



THE JBSA JURIST

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 1

JANUARY 2016

Political Activities

NOTE: This is general information. Each situation is different. Please contact the legal office for more information about your particular situation

Active duty military personnel and Department of Defense civilian employees are encouraged to carry out the obligations of citizenship by exercising their constitutional right to vote. As employees of the federal government, however, there are certain restrictions on political activities.

For active duty personnel, the general rule is that a member may not participate in "partisan political activities." When it comes to fundraisers, rallies, and conventions, that rule prohibits pretty much anything but mere attendance. Of course, members should not attend in uniform.

The rules also limit publishing political articles, letters or endorsements. Letters to the editor expressing personal opinions are permissible so long as they are not directed at the success or failure of a political party, partisan political candidate, campaign, group or cause. You cannot send letters as part of an organized letter-writing campaign, or solicitation of votes for or against a party, candidate, or partisan cause. These rules still apply to social media. In short, a member can "like" something or someone on social media or express his or her views on a subject, but is prohibited from sharing the item with others or indicating DOD endorsement.

Finally, members are permitted to display appropriate bumper stickers, but large partisan political signs are not allowed. Material on a bumper sticker or in a social media post that violates the Uniform Code of Military Justice or service regulation is still subject to disciplinary action. That means steer clear of messages that show contempt for public officials, release sensitive information, or contain unprofessional material or material prejudicial to good order and discipline.

The above summary is not exhaustive. There is an entire Department of Defense directive on this subject, so be mindful of political activities and check with your local legal office when in doubt.

For DOD civilian employees, political activities are regulated by a number of sources including a federal law called the Hatch Act.

DOD civilian employees, except Further Restricted Employees, are allowed to volunteer with a political campaign or political organization while in their personal capacities. These employees are however, prohibited from soliciting or receiving political contributions.

As with many restrictions on use of the federal workplace, federal employees may never engage in political activities while on duty or in a federal building. This means that employees may not send or forward political emails or post political messages to social media while in a federal building (including when off duty), even if the employee is using his or her personal smart phone, tablet or computer. Further guidance can be obtained from local legal offices.

AREA DEFENSE COUNSEL

ADCs are experienced judge advocates outside the local chain of command to allow Airmen completely confidential legal advice for criminal and adverse matters.

Ft Sam Houston: DSN 471-9679

Lackland: DSN 473-2924/2926

Randolph: DSN 487-2274

SPECIAL VICTIMS' COUNSEL

SVCs are experienced, independent judge advocates who provide confidential legal advice to victims of sexual assault. They serve both restricted and unrestricted reporters, help victims understand their legal rights, and explain how the legal process works for processing sex assault claims.

JBSA (Lackland): DSN 473-4748

**PREPARE FOR YOUR
LEGAL ASSISTANCE APPOINTMENT**

LOG ONTO: <https://aflegalassistance.law.af.mil>

Wills & Power of Attorney Powers of Attorney

1. Click on tab "Legal Worksheets"
2. Complete worksheet for documents you wish to have created
3. Save your ticket number, then call the Legal Office for an appointment!
4. Please complete survey online

Legal Assistance

1. Click on tab "Legal Information"
2. If the information you are looking for is not listed, call the Legal Office for an appointment!
3. Please complete online survey!

**TO SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT CALL
ONE OF THE OFFICES BELOW**

JBSA-Ft Sam Houston

502 FSG/JA
2422 Stanley Road

*Legal Assistance Primarily by
Appointment*

Walk-in Hours

Tues 0830-1030 All eligible clients
Thurs 0830-1030 Active Duty only

Will Executions

Thurs 1330-1430

Notary and Powers of Attorney

Mon-Thurs 0730-1630
Fri 0730-1200

**DSN 420-0169
Comm: 210-808-0169**

JBSA-Randolph

502 SFLSG/JA
1 Washington Circle, Bldg 202

*Legal Assistance Primarily by
Appointment*

Walk-in Hours

Mon 1000-1100 Active Duty only

Will Executions

Fri 0900-1100 By appointment only
Provide ticket number from the
website when scheduling

Notary and Powers of Attorney

Mon-Fri 0800-1130 and 1300-1500

**DSN 487-6781
Comm: 210-652-6781**

JBSA-Lackland

502 ISG/JA
1701 Kenly Ave, Suite 134

*Legal Assistance Primarily by
Appointment*

Walk-in Hours

Wed 0800-0930 All eligible clients

Notary and Powers of Attorney

Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri 0800-1530
Wed 0800-1230

**DSN 473-3362
Comm: 210-671-3362**



WISDOM - VALOR - JUSTICE