



ACQUISITION AND  
TECHNOLOGY

## OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

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WASHINGTON DC 20301-3000

DEC 4 2000

MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS  
CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF  
UNDER SECRETARIES OF DEFENSE  
DIRECTOR, DEFENSE RESEARCH AND ENGINEERING  
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DIRECTOR, ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT  
DIRECTORS OF THE DEFENSE AGENCIES  
DIRECTORS OF THE DOD FIELD ACTIVITIES

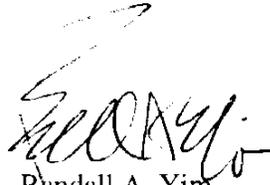
Subject: Congressional Constituent Services Offices on Military Installations

It is a matter of long-standing policy that the Department of Defense (DoD) "does not engage in activities that could be interpreted as associating DoD with any partisan political causes, issues, or candidates." This policy further provides that "installation commanders should not permit the use of installation facilities by any candidate (either incumbents or new office seekers), members of their staffs or their campaign representatives for: political assemblies or meetings; media events, including speeches; fund raising social events for political candidates, parties, or causes regardless of the sponsorship; press conferences; or any other activity that could be construed as political in nature."

There is a difference between a Congressional constituent services office and a political office, in that a Member of Congress, in accordance with existing law, may not engage in political activities at his or her constituent services office. Nonetheless, the presence of a constituent services office on a military installation could create the appearance of an endorsement of the Member of Congress by the military. Furthermore, DoD policy prohibiting political activities on military installations is broader than the prohibitions placed on the Members' activities at their constituent services offices. Events such as public meetings, task-force meetings open to the public or the press, and press conferences, are commonly held at constituent services offices and are proper and legal there. Such events at a military installation would be clearly inconsistent with the above long-standing DoD policy when a Member is running for office.



The Department of Defense must maintain the principled position of strict political neutrality by declining to lease, or otherwise authorize the use of office space on DoD military installations for Congressional constituent services offices. Accordingly, the granting of leases or similar authorizations for Congressional constituent services offices on DoD military installations is prohibited.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Yim", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Randall A. Yim  
Deputy Under Secretary  
(Installations)