

## INFORMATION PAPER

ANJA

29 FEBRUARY 2008

**SUBJECT:** Political Activity of Civilian Employees in Fort Myer Military Community, Military District of Washington, and Joint Forces National Capital Region

1. The extent and nature of civilian employees' participation in political activities are governed by the Hatch Act, 5 U.S.C. 7321, implementing instructions are published in 5 C.F.R. parts 73-734, and DEPSECDEF Memo, SUBJECT; Civilian Employees' Participation in Political Activities, dated 14 November 2007.<sup>1</sup>

2. Civilian employees in this Command may participate in the following political activities:

- a. Being members of a political party or partisan group.
- b. Serving as officials of a political party or partisan group.
- c. Attending and participating in a political party convention, caucus or rally.

3. **While not on duty, in a government office or building, or using a government vehicle**, civilian employees may take an active part in a political campaign, which includes:

- a. Displaying a political sign, sticker, button, or other similar material.
- b. Employees may place political stickers on their privately owned vehicles even if they park in a government lot or occasionally drive themselves to attend meetings at other agencies.
- c. Initiating or circulating a partisan nominating petition.
- d. Canvassing for voters.
- e. Endorsing or opposing a candidate in political advertisement, broadcast, or campaign literature.
- f. Addressing a political convention, caucus or rally on behalf of a candidate.
- g. Managing a political campaign.
- h. Distributing campaign literature.

4. Civilian Employees may participate in the following election related activities:

- a. Voting
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<sup>1</sup> Members of the Armed forces are subject to different rules published in DoD Directive 1344.10. A separate Information Paper is prepared contemporaneous to this for service members. Additional statutory restrictions apply to career Senior Executive Service members that are not outlined in this paper.

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- b. Acting as recorders, watchers, challengers at a polling place.
  - c. Serving as election judges or clerks.
  - d. Driving voters to polling places.
  - e. Running for non-partisan office (that is, an office to which political parties may not designate candidates)
5. Civilian employees may participate in fundraising activities in their personal capacity by:
- a. Making a financial political contribution.
  - b. Attending, addressing, or being featured guests at a political fundraiser (The employee must refrain from soliciting contributions personally. Invitation to a fundraiser may list the employee as guest or speaker but may not include official titles)
  - c. Soliciting or receiving uncompensated volunteer services. (But not from a subordinate or anyone with official matters before DoD)
  - d. Managing or organizing a political fundraiser hosted or sponsored by others. (But refraining from soliciting contributions personally)
6. Civilian employees may not use official authority or influence to interfere with or affect the result of an election, which includes:
- a. Using official titles when participating in permitted political activity.
  - b. Using authority to coerce anyone into participating in political activity.
  - c. Soliciting or receiving uncompensated volunteer services from a subordinate.
  - d. Soliciting or discouraging the political activity of any person who has business before DoD.
  - e. Soliciting or receiving political contributions.
  - f. Allowing the use of their official titles in relation with political fundraising.
  - g. Hosting or sponsoring a political fundraiser. (An employee's spouse may host or sponsor and the employee may attend)
  - i. Run for partisan political office.

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7. Employees must ensure that their political activities do not create real or apparent conflict of interests with their performance of official duties. Employees may not participate in permitted political activity while on duty, while in a government office or building, or while using a government vehicle.

8. POC is Mike Egan, (202) 685-4949, [michael.egan@jfhqncr.northcom.mil](mailto:michael.egan@jfhqncr.northcom.mil).