



HEADQUARTERS  
UNITED STATES FORCES, JAPAN  
APO AREA PACIFIC 96328-5068

2 July 2020

MEMORANDUM FOR ALL U.S. COMMANDS AND UNITS IN JAPAN

FROM: COMUSFJ

SUBJECT: Order Prohibiting Display of the Confederate Battle Flag

1. The Confederate Battle Flag does not represent the values of U.S. Forces assigned to serve in Japan. While I acknowledge some might view it as a symbol of regional pride, many others in our force see it as a painful reminder of the history of hate, bigotry, treason, and devaluation of humanity that it represents. Regardless of perspective, one thing is clear: it has the power to inflame feelings of racial division. We cannot and will not tolerate a symbol that incites this sort of division among us.

2. As the Commander of U.S. Forces, Japan, it is within my authority and responsibility to take reasonable, necessary, and lawful measures to protect people, installations, and property, and to ensure good order and discipline among our force. Accordingly and effective immediately, I direct all commanders to identify and ensure the removal of all displays of the Confederate Battle Flag or its depiction within work places, common-access areas, and public areas on USFJ installations and areas.

3. Applicability: All USFJ military commands, installations, family members, DoD, and Japanese National civilian employees, DoD retirees, contractors, and any other persons with access to USFJ installations.

4. Definitions.

a. The term "Confederate Battle Flag" refers to the battle flag carried by Confederate armies during the Civil War. It has various color schemes and configurations and is generally described as a flag with a red or blue field with two blue or red diagonal lines and white stars; it is commonly called the "Stars and Bars." This definition does not include the display of the Confederate Battle Flag where it is depicted, but not the main focus of display. For example, artistic, educational, or historical displays depicting the Civil War where the Confederate Battle Flag is present, but not the main focus, remain permissible. It also does not include state flags which incorporate the Confederate Battle Flag.

b. The term "work places, common-access areas, and public areas" includes, but is not limited to: office buildings, facilities, military and government vehicles, aircraft, hangers, conference rooms, individual offices, cubicles, storage rooms, tool and equipment rooms, workshops, break rooms, dining facilities and messes, gyms, recreational areas, commissaries, exchanges, latrines/heads, open bay barracks, shipboard berthing, and common areas of barracks, bachelor quarters, and on-installation family quarters, and all areas in public or plain view. For example, the Confederate Battle Flag shall not be displayed on the outside area of a work office building, store, or barracks (including parking lots); or, the front yard, deck, or external porch of on-installation family housing. This prohibition includes depictions of the Confederate Battle Flag on clothing and vehicle bumper stickers.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kevin B. Schneider".

KEVIN B. SCHNEIDER  
Lieutenant General, USAF  
Commander