

Liberty Press Weekly

Sept. 17, 2012, Vol. 4, No. 38

512th Airlift Wing, Dover Air Force Base, Del.

Embrace political season wisely

As the country nears a presidential election this fall, reservists should review Air Force policies that apply to their participation in the political process even when they are in non-duty status, said the 512th Airlift Wing's staff judge advocate.

Of particular concern this campaign to Lt. Col. Christopher W. Dentel, the wing's top legal expert, is Airmen sharing political positions via social media.

"In general, the Air Force views personal social media sites positively and respects the rights of our service members as Americans to use them to express themselves," he said. "However, by the nature of our profession, we are always on the record and must represent our core values."

Air Force policy is that Airmen engaging in social media should not bring discredit upon themselves or the service.

"They are to use their best judgment because their writings can have serious consequences up to and including prosecution under the Uniform Code of Military Justice," said Dentel.

Air Force Instruction 51-902, Political Activities by Members of the U.S. Air Force, outlines what political activities service members can undertake. It is a punitive instruction, meaning members of the armed forces can be court-martialed or offered nonjudicial punishment such as an Article 15 for violating the provisions outlined in it.

Military members may:

- Express personal political opinions. There can be no indication, how-

ever, that such opinion represents that of the Air Force.

- Attend political meetings or rallies while not in uniform.
- Display small political stickers on private vehicles.
- Wear political buttons while not in uniform and not on duty.

- Make monetary contributions to a political organization or political committee favoring a particular candidate.

Military members may not:

- Make a campaign contribution to, or receive or solicit (on one's own behalf) a campaign contribution from, any other member of the armed forces on active duty, or an officer or employee of the federal government, for promoting a political objective or cause.

- Participate in partisan political management, campaigns and conventions or make public speeches in the course of such activity.

- Serve in an official capacity for partisan political organizations.

- Speak before a partisan political gathering of any kind or promoting a partisan political party or candidate.

- March or ride in a partisan political parade.

- Display a partisan political sign, poster, banner or similar device visible to the public at one's residence on a military installation, even if one's residence is part of a privatized housing development.

- Display a large political sign, banner or poster (as distinguished from a bumper sticker) on a private vehicle.

- Participate in an organized partisan effort to provide voters with transportation to the polls.

- Use any kind of official authority or influence to interfere with an election, to affect its course or outcome, to solicit votes for a particular candidate or issue, or to require or solicit political contributions from others.

For additional guidance, Airmen may contact the 512th Legal Office at (302) 677-4431. (Courtesy 512th AW Public Affairs)



Doris Hernandez models a Khaki Shade 1 Women in the Air Force transition uniform worn between 1947 and 1950. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Bennie J. Davis III)

Leaders issue birthday message

Secretary of the Air Force Michael Donley, Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Welsh III and Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James Roy issued the following message to the Airmen of the United States Air Force:

As we celebrate the United States Air Force's 65th birthday, we salute all of the dedicated Airmen who serve or have served in our Nation's youngest and most innovative Service.

Throughout our proud history, the Air Force has embraced the technology that continues to revolutionize our capabilities in air, space and cyberspace. We owe an enormous debt to the ground-breaking visionaries and engineering pioneers who brought the technology of flight to life, and to the professional strategists and tacticians who imagined the military possibilities of these new technologies and propelled the science, theory and application forward.

While our Service enjoys an unbreakable connection to state-of-the-art technology, we must never forget that everything we do depends on our people, the living engine of our Air Force. Today, more than ever, the Air Force can take pride that our Service culture promotes and benefits from the know-how, determination, and commitment of a diverse group of men and women who embody our Core Values -- Integrity First, Service Before Self, and Excellence In All We Do -- while pursuing adaptive and innovative solutions for our Nation's security.

Every day, our Airmen have an opportunity to add a bright new chapter to the Air Force story by serving our Nation in the world's finest air force. The challenges confronting our country are great; but our active duty, Guard, Reserve, and civilian Airmen have never failed to answer our Nation's call. Working together in common purpose as one Air Force, we will keep America secure today and for all the years to come.

Happy birthday, Air Force! Aim High ... Fly-Fight-Win!

Just a click away

Total force effort brings people home after Libyan attack

Air Force Marathon breaks another attendance record

MilPDS scheduled for upgrade in December