NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU
1636 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON DC 20301-1636

23 JAN 2012

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MEMORANDUM FOR MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL GUARD

SUBJECT: Political Activities

1. As we draw closer to another Presidential election, I encourage members of our National Guard family to exercise your hard-earned rights and participate in the American political process. You have both earned and paid for those rights, and I am supportive of your efforts to participate to the maximum permissible extent.

2. You must be aware that our unique positions as National Guard members, federal civilians, and military technicians restrict us to varying degrees with regard to the limits of our participation in the political process. I would like to highlight and summarize a few of the applicable rules:

a. Members of the National Guard, while serving on Title 10 or Title 32 in a full-time capacity, must conform their conduct to the provisions of DoDD 1344.10. This applies, but is not limited to, mobilized Guard members, members serving in the NGB, or those performing Title 10 ADOS-AC or ADOS-RC. It also applies, but is not limited to, those Guard members serving on AGR or FTNGD in a Title 32 status.

b. Title 5 civilian employees and military technicians must conform their conduct to the provisions of the Hatch Act. Employees must be aware of whether they are "less restricted" or "further restricted" employees under the Hatch Act because of differing restrictions; most Title 5 employees and military technicians are "less restricted" employees.

c. Traditional, or "M-Day," National Guard members who are not military technicians are not restricted by these authorities unless ordered to full-time military duty.

d. **ALL** National Guard members, whether or not on full-time military duty, and all military technicians, must adhere to the prohibition on wear of the military uniform while engaged in political activities. See AR 670-1 or AFI 36-2903 for further guidance on this prohibition.

3. If you have any questions on what is appropriate with regard to political activities, you should seek guidance from your local legal advisor. Attached to this memorandum are several sources of information that will assist you in adhering to these provisions. Thank you for your service to this Nation.

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CRAIG R. MCKINLEY
General, USAF
Chief, National Guard Bureau