



DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AFFAIRS
ILLINOIS ARMY AND AIR NATIONAL GUARD
1301 North MacArthur Boulevard, Springfield, Illinois 62702-2399

DMAIL-ZA

26 January 2001

MEMORANDUM FOR See Distribution

SUBJECT: National Guard Membership in Extremist Groups

1. References:
 - a. DoD Directive 1325.6, "Guidelines for Handling Dissident and Protest Activities Among Members of the Armed Forces," October 1, 1996.
 - b. Army Regulation 600-20, "Army Command Policy," 15 July 1999.
 - c. Air Force Instruction 51-903, "Dissident and Protest Activities," 1 February 1998.
2. Extremism is a challenge that faces every segment of our country and society. Unfortunately, extremist or "hate" groups have come to the forefront in recent years, and the goals and objectives of these organizations are detrimental to the good order and discipline of the National Guard. The philosophies advocated by extremist groups can demoralize, disrupt, and undermine the morale and welfare of our personnel.
3. In 1997, the National Guard Bureau conducted an extensive survey of both the Army and Air National Guard. This study focused on our climate, culture, and human relations environment. Recently, the National Guard Bureau issued The Army and Air National Guard Reports on Extremism. This comprehensive study emphasizes the need to recognize and counter the threat of extremism, and the need for improvement in our human relations environment. The study's executive summary, which was previously distributed, should be made available upon request to our soldiers and airmen.
4. The policy of the Illinois National Guard is very clear on the matter of extremist or "hate" groups. Membership is strongly discouraged, and active participation is absolutely prohibited. Members may not actively participate in organizations that:

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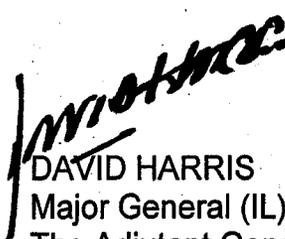
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- a. Espouse supremacist causes; or
- b. Advocate illegal discrimination based on race, creed, color, sex, religion, or national origin; or
- c. Advocate the use of force or violence; or
- d. Otherwise engage in efforts to deprive individuals of their civil rights.

Active participation, which includes publicly demonstrating or rallying, fund raising, recruiting or training members, and organizing or leading such organizations, is incompatible with military service and is prohibited. Commanders have authority to employ the full range of administrative procedures, including separation or appropriate disciplinary action, against military personnel who actively participate in such groups.

5. Also, while mere membership in such groups is not prohibited, it is strongly discouraged. In this regard, any involvement by a service member with or in an extremist organization, including membership, could threaten the good order and discipline of a unit. Therefore, in any case of apparent soldier involvement, a commander must take appropriate administrative action in accordance with applicable service regulations. Such actions may include counseling the service member concerning this policy and consideration of membership when evaluating or assigning the service member.

6. I am directing commanders at every level of our organization to brief this policy at least annually to our personnel, and to post this policy on unit bulletin boards. At the same time, ARNG human relations and ANG Social Actions staffs must incorporate extremist group awareness as a part of their ongoing training programs.


DAVID HARRIS
Major General (IL) ILARNG
The Adjutant General

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