



Military and Civilian Guidance On Public Demonstrations and Social Media

CAN

SOCIAL MEDIA

- Use social media to promote and encourage others to vote, without using your official authority or influence to interfere with the outcome of any election
- Express personal, non-partisan views over personal social media when off-duty
- Friend, like or follow the social media page or account of a political party or partisan candidate, campaign or group when off-duty



CAN'T

PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS

- Participate in demonstrations when they are in a foreign country

SOCIAL MEDIA

- Suggest that others like, friend or follow a partisan account
- Post, share or link to material from a partisan political party, group or candidate, even when off duty



SOCIAL MEDIA

- Continue to follow, be friends with or like official accounts of government officials after they become candidates for reelection
- Express personal, non-partisan views over personal social media when off-duty
- Identify a political affiliation on a personal profile

PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS

- Participate in demonstrations on base that could interfere with or prevent the orderly accomplishment of a mission of the base, or which presents a clear danger to loyalty, discipline or morale of members of the Armed Forces
- Participate in off-base demonstrations within Japan

SOCIAL MEDIA

- Post, like or share a message or comment in support/opposition of a political party, candidate in a partisan race, or partisan political group while on duty or in the workplace
- Like, follow or friend the account of a political party, candidate in a partisan race, or partisan political group while on duty or in the workplace



SOCIAL MEDIA

- Express personal views on social media consistent with obligations as SOFA-status personnel

PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS

- Participate in demonstrations on base which could result in interference with or prevention of the orderly accomplishment of a mission of the installation, or which present a clear danger to loyalty, discipline or morale of members of the Armed Forces
- Participate in off-base demonstrations within Japan

RESOURCES

<https://osc.gov/Services/Pages/HatchAct.aspx>
<https://osc.gov/Documents/Hatch%20Act/Advisory%20Opinions/Federal/Social%20Media%20Guidance.pdf>
DAFI 51-508, *Political Activities, Free Speech and Freedom of Assembly*
DoD Directive 1344.10, *Political Activities by Members of the Armed Forces*
US – Japan Status of Forces Agreement Article XVI