DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
WASHINGTON DC 20310

JUL 26 2004

MEMORANDUM FOR PRINCIPAL OFFICIALS OF HEADQUARTERS, DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

SUBJECT: Election Year Guidance and Contacts with Members of Congress

As we approach the final months of the 2004 election season, I want to ensure that you are aware of, and comply with, Department of Defense and Army election year policy. As a matter of long-standing policy, the Army does not engage in activities that associate the Army with partisan political causes or candidates.

Installation commanders will not permit the use of installation facilities by any candidate for political campaign or election events. Candidates are encouraged and welcomed to receive briefings, tours, or other official DoD information. Requests from Members of Congress to visit an installation should be referred to the Office of the Chief Legislative Liaison. Candidates who are not Members of Congress should be given the same access to installations as any other unofficial visitor. Installation commanders will ensure that candidates who visit military installations to conduct official business do not engage in political campaign or election activity during the visit.

Candidates will not be allowed to film or tape campaign commercials in front of military equipment, while on Army installations and facilities. Installation commanders will decline requests for Army speakers to appear in political campaign or election events. Requests for information from political campaign organizations will be considered on the same basis as requests from the general public.

Army newspapers, periodicals, and civilian enterprise publications will not publish information provided by a candidate's campaign organization, partisan advertisements and discussions, or cartoons, editorials, and commentaries dealing with political campaigns, candidates, or issues. American Forces Radio and Television Service will provide a free flow of balanced, informational coverage of political campaigns and elections provided by U.S. commercial and public networks.

I encourage all military members and employees to vote. I expect all Army leaders to fully support the Voting Assistance Program.

Active duty military members and civilian employees are subject to a number of limitations that generally preclude them from actively participating in partisan political activities. DoD Directive 1344.10, "Political Activities by Members of the Armed Forces" contains DoD policy governing political activities of military members on active duty. A January 21, 2004, memorandum from the Deputy Secretary of Defense provides guidance for civilian employees' participation in political activities.

This memorandum is not intended to provide you with exclusive or complete guidance on this subject. Army Regulation 360-1 contains additional guidance concerning election year activities while this memorandum is not intended to provide you with exclusive or complete guidance. Under all circumstances I expect you to use good judgment in handing these issues, consistent with our policy of nonpartisanship.

R. L. Brownlee
Acting Secretary of the Army