



VIRGINIA DEFENSE FORCE
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Office of the Commanding General
BG Justin P. Carlitti

VDF-CG

07 January 2020

Command Policy Letter 20-001

SUBJECT: Political Activities by Members of the Virginia Defense Force

References:

- (a) Department of Human Resource Management, Commonwealth of Virginia Hand Book, www.dhrm.virginia.gov (attached and on the VDF website)
- (b) Army Command Policy AR-600-appendix B "political activities"
- (c) DoD Directive 1344.10, "Political Activities by Members of the Armed Forces on Active Duty," February 19, 2008 (attached and on the VDF website)
- (d) Sections 973, 888, 101, and Chapter 47 of title 10, United States Code
- (e) DoD Instruction 1334.1, "Wearing of the Uniform," October 26, 2005 (d) Section 441a of title 2, United States Code (e) through (i), see Enclosure 1
- (f) Ethics Counselor's Desk Book "Political Activities", (JAG) April 2018
- (g) VDF CPL 14-2, "Applicability of National Guard and Army Regulations"
- (h) Virginia Code 44-54.7 "Applicability of National Guard Regulations"

Per directive of the Commanding General, and in accordance with the Commonwealth of Virginia DHRM Employee Manual and DoD Directive 1344.10 dtd February 19, 2008, VDF personnel should avoid inferences or appearances that their political activities imply or appear to imply official Virginia DMA and/or DoD sponsorship, approval, or endorsement.

See the attachments for more clarification regarding authorized and prohibited political activities by employees of the Commonwealth of Virginia and Members of the Armed Forces, to include members of the National Guard and the Virginia Defense Force.

Excerpts from DoDD 1344.10:

Members of the Armed Forces may attend partisan and nonpartisan political fundraising activities, meetings, rallies, debates, conventions, or activities as a spectator when NOT in uniform and when no inference or appearance of official sponsorship, approval, or endorsement can reasonably be drawn.

In the case of a VDF Service Member, just as in the case of a National Guard Soldier, if you are in uniform and endorse a political candidate, this is in violation of the Virginia DHRM Manual and DoDD

1344.10. Even if one is not in uniform, if one calls to attention to one's current status as a member of the Virginia Defense Force and endorses a candidate at a campaign rally this would violate the intent of the Virginia DHRM Manual and of DoDD 1344.10.

It is important that we avoid the appearance of Virginia DMA, National Guard, Army, and Department of Defense endorsement of any political candidates.

As citizens we are encouraged to exercise our right to vote, but as Soldiers and representatives of the Virginia DMA we must avoid official endorsement of any candidate or party.

Thank you for your continued service and your professionalism.

Please distribute this to all troops in your command(s).

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Carlitti', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

JUSTIN P. CARLITTI
BG (VA) VDF
Commanding

CF:
All VDF Personnel