sponsorship, approval or endorsement*
- Publish partisan political articles, letters, or endorsements that solicit votes
- Speak before a partisan political gathering
- Participate in any radio, television, or other program or group discussion as an advocate for partisan party, candidate, or cause
- Engage in fundraising activities for any political cause or candidate on military installation
- Display partisan political sign, poster, banner visible to public in military installation housing



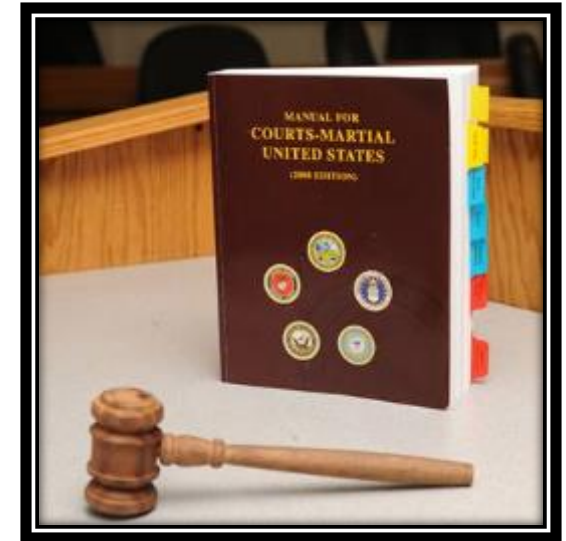
# **PROHIBITED Activities by Members on Active Duty**

- **Activities not expressly prohibited may be contrary to the spirit and intent of this Directive (DoDD 1344.10). Any activity that may be reasonably viewed as directly or indirectly associating the Department of Defense or any component of these Departments with a partisan political activity or is otherwise contrary to the spirit and intention of this Directive shall be avoided. *DoDD 1344.10, para 4.1.5***



# Criticism of Senior Government Officials

- **Applicable UCMJ Articles**
  - **Article 88** – Contempt Toward Officials
  - **Article 92** – Failure to Obey a Regulation
    - DoDD 1344.10, Para. 4.1.-4.5 is punitive
  - **Article 134** – General Article





# Nominees or Candidates On Active Duty

- Regular; Retired Regular or RC member on AD call or order > 270 days
  - Requires Secretary Concerned permission
  - **Cannot be delegated below Secretary Concerned**
- Retired Regular or RC member on AD call or order ≤ 270 days
  - No permission required
- All must complete Acknowledgement of Limitations (Enclosure 4 of DoDD 1344.10)



# Nominees or Candidates On Active Duty

- May not participate in any campaign activity, including behind the scenes activity
- And MUST:
  - Take affirmative documented efforts to inform campaign workers of limitations
  - Freeze Web sites, stop advertisements







# Nominees or Candidates

## **Not** On Active Duty

- May use military rank and service affiliation
  - **But** clearly indicate retired or reserve status
- In campaign material:
  - Include current or former duty titles and positions with other biographical information
  - Include “prominent and clearly displayed disclaimer”
  - Photographs in uniform may **NOT** be “primary graphic representation”



## Primary graphic representation?

Welcome



### EMAIL SIGNUP

Click here to receive email updates from the campaign.

### CONTRIBUTE

Your donation means a lot. Make a difference and support Pete!

### GET INVOLVED

Take an active role in Pete's campaign. Volunteer today!

Thank you for visiting my Website and taking a moment to learn more about me, my family, and my campaign to bring new leadership and a conservative voice to Congress for Texas' 22nd District.

I'm a husband, a father, a **Navy Veteran**, and I would be honored to serve you in Congress.

My roots are in Seabrook, Texas, but during nine years in the Navy I served our country throughout the world. Yet even when my service took me out of Texas, it never took Texas out of me. Today more than ever, I believe in family, faith, and freedom. I believe in the American dream.

I hope I can earn your support and you will join my campaign. There is a long road ahead of us, but together we can accomplish great things, so let's get started!

Sincerely,

Pete Olson

**No Disclaimer!**

Media

[Watch and listen to Pete](#)

[Home](#)[About Pete](#)[Issues](#)[Get Involved](#)[Contribute](#)[Contact](#)★ [FOR CONGRESS](#) ★

## EMAIL SIGNUP

Click here to receive email updates from the campaign.

## CONTRIBUTE

Your donation means a lot. Make a difference and support Pete!

[Contribute](#)

## GET INVOLVED

Take an active role in Pete's campaign. Volunteer today!

## Welcome

Thank you for visiting my campaign Website and taking a moment to learn more about me, my family, and my commitment to developing conservative solutions to help move our country forward.

I am honored to have been chosen to represent the people of Texas' 22nd Congressional District. My roots are in Seabrook, but during nine years in the Navy I served our country throughout the world. My wife Nancy and I now live in Sugar Land with our two children, Kate and Grant.

It is my firm belief that America's best days are in front of us. It won't be easy, but following Hurricane Ike in 2008 we all witnessed the incredible spirit and fortitude of the people of our area. It is with your strength of character and optimism that I will work to change policies in Washington so we can improve our economy, homeland security, and set a course for American energy independence.

Thank you again for visiting my campaign Website. I look forward to hearing from you and hope you will take a moment to join our campaign – together, we can accomplish great things.

Sincerely,

Pete Olson

Pete Olson's  
**100 DAYS of  
FREEDOM  
CHALLENGE**

## Special Event: Women Impacting the Nation (WIN) Luncheon


Join Congresswoman Kay Granger, Congressman Pete Sessions, Senator Joan Huffman and Focus on Women Magazine for an inspirational and engaging meeting to discuss how women are changing the face of American politics.

Monday, October 12, 2009

11:30 am to 2:00 pm



**Parisella**  
State Representative

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## Other biographical info.

Jerry was born and raised in Beverly, went through the public school system and still lives and works here today. He is serving his second term as Beverly's state representative. Jerry currently serves as vice chairman of the Committee on Veterans and Federal Affairs and on the Transportation and Election Laws Committees. Parisella's work experience includes serving as an attorney in private practice, Assistant City Solicitor for the City of Salem and with the City of Beverly Law Department. This combination of private and government experience gives Jerry a unique perspective on how the law affects ordinary citizens.

Jerry resides in Beverly with his wife Lisa and daughter Sophia, as well as stepson Chris, now attending Salem State University. Parisella is one of five children, who learned the value of honest, hard work from his late father Joe, a construction worker and member of the International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 4, and his mother, Marion, now retired from Sears.

Parisella has diverse experience inside and outside of government. In addition to his public work with Salem and Beverly, he was a reporter for the Salem Evening News covering city, town and county government. He served as a Congressional Press Secretary and Legislative Assistant on Capitol Hill, providing constituent services to the residents of the 6th Congressional District, which includes Beverly.

Jerry also knows a bit about multi-tasking. A veteran of the Army Reserves since 1994, and currently serving as a Judge Advocate (lawyer) with a medical brigade at Fort Devens, he studied for the bar exam while preparing for deployment to Bosnia.

He trained all day in the field and, with the help of his Army buddies, studied legal topics at night in the barracks. Jerry received a three-day pass, flew home and took the bar exam and the next day was on a plane headed for his deployment. Despite balancing his legal studies with training on how to avoid land mines and snipers, Jerry passed the bar exam on his first try.

Jerry's duties in the Army included an active duty tour in Iraq serving as a prosecutor and legal advisor to a medical brigade, handling court martial appeals for the Army's Legal Services Agency and providing legal assistance to soldiers and their families at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, DC.

Jerry has extensive volunteer experience in the City, having served on the Kings Church/Beverly Board of Deacons, and trustee of the Children's Center For Communication/Beverly School for the Deaf and on the YMCA-City of Beverly Youth Education Board of Directors and the Beverly Board of Health.

Jerry is a graduate of Beverly High School, Emerson College and New England School of Law.



RC Status Disclaimer



 Sean P. Riley likes this.



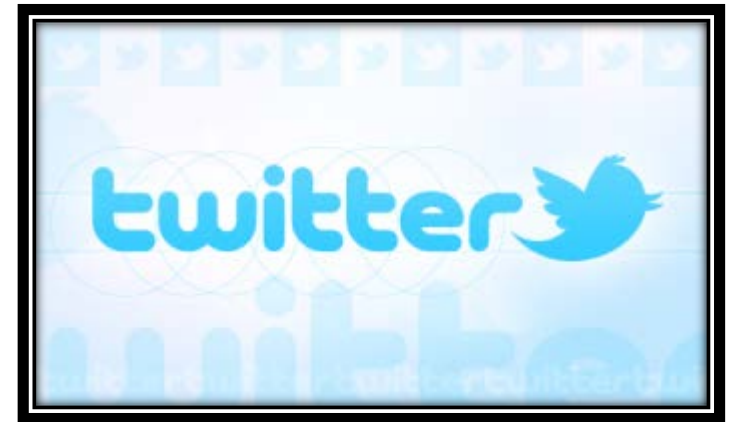
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# Social Media and Political Activities



Instagram



# Social Media and Political Activities

- **May an AD member express his or her own personal views on public issues or political candidates via social media platforms, such as Facebook, Twitter, or personal blogs?**
  - Yes, personal views OK, much the same as writing a letter to the editor of a paper, but may not engage in any partisan political activity
  - “Partisan political activity” is activity directed at the success or failure of a political party, partisan political candidate, campaign, group or cause
  - Cannot solicit others, fundraise, etc.
  - If identifiable as military must disclaim
  - No direct links of “likes” to partisan sites (akin to distribution of literature)
- **May an AD member become a “friend” of, or “like,” the Facebook page, or “follow” the Twitter account of a political party or partisan candidate, campaign, group, or cause?**
  - Yes, but must refrain from engaging in activities with respect to partisan political entities’ accounts that would constitute political activity
  - Cannot suggest that others “like”, “friend” or “follow” the partisan account
  - Cannot forward invitations to partisan events, solicit or fundraise