

Obtained via FOIA by Judicial Watch, Inc.

Free Speech in the Military

Limitations on Political Activity

Active duty members may:

- Register
- Vote
- Express personal opinions on political candidates and issues (but not as official representatives of the armed forces)
- Attend political rallies or meetings on personal time, not in uniform
- Make contributions to a political organization or political committee favoring a particular candidate or slate of candidates
- Write a letter expressing preference for a political candidate or cause, but the letter must be personal and not for publication
- Display bumper stickers on vehicles
- Wear political buttons when not in uniform and not on duty

Active military members may not

- Serve in an official capacity nor be listed as a sponsor of a partisan political club, even in a personal capacity
- Influence an election, solicit votes for a particular candidate, or solicit political contributions if acting in an official capacity
- Participate in partisan political management, campaigns, conventions, or make public speeches during such activity (even if acting in a personal capacity).
- Display large political signs or posters on their private vehicles
- Hold civil office

Extremist Groups

- Groups that advocate **supremacist, extremist, or criminal gang doctrine**
- Participation in these groups is prohibited
- **Poses a threat to good order, discipline, or mission accomplishment**

The Commie Cadet



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Marine Lance Cpl. Vasillios Pistolis

<https://www.propublica.org/article/vasilios-pistolis-imprisoned-marine-hate-groups>



Navy Midshipman 1st Class Chase Standage—aka “Cheese Sandwich”

