



REGIONAL HEALTH COMMAND ATLANTIC

OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL



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REGIONAL HEALTH COMMAND– ATLANTIC COMMAND INSPECTOR GENERAL

In his 10 July 2022 *New York Post* article titled “‘Enraged’ Army medic’s TikTok video ripping Roe v. Wade ruling goes viral,” Sam Raskin reported about a deployed Army medic’s three-minute TikTok video posted on 24 June. According to the article, the Army medic questions her ability to support and defend the Constitution after the court’s ruling and asserts “women in the military are more likely to experience unplanned pregnancies.”

Whether you agree with the Supreme Court’s ruling or not, it is important that you understand Army policies on social media.

Army Regulation 360-1, (The Army Public Affairs Program), Chapter 8–6., **Personal use of social media and appropriate online conduct** states: *The U.S. Army views personal websites and social media positively, and it respects the right of Soldiers to use them as a medium of self-expression. However, all Army personnel have limitations on what they can discuss. In addition to specific ethics and Hatch Act limitations, civilians are prohibited from discussing the intricacies of the Army and the DoD. Soldiers on active duty must abide by certain restrictions to ensure good order and discipline. All Soldiers are on duty 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, and their actions are subject to the Uniform Code of Military Justice. Soldiers should also remember OPSEC when posting information in the digital environment.*

Additionally, DOD Directive 1344.10, AR 600-20 (Army Command Policy), and the Hatch Act of 1939; outline participation limits in political activities. For example, Soldiers shall not speak before a partisan political gathering or serve in any official capacity with a partisan political club. Civilian personnel may generally express their personal views on public issues or political candidates via social media platforms; however, if they are identified as a DOD/Army employee, they must clearly and prominently state that these views are not affiliated with DOD. Employees may never use Government equipment to engage in political activities.

Soldiers may register, vote, and express opinions on political candidates and issues, but not while on duty, in uniform, or by speaking on behalf of the armed forces. They can write letters to the editor of a newspaper expressing personal views on political issues/concerns as long as the letter clearly states that they are their own views and not those of the DOD/U.S. Army. They can also make monetary contributions to a political campaign or organization; as well as attend political meetings, rallies, debates, conventions, or activities as a spectator, and never in uniform.

Social media is a way for you to express your feelings, thoughts, and ideas and your right to vote is a way for you to influence change in government. While some will likely share in your views and political affiliations, there are others who may not - who also wear Army green. The important take away is that these are your personal views and beliefs and must not be misinterpreted as representing those of the Army.



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Reference :

- AR 600-810
(Leaves and Pass-
es)
- AR 2022-09
(Soldier
Tattoos)
- AR 600-20
(Army Com-
mand Policy)
- AR 601-210 (RA
and RC Enlist-
ment Program)
- AR 670-1 (Wear
and Appear-
ance of the Ar-
my Uniforms
and Insignia)

Annual Leave Planning

It's that time of year again. We are only a few months away from closing out the fiscal year. Budgets are being monitored to ensure compliance and First Sergeants are confirming Soldier's use/lose leave is on the calendar. Of note is COVID allowed for Special Leave Accrual. In a memo dated 16 APR 2020, the Under Secretary of Defense wrote: "effective March 11, 2020 through September 30, 2020, and pursuant to 10 U.S.C. § 701(f)(l)(A) and (B)(iii), members of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Space Force performing active service (as that term is defined in 10 U.S.C. § 701(a)) during the effective period, are authorized to accumulate annual leave in excess of 60 days (not to exceed 120 days) as shown on the end of month September 2020 Leave and Earnings Statement. Such members are further authorized to retain such unused leave until the end of Fiscal Year 2023 (i.e., September 30, 2023)." If you were eligible during that time and accrued additional leave, you can find that leave balance in the remarks section of your Leave and Earnings Statement. Bottom line, leave is an entitlement of your service, and the Unit Commander has the option (mission dictates) to approve the requested leave. Plan ahead and take your leave.

Guidance on Army Directive 2022-09 (Soldier Tattoos)

On 22 June 2022, the Secretary of the Army released AD 2022-09, updating policies related to allowable placement of tattoos for currently serving Soldiers and applicants for enlistment or appointment.

This new directive applies to Regular Army, Army National Guard, Army National Guard of the United States, and U.S. Army Reserve Soldiers.

Effective immediately Soldiers are authorized:

- One visible tattoo on each hand (including the palm), not to exceed 1 inch in measurement in all directions; an unlimited number of tattoos between the fingers (can't be visible when fingers are closed); and one ring tattoo on each hand.
- One tattoo on the back of the neck (not to exceed 2 inches in measurement).
- One tattoo behind each ear (not to exceed 1 inch measurement in all directions, not to extend forward the ear lobe.)

Soldiers are still not authorized to have tattoos on the following body parts:

- the head and face, inside the eyelids, mouth, and ears.

However, permanent makeup, such as those that darken the eyebrows or mimic eyeliner remains authorized, in accordance with AR 670-1.

Tattoo designs cannot contain any extremist, indecent, sexist or racist words or images.

Commanders will counsel Soldiers who have tattoos that do not meet regulation. These Soldiers will have 15 days to consider all options and respond in accordance with AR 670-1 (e.g., seek medical and or legal advice, appeal the finding, pursue procedures to have the tattoo removed or altered, or not to remove or alter the tattoo). Non-compliance could lead to separation.

Soldiers may continue to submit religious accommodation request waivers to Army regulation per procedures outlined in AR 600-20.



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Guidance for Commanders; Army Emergency Relief (AER) Campaign

Since March 1942, AER has provided Soldiers and their dependents with assistance and emergency aid in the form of loans, grants, and scholarships. Funds for this program come from various sources, including the annual campaign (as authorized by Army Regulation 600-29). The AER annual campaign is the responsibility of the senior commander/senior command sergeant major (in coordination with garrison commander/garrison sergeant major). Commanders should continuously inform and encourage their Soldiers to use AER when they have a valid financial need.

Note: AER is the only non-profit organization that command teams *can* and *should* openly endorse. The following “Do’s and Don’ts” will help command teams understand how they can best support the AER annual campaign while remaining within regulatory limits.

Reference:

- AR 600-29 (Fund raising within the Department of the Army)
- AR 930-4 (Service Organizations- Army Emergency Relief)
- <https://www.armyrelief.org>

DO:

- Establish an officer/NCO installation campaign coordination team (comprised of a field-grade officer and senior NCO).
- Ensure the Campaign Coordination Team coordinates directly with the ACS staff and the AER team during campaign season.
- Every company-level unit will appoint an AER campaign representative (SSG or above) who will work with the installation’s campaign coordination team.
- Endorse/publicize the campaign through usual campaign activities, memorandums, digital platforms or other communication.
- Provide Soldiers the opportunity to make voluntary donations. (use of a ‘thermometer’ graph is appropriate to show progress of the entire installation goal (if established) or the installation’s total contribution.)
- Follow up on solicitations where the individual asked to delay or defer decision.
- Keep appropriate awards as commendation for exceptional performance in the organization and administration of a campaign.
- Recognize exceptional performance in organization of a campaign or administration (e.g., letter of commendation).
- Provide an after-action report regarding their AER campaign

DON’T:

- Conduct this campaign in conjunction with another campaign (e.g., CFC).
- Solicit Soldiers under your direct supervision (e.g., a platoon sergeant will inform their platoon about AER assistance, but cannot solicit donations from their platoon).
- Tell individuals they are the only one, or one of a small number of people, preventing the achievement of an installation’s goal.
- Keep lists of non-contributors for any purpose.
- Initiate awards or rewards for individual solicitors, or grant special privileges, favors, or entitlements as inducement to contribute.