

Department of the Army  
Pamphlet 600-15

Personnel-General

# Extremist Activities

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**UNCLASSIFIED**

# ***SUMMARY of CHANGE***

DA PAM 600-15  
Extremist Activities

This pamphlet:

- o Provides guidance for soldiers, commanders, and others in implementing the Army policy on extremist activities and organizations. (Cited in paras 2-1, 2-2, and 2-3.)
- o Gives instructions for commanders in handling extremist behaviors. (Cited in paras 2-5 and 2-6.)
- o Lists proactive steps for commanders and leaders to use in evaluating and preventing extremist activities. (Cited in para 3-2.)



## FOREWORD

“Military personnel, duty bound to uphold the Constitution, must reject participation in [supremacist] organizations... [the] system of rank and command, the requirements of trust and cohesiveness among service members, and the discipline essential to military units demand that service personnel reject the goals of such group.”

Casper Weinberger

Secretary of Defense

8 September 1986

The Department of Defense has a long-standing policy of intolerance for organizations, practices, or activities that are discriminatory in nature. DOD Directive 1325.6, “Guidelines for Handling Dissent and Protest Activities Among Members of the Armed Forces,” was issued in 1969 as one of many measures taken to renew, clarify, and emphasize that policy. Despite the specific language of this directive, reports in 1986 of Army and Marine Corps members participating in Ku Klux Klan (KKK) activities forced Secretary of Defense Casper Weinberger to reaffirm the Defense Department’s position via the priority message cited above. Yet new cases of service member involvement with extremist organizations continue to make the headlines. In February 1990, five Air Force security policemen were discharged for active participation in the Ku Klux Klan. One of the five was a chief recruiter who took part in cross-burnings and planned a KKK chapter in Denton, Texas. The following year, an Army sergeant pleaded guilty along with three others to weapon charges in an apparent conspiracy to stockpile military hardware for use by white supremacist groups. According to one civilian media account, the arsenal included “land mines, machine guns, TNT, and anti-aircraft weaponry” and was “large enough to blow up the Gator Bowl.” In October 1993, four airmen in Alaska were discharged from the Air Force for burning a cross and using racial slurs. Finally, as recently as 1995, two Army soldiers committed two racially motivated murders at Fort Bragg, NC, resulting in the death of two African Americans and prompting a DOD review of the 1986 policy and a subsequent revision in 1996.

Although instances of service member involvement in supremacist activities are rare, events such as these cannot be overlooked in light of the recent surge in “civilian America” hate crimes. There is a strong correlation between the attitudes and beliefs of service members and those of the society from which they are recruited. Military directives recognize this relationship. Individuals do not set aside their prejudices, biases, and perceptions in favor of the Army’s values immediately upon joining the Army. The rise in hate crimes outside the military may be an indication of internal issues the Services will have to face.

Higher and more restrictive standards of conduct distinguish military personnel from their civilian counterparts. These standards are necessary for military effectiveness and ensure unit morale, cohesion, and integrity. They also promote public confidence, trust, and support. Ideally, the Army would like all soldiers to embrace our traditions and our standards of conduct as their own. At a minimum, members are bound to uphold Army standards, in both appearance and in fact. However, as evidenced by the cases mentioned previously, there will always be individuals with conflicting outside interests who would rather act covertly than conform to the Services' expectations. These members and their activities can have a devastating effect on the good order and conduct essential in the Army.

The purpose of this publication is to help all Army personnel deal with extremist activities in the United States Army. Specifically, this pamphlet will explain some of the societal influences affecting members of the Army. Recognition of a problem is the first step in solving it, and countering extremism when it is present is every soldier's responsibility.

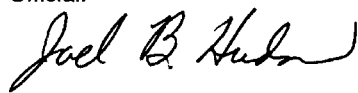
Personnel-General

Extremist Activities

By Order of the Secretary of the Army:

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General, United States Army  
Chief of Staff

Official:



JOEL B. HUDSON  
Administrative Assistant to the  
Secretary of the Army

**History.** This printing is the initial publication of this pamphlet.

**Summary.** This pamphlet provides guidance and procedures for handling extremist activities in the U.S. Army.

**Applicability.** This pamphlet applies to the Active Army, the Army National Guard, and the U.S. Army Reserve. It also applies to the U.S. Military Academy and the Reserve Officer Training Corps and to applicants for entry into the U.S. Army. Procedures in this pamphlet are not modified during mobilization.

**Proponent and exception authority.** The proponent of this pamphlet is the Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel (DCSPER). The DCSPER has the authority to approve exceptions to this pamphlet that are consistent with controlling law and regulation. The DCSPER may delegate this approval authority in writing to a division chief within the proponent

agency in the grade of colonel or the civilian equivalent.

**Supplementation**

Supplementation of this pamphlet and establishment of command and local forms are prohibited without prior approval from the office

**Suggested improvements.** Users are invited to send comments and suggested improvements on DA Form 2028 (Recommended Changes to Publications and Blank Forms) directly to Headquarters, Department of the Army, (DAPE-HR-L), WASH DC 20310-0300.

**Distribution.** Distribution of this publication is available in electronic media only and is intended for command levels A, B, C, and D for Active Army, Army National Guard, and U.S. Army Reserve.

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### **Glossary**

## **Chapter 1 Introduction**

### **1-1. Purpose**

This pamphlet explains guidance, procedures, and actions for dealing with extremist activities in the United States Army. It defines the roles of soldiers and commanders as leaders in handling extremist activities.

### **1-2. References**

Required and related publications and referenced forms are listed in appendix A.

### **1-3. Explanation of abbreviations**

Abbreviations used in this pamphlet are explained in the Glossary.

### **1-4. Objectives**

The Army places a high value on the rights of its members to live and work in an environment free of harassment and maltreatment. This pamphlet delineates the Army's policy on extremism, as stated in AR 600-20, divulges information that identifies extremist activities, suggests training, and identifies strategies to reduce extremist activities.

### **1-5. Extremist activities overview**

DOD Directive 1325.6, (Guidelines for Handling Dissident and Protest Activities Among Members of the Armed Forces), was first issued in 1969. It did not contain language intended to apply to extremist organizations. Rather, the purpose of the directive was to control anti-Vietnam War demonstrations by military personnel, the publishing and distribution of "underground" newspapers, the formation of military unions, and military members going to off base "coffee houses" where they might engage in protest activities. In 1986, the directive was modified to add a paragraph on "prohibited activities" which was intended to deal with extremist groups.

*a.* Preliminary statistics show that 8,759 hate crimes or incidents were reported to the FBI during 1996. These incidents were reported by 11,354 law enforcement agencies in 49 States and the District of Columbia. Approximately 61 percent of the incidents were motivated by racial bias, 16 percent by religious bias, 12 percent by sexual orientation bias, and 11 percent by ethnicity/national origin bias. Crimes against persons accounted for 69 percent of the offenses reported. Intimidation was the single most frequently reported hate crime, accounting for 39 percent of the total, while simple assault and aggravated assault accounted for 16 percent and 13 percent respectively. Damage, destruction, and vandalism of property constituted 27 percent of the offenses reported. Thirteen persons were murdered in hate motivated incidents.

*b.* Our soldiers do not live and work in a vacuum. In addition to these crimes, recent reports of neo-Nazism are surfacing in Europe. U.S. soldiers deployed in Europe will be exposed to and may be influenced by this and numerous other ideologies.

*c.* Extremist groups follow ideologies, which are considered extreme by societal norms. An ideology is a systemic body of concepts about human life or culture; a way of thinking used by a group or an individual to express beliefs and social values. Ideology provides social order and control within any organization. Major issues are reduced to basic ideological concepts, which, in turn, influence the behavior and attitudes of group members and individuals. This can give rise to views that are extreme based on the prevailing societal norms which may or may not be punished by institutions. Ideologies justify, legitimize, and rationalize one particular version of reality despite other explanations and ideas. A supremacist is any person maintaining the ideology, quality, state of being, or position of being superior to all others in something. An extremist is any person who advocates racial, gender, or ethnic hatred or intolerance; advocates, creates, or engages in illegal discrimination based on race, color, gender, religion, or national origin; advocates the use of or uses force, violence, or unlawful means to deprive individuals of their rights under the U.S. Constitution.

*d.* Individuals who hold extremist views that conflict with the Army's stated values are sometimes inadvertently recruited into the Army. In addition, since the Army stresses discipline and obedience as well as training in weapons, explosives, and tactics, although not documented, it is believed that extremist groups target soldiers for membership. Only through training and actively following up on indicators can we ensure that extremist actions are eliminated from the Army and extremist ideologies reduced within the Army.

## **Chapter 2 Responses to Extremism**

### **2-1. General**

Participation in extremist organizations and activities by Army personnel is inconsistent with duties of military service. The United States Constitution provides for equal opportunity and treatment for all soldiers without regard to race,



color, religion, sex, or national origin. AR 600-20 affirms this constitutional right and provides protection specific to the U.S. Army for guaranteeing this right. Enforcement of the policy contained in AR 600-20 is a responsibility of command, vitally important to unit cohesion and morale, and is essential to the Army's ability to accomplish its mission that Commanders take action to maintain good order and discipline in the unit. Every Commander has the inherent authority to take appropriate actions to accomplish this goal. AR 600-20, paragraph 4-12, identifies prohibited actions by soldiers involved with extremist organizations, discusses the authority of the commander to establish other prohibitions, and establishes that violations of prohibitions contained in this paragraph or those established by a commander may result in prosecution under various provisions of the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ). This paragraph must be used in conjunction with DOD directive 1325.6, Guidelines for Handling Dissident and Protest Activities in the Armed Forces.

## **2-2. Participation**

AR 600-20 requires military personnel to reject participation in extremist organizations and activities. Extremist organizations are ones that advocate racial, gender, or ethnic hatred or intolerance; advocate, create, or engage in illegal discrimination based on race, color, gender, religion, or national origin; advocate the use of or use force, violence or unlawful means to deprive individuals of their rights under the United States Constitution or the laws of the United States or any State by unlawful means.

## **2-3. Prohibitions**

AR 600-20 prohibits soldiers from engaging in the following actions in support of extremist organizations or activities. Penalties for violations of these prohibitions include the full range of statutory and regulatory sanctions, both criminal (UCMJ) and administrative--

- a.* Participating in public demonstrations or rallies.
- b.* Attending a meeting or activity with the knowledge that the meeting or activity involves an extremist cause when on or off duty, when in uniform, when in a foreign country (whether on or off duty or in or out of uniform), when it constitutes a breach of law and order, when violence is likely to result, or when in violation of off-limits sanctions or a commander's order.
- c.* Fund raising activities.
- d.* Recruiting or training members (includes encouraging other soldiers to join).
- e.* Creating, organizing or taking a visible leadership role in such an organization or activity.
- f.* Distributing literature or other media on or off a military installation, if such literature has the primary purpose of and content that advocates support of extremist causes, organizations, or activities that present a clear danger to the loyalty, discipline, or morale of military personnel, or if the distribution would materially interfere with the accomplishment of a military mission.

## **2-4. Command authority**

Commanders have the authority to prohibit military personnel from engaging in or participating in any other activities that the commander determines will adversely affect good order and discipline or morale within the command. This includes, but is not limited to, the authority to order the removal of symbols, flags, posters, or other displays from barracks, to place areas or activities off-limits (see AR 190-24), or to order soldiers not to participate in those activities that are contrary to good order and discipline or morale of the unit or pose a threat to health, safety, and security of military personnel or a military installation.

## **2-5. Command options**

Commander's options for dealing with a soldier's violation of the prohibitions include--

- a.* UCMJ action. Possible violations in connection with participation in extremist organizations include but are not limited to:
  - (1) Article 92, violation or failure to obey lawful general order or regulation (for example, participation in demonstrations, distributions of literature without approval, or unlawful discrimination).
  - (2) Article 116, riot or breach of peace
  - (3) Article 117, provoking speeches or gestures
  - (4) Article 134, general article, specifically, conduct which is prejudicial to good order and discipline or service discrediting.
- b.* Involuntary separation for unsatisfactory performance or misconduct, or for conduct deemed prejudicial to good order and discipline or morale.
- c.* Reclassification actions or bar to reenlistment actions, as appropriate.
- d.* Other administrative or disciplinary action deemed appropriate by the commander, to include counseling, based on the specific facts and circumstances of the particular case.

## **2-6. Commanders' action**

Any soldier involvement with an extremist organization or activity, such as membership, receipt of literature, or presence at an event, could threaten the good order and discipline of a unit. In any case of apparent soldier involvement with or in extremist organizations or activities, whether or not in violation of the prohibitions in subparagraph b, commanders are required by AR 600-20 to take positive actions to educate soldiers, putting them on notice of the potential adverse effects that participation may have upon good order and discipline in the unit and upon their military service. These positive actions include-

*a.* Educating soldiers regarding the Army's equal opportunity policy. Commanders will advise soldiers that extremist organizations' goals are inconsistent with Army goals, beliefs, and values concerning equal opportunity.

*b.* Advising soldiers that any participation in extremist organizations or activities--

(1) Will be taken into consideration when evaluating their overall duty performance, to include appropriate remarks on evaluation reports.

(2) Will be taken into consideration when selections for positions of leadership and responsibility are made.

(3) Will result in removal of security clearances, where appropriate.

(4) Will result in reclassification actions or bar to reenlistment actions as appropriate.

*c.* The commander of a military installation or other military controlled facility under the jurisdiction of the United States is required by AR 600-20 to prohibit any demonstration or activity on the installation or facility that could cause interference with or prevent orderly accomplishment of mission on the installation or facility, or present a clear danger to loyalty, discipline, or morale of the troops. Further, such a commander shall deny requests for the use of military controlled facilities by individuals or groups that engage in discriminatory practices or for activities involving such practices.

*d.* Commanders should seek the advice and counsel of their legal advisors when taking actions pursuant to this policy.

## **Chapter 3 Program**

### **3-1. General**

*a.* Modern extremist groups run the gamut from the politically astute and subtle to the openly violent. Their involvement in fomenting conflict and unrest in the Armed Forces, their implication in the theft of military weapons, and their tendency to have former military members as leaders and trainers make it imperative that commanders be aware of their threat to discipline, cohesion, and good order. Military leaders must maintain constant vigilance to foil any attempts by extremists to further their cause through the Army.

*b.* Extremists in the Army have an immediate impact on the unit. The mission continues and work is accomplished, but the overall command climate changes as it adjusts to this extremist element. In many instances, soldiers who oppose or disagree will not confront the extreme views of another. They either do not feel directly affected by these views or fear damaging the unit's working environment. The unit, however, will usually divide into opposing factions and the "team concept" is gone. Time and effort are now required to deal with the situation. Examples of how units' are affected include--

(1) The command climate changes to adjust to the extremist views presented by individuals.

(2) Positions are taken (some in favor, some against, some in-between), polarizing the unit.

(3) Productivity is hampered as unit cohesion starts to break down.

(4) An enormous amount of time must be spent to retrain, counsel, investigate, or initiate administrative or disciplinary actions.

### **3-2. Proactive measures and strategies**

*a.* Soldiers' role. Every soldier is needed to accomplish the unit mission effectively and it is therefore imperative that each one examine how his or her action or inaction can affect mission accomplishment.

(1) Examine personal viewpoints in light of the Army's values and loyalty to their military team.

(2) Reject affiliation with any extremist organizations.

(3) Decline the distribution or circulation of extremist literature or views even if it does not come from an organized group.

(4) Encourage others (peers) to avoid extremist affiliations and views.

(5) Report specific indicators to the chain of command.

(6) Seek clarification from chain of command on "hot" topics, current issues, and current policies.

*b.* Junior leaders' roles. Junior leaders at team and squad level are the first line of defense against extremist views, behaviors, and affiliations. Commanders must work closely with junior leaders to keep abreast of the activities of unit

members on off-duty time. Junior leaders must pay attention to the following signs as indicators of possible extremist views, behaviors, or affiliations:

- (1) Surreptitious meetings.
- (2) Off-duty clothing (for example, skinhead uniforms, tattoos).
- (3) Music selections
- (4) Reading materials in personal area (for example, extremist flyers).
- (5) Unusual book discussion groups (for example, discussion of "Turner Diaries").
- (6) Use of personal computer to view extremist sites.
- (7) Use of extremist acronyms.
- (8) Extremist graffiti or symbols in barracks or common areas.

*c. Commanders' Positive Actions.* As stated in AR 600-20, commanders must take positive actions when their soldiers are identified as exhibiting extremist behaviors, to include

- (1) Educate and counsel soldiers on the incompatibility of military service with such behaviors.
- (2) Ensure soldiers understand how their affiliations with a specific organization relate to the Army's policy.
- (3) Conduct training on why extremist views are disruptive or incompatible with the mission and on how to identify extremist views.
- (4) Understand what their unit members' beliefs are.
- (5) Be alert for indicators of extremist ties, views, or behaviors.
- (6) Enforce policy on participation in extremist groups.
- (7) Report all cases of such participation.
- (8) Use Equal Opportunity Advisers (EOAs) to monitor available information on extremist groups, activities, and philosophies and train commanders.
- (9) Advise that participation will be considered during evaluations and factored into selecting individuals for leadership positions.

*d. Commanders' action and options.*

- (1) Review and recommend removal of security clearance.
- (2) Initiate reclassification or recommend "not favorable" for reenlistment.
- (3) Initiate actions for violations of the UCMJ as stated in paragraph 2-5.
- (4) Consider involuntary administrative separation of soldier according to AR 635-200.
- (5) Order soldiers not to participate in specific events sponsored by extremist groups when there is a reasonable likelihood of such participation resulting in activities which are illegal or prejudicial to good order, discipline, or morale as stated in paragraph 2-4.

(6) Use military authority to designate business and social establishments promoting or catering to extremist activities "off limits" as stated in paragraph 2-4. (See AR 190-24 for further guidance.)

*e. Strategies.* Commanders may incorporate extremism training as a biannual requirement. This is just one of the following proactive measures for combating extremism, to include--

- (1) Set the example.
- (2) Maintain objectivity when dealing with this issue and examine personal value system when making decisions.
- (3) Stay alert and look for possible indicators of extremist groups or activities.
- (4) Work with military and local civilian law enforcement agencies to identify extremist organizations, activities, and threat areas.
- (5) Work with human rights groups in the community to counter extremist activities.
- (6) Monitor local newspapers to stay informed on what groups and activities are prevalent in the area at any particular time.
- (7) Educate and train soldiers to be alert against extremist ideologies and groups that may be active in the area.

*f. Commanders' Decision-Making Guide.* This information will assist a commander in making decisions and deciding courses of action when faced with suspected extremism by a member of the command. A matrix is also provided to facilitate proper decision making by commanders at figure 1-1. This information is provided as a guide and should be used to complement or supplement other sources of guidance in this area, including Army Command Policy (AR 600-20), Military Justice (AR 27-10), Manual for Courts-Martial; and advice from your Equal Opportunity Advisor and Judge Advocate or Legal Advisor.

(1) Suspected affiliation or involvement in extremist activities may come to the attention of a commander in a number of ways, including reports through the chain of command, anonymous calls, or personal observation. Once a commander receives such information, a commander's inquiry should be conducted to ascertain whether the information is credible and to explore fully the facts and circumstances surrounding any extremist activity or affiliation. A tattoo matrix is provided at figure 1-2 to facilitate decision-making.

(2) The commander's decision as to how to conduct the commander's inquiry should take into account the seriousness and type of extremist activity involved and the credibility of the reporting source. Informal inquiries may

be sufficient in many cases. However, commanders should consider requesting assistance from or referral to formal investigative agencies such as Military Police Investigations (MPI) or Criminal Investigation Command (CIC) in serious and/or complex cases.

(3) Commanders who identify individuals as extremists must take action in accordance with AR 600-20. At a minimum, the individual will be counseled on the Army Command Policy concerning extremism. A memorandum format is provided at figure 1-3. Commanders may also consider taking other action, either administrative or judicial. The range of options available to commanders is further delineated in paragraph 2-5 and AR 600-20, paragraph 4-12.

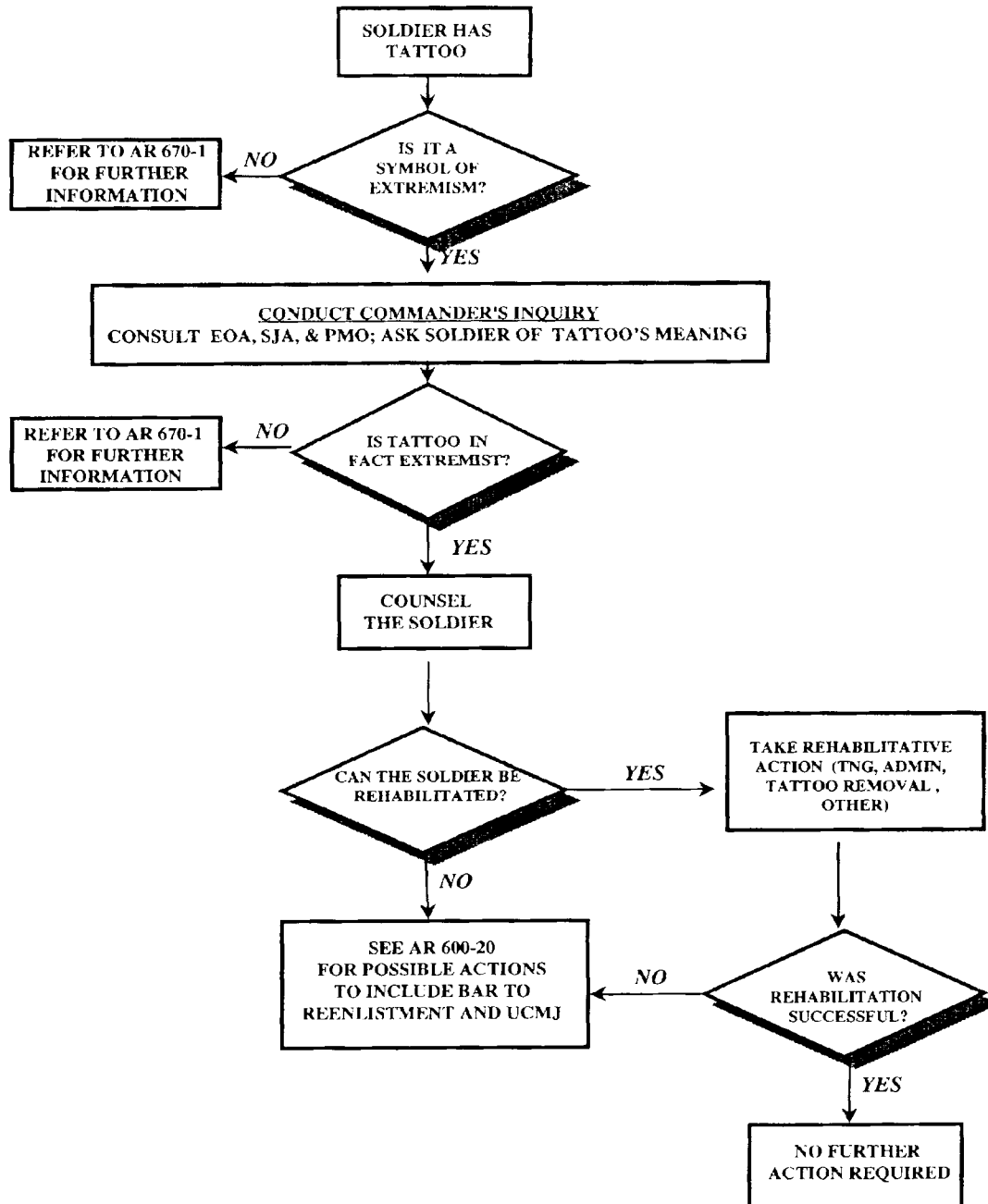


Figure 1-2. EXTREMIST TATTOO DECISION SUPPORT MATRIX

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SAMPLE EXTREMIST COUNSELING MEMORANDUM

Office Symbol

Date

MEMORANDUM FOR Soldier's Name

SUBJECT: Formal Counseling and Order to Cease Unauthorized Activities

1. You are hereby formally counseled for your [participation/association/involvement] in extremist activities during which you [specific the action], on or about [date]. You are ordered to end your [participation/association/involvement] in such activities immediately.
2. Extremist activities are inconsistent with the responsibilities of military service and will not be tolerated by this command.
3. Army Command Policy, AR 600-20, specifically prohibits you from associating with extremist organizations by participation in public demonstrations or rallies. Attending a meeting or activity with the knowledge that it involves an extremist cause when on duty, when in uniform, or when in a foreign country whether on or off duty or in uniform is also prohibited. Also forbidden are violating off-limits sanctions or a commander's order, conducting fundraising activities, recruiting or training members or encouraging other soldiers to join, organizing or leading such a group, and distributing literature on or off the installation. Lastly, AR 600-20 prohibits participating in any activity that is in violation of regulations, constitutes a breach of law and order, or is likely to result in violence.
4. The purpose of this counseling is to remind you of the Army's policy of fair and equitable treatment for all, and advise you of the incompatibility of extremist organizations with military service. Additionally, this counseling will warn you that membership in such an organization may be considered in your performance evaluations or when you are considered for positions requiring leadership and responsibility.
5. Participating in extremist activities could result in the loss of your security clearance, a bar to reenlistment, Military Occupational Specialty reclassification, and disciplinary action under the UCMJ. You are advised that separation action may be initiated under the provisions of AR 635-200 if this behavior or conduct continues. If separated, you could receive a discharge under several conditions or characterizations, namely an honorable, under honorable condition, under other than honorable condition, or an Entry Level Separation (uncharacterized), if authorized. If separated with less than an honorable discharge characterization, you could receive substantial prejudice in civilian life that might affect civilian employment, veteran's benefits, and related matters. It is unlikely that you will be successful in any attempt to have the character of your service changed.

COMMANDER'S NAME  
RANK, BRANCH  
Commanding

**Figure 1-3. SAMPLE EXTREMIST COUNSELING MEMORANDUM**

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## **Appendix A References**

### **Section 1 Required Publications**

#### **AR 190–24**

Armed Forces Disciplinary Control Boards and Off-Installation Liaison Operations (Cited in paras 2-4 and 3-2d.)

#### **AR 600–20**

Army Command Policy (Cited in paras 1-4, 2-1, 2-2, 2-3, 2-6, 3-2c, and 3-2f and fig. 1-3.)

#### **AR 670–1**

Wear and Appearance of Army Uniform and Insignias (Cited in fig 1-2.)

### **Section II Related Publications**

A related publication is merely a source of additional information. The user does not have to read it to understand this publication.

#### **AR 135–178**

Separation of Enlisted Personnel

#### **AR 350–100**

Officer Active Duty Service Obligations

#### **AR 600–8–24**

Officer Transfer and Discharges

#### **AR 635–120**

Officer Resignations and Discharges

#### **AR 635–200**

Enlisted Personnel

### **Section III Prescribed Forms**

This section contains no entries.

### **Section IV Referenced Forms**

This section contains no entries.

## **Appendix B Extremism Lesson Plan**

Lesson Plan

Extremism and Extremist Organizations

**TASK:** Identify Extremism and Extremist Organizations

**CONDITION:** In a small group discussion environment

**STANDARD:**

1. Define the Army's policy on extremism.
2. Explain the restrictions on participation in extremist organizations.
3. Describe the definitions of terms related to extremism.
4. Explain the prohibitions with regard to extremism.
5. Explain the training responsibilities of the commander with regard to extremist organizations and activities.

**TIME OF INSTRUCTION:** 1 Hour

**MEDIA:** Slides (Optional)

**LEAD IN:** The United States Army is comprised of soldiers from various cultures, ethnic groups, religions, and races from around the world. These various groups contain ideologies that range from extremely tolerant to extremely intolerant. It is the policy of the Army that extremism is incompatible with the responsibilities of military service. By learning more about the ideologies, history, and dynamics of extremism, you will have a better understanding of the influences that can affect your fellow soldiers and how their beliefs or actions can affect those of their peers. Keep in mind that any issue within society will likely find its way into the Army at some point. Extremism is no exception.

**QUESTION.** Ask students if they have ever been approached, or if they know of anyone who has been approached, to join an extremist group. If so, how did they handle the situation?

### **1. IMPACT ON THE UNIT AND THE MISSION**

When individuals in the Armed Services are supportive of extremism, there is an immediate impact on the unit. Even as the mission continues and work is accomplished, the overall command climate changes as it adjusts to the new extremist element. The unit might divide into opposing factions. When this happens, the unit is no longer efficient and the “team concept” of accomplishing the mission is gone. Time and effort are now required to deal with the extremist views in the unit. The following are examples of how the unit is affected:

- a.* Command climate suffers. If there is a lack of trust and cohesiveness among unit members, morale will suffer, along with unit readiness.
- b.* Polarization of groups is a logical by-product of extremism within a unit. Extremists are not likely to work closely with members of other groups.
- c.* Extremism undermines confidence among or between unit members.
- d.* Productivity and mission accomplishment can be seriously affected. The unit may not work together in training or a mission environment.
- e.* An enormous amount of time may be spent to retrain, counsel, investigate, and take corrective action.

### **2. AR 600-20 GUIDELINE.**

Per AR 600-20, it is the policy of the U.S. Army to provide equal opportunity and fair treatment for all soldiers without regard to race, color, religion, gender, or national origin. Based on this philosophy, participation in extremist organizations or activities is inconsistent with the responsibilities of military service. Military personnel must reject extremism. Extremist organizations and activities are ones that advocate racial, gender, or ethnic hatred or intolerance; advocate, create, or engage in illegal discrimination based on race, color, gender, religion, or national origin; advocate the use of force or violence, or unlawful means to deprive individuals of their rights under the United States Constitution or the laws of the United States or any State; or advocate or seek to overthrow the Government of the United States, or any State by unlawful means.



## AR 600-20 GUIDELINE

Extremism is inconsistent with the responsibilities of military service. Military personnel must reject participation in extremist organizations and activities.

- US Army provides equal opportunity and fair treatment for all soldiers
- commanders enforce EO Policy
- commanders maintain good order and discipline in units

Figure B-1. AR 600-20 GUIDELINE

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### 3. AR 600-20 PROHIBITIONS.

AR 600-20 clearly states soldiers are prohibited from the following actions in support of extremist organizations or activities. Penalties for violations of these prohibitions include the full range of statutory and regulatory sanctions, both criminal (UCMJ) and administrative.

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## AR 600-20 GUIDELINE

Extremism is inconsistent with the responsibilities of military service. Military personnel must reject participation in extremist organizations and activities.

- US Army provides equal opportunity and fair treatment for all soldiers
- commanders enforce EO Policy
- commanders maintain good order and discipline in units

Figure B-2. AR 600-20 GUIDELINE

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- (1) Participating in a public demonstration or rally;
- (2) Attending a meeting or activity with knowledge that the meeting or activity involves an extremist cause when on duty, when in uniform, when in a foreign country (whether on or off duty or in uniform), when it constitutes a breach of law and order, when violence is likely to result, or when in violation of off-limits sanctions or a commander's order;
- (3) Fund raising;
- (4) Recruiting or training members (including encouraging other soldiers to join);
- (5) Creating, organizing, or taking a visible leadership role in such an organization or activity; or
- (6) Distributing literature on or off a military installation with the primary purpose and content of which concerns advocacy or support of extremist causes, organizations, or activities and it appears the literature presents a clear danger to the loyalty, discipline, or morale of military personnel, or if the distribution would materially interfere with the accomplishment of a military mission.

#### 4. TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

In addition to the definition already presented for extremism and extremist organizations and activities, there are other terms you should be familiar with in order to discuss this issue with your soldiers. They include:



## TERMS AND DEFINITION

- supremacist
- extremist
- extremist organizations
- ideology

Figure B-3. TERMS AND DEFINITION (Optional)

*a. Supremacist.* Any person maintaining the ideology, quality, state of being, or position of being superior to all others in something.

*b. Extremist.* Any person who advocates racial, gender, or ethnic hatred or intolerance; advocates, creates, or engages in illegal discrimination based on race, color, gender, religion, or national origin; advocates the use of or uses force, violence, or unlawful means to deprive individuals of their rights under the U.S. Constitution.

*c. Extremist Organization.* A group which advocates racial, gender, or ethnic hatred or intolerance; advocates, creates, or engages in illegal discrimination based on race, color, gender, religion, or national origin; advocates the use of or uses force, violence or unlawful means to deprive individuals of their rights under the United States Constitution or the laws of the United States or any State.

*d. Ideology.* A systematic body of concepts especially about human life or culture; a way of thinking used by a group or individual to express their beliefs and social values.

#### 5. RECRUITMENT AND AFFILIATION.

Instead of standing in streets dressed in sheets and shouting hate messages, extremists may sit in bars and break areas wearing street clothes. The standard hateful message has not been replaced, just packaged differently. Recognizable

hate symbols and paraphernalia are usually hidden until a recruit is hooked on the validity of the ideology. In some cases, individuals who subscribe to extremist ideology are not necessarily members of any group.

## 6. EXTREMIST GROUPS AND ORGANIZATIONS

The majority of extremist groups and organizations have one predominant theme of superiority of one race over another. This theme can also be applied to ethnicity and religious groups. Some of these groups and organizations proclaim violence as a means to achieve their goals. Most of these groups develop ideologies in an attempt to justify, legitimize, and rationalize one particular version of reality. While the following groups are not representative of all extremist groups, a large portion fall into one of the three following categories:



## EXTREMIST GROUPS AND ORGANIZATIONS

- white supremacy ideology
- black supremacy ideology

Figure B-4. EXTREMIST GROUPS AND ORGANIZATIONS (Optional)

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*a.* White Supremacy Ideology. This ideology emphasizes theories of white superiority and the duty of Caucasians to survive and defend the U.S. is tied to white supremacy and to “racial purity,” the safeguarding of the existence and reproduction of the Caucasian race.

*b.* Black Supremacy Ideology. This ideology emphasizes theories of black superiority and the need for separation of the black race.

## 7. TATTOOS

Extremist groups frequently use tattoos to show group association. Skinheads frequently use tattoos and symbols of lightning bolts, skulls, Nazi swastikas, eagles, and Nordic warriors. Skinhead graphics also feature barbed wire, hobnailed boots, and hammers in their symbolism. This information is general in nature and is provided as a guide only. No immediate assumptions should be made when strange or suspicious tattoos are observed. See Figure 1-2 for handling tattoos or other symbols. However, they may be considered a warning signal that warrants further inquiry. When in doubt, consult the unit Equal Opportunity Advisor and Staff Judge Advocate for clarification and guidance.

## 8. COMMAND AUTHORITY.

AR 600-20 states that commanders have the authority to prohibit military personnel from engaging in or participating in any activities the commander determines will adversely effect good order and discipline or morale within the command. This includes, but is not limited to, the authority to order the removal of symbols, flags, posters, or other displays from barracks; to place areas or activities off-limits (see AR 190-24); or to order soldiers not to participate in those activities that are contrary to good order and discipline or morale of the unit or pose a threat to the health, safety, and security of a military installation.



## COMMAND AUTHORITY

Per AR 600-20, commanders have the authority to prohibit military personnel from engaging in or participating in activities that the commander determines will adversely affect good order and discipline

Figure B-5. COMMAND AUTHORITY

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### 9. COMMANDERS' OPTIONS

AR 600-20 states that commander's option for dealing with a soldier's violation of the prohibitions include:

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## COMMANDERS' OPTIONS

Per AR 600-20, commanders options for dealing with a soldier's violation of prohibitions include:

- counseling
- efficiency reporting
- selection for leadership
- UCMJ actions
- involuntary separation
- reclassification
- administrative actions

Figure B-6. COMMANDERS' OPTIONS

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*a.* Commanders will counsel soldiers about the inconsistency of Army goals, beliefs, and values with extremism. Leaders will take extremist activities into consideration when recommending soldiers for leadership positions or evaluating overall duty performance during evaluation reports.

*b.* UCMJ action. Possible violations include:

(1) Article 92--Violation or failure to obey lawful general order or regulation (for example, participation in demonstrations, distributions of literature without approval, or unlawful discrimination).

(2) Article 116 -- Riot or breach of peace.

(3) Article 117 -- Provoking speeches or gestures.

(4) Articles 134 -- General article, specifically, conduct which is prejudicial to the good order and discipline or service discrediting.

*c.* Involuntary separation for unsatisfactory performance or misconduct, or for conduct deemed prejudicial to good order and discipline or morale.

*d.* Reclassification actions or bar to reenlistment actions, as appropriate.

*e.* Other administrative or disciplinary action deemed appropriate by the commander, based on the specific facts and circumstances of the particular case.

## **10. COMMANDERS' POSITIVE ACTIONS**

Per AR 600-20, any soldier involved with or in an extremist organization or activity, such as membership, receipt of literature, or presence at an event, could threaten the good order and discipline of a unit. In any case of apparent soldier involvement with or in an extremist organization or activities, commanders must take positive actions to educate soldiers, putting them on notice of potential adverse effects that participation in violation of the Army policy may have upon good order and discipline in the unit and upon their military service. According to AR 600-20, these positive actions include:



## **COMMANDERS' POSITIVE ACTIONS**

Per AR 600-20, Commanders must take positive actions to :

- educate
- counsel & advise
- control military facilities

**Figure B-7. COMMANDERS' POSITIVE ACTIONS**

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*a.* Educating soldiers regarding the Army's equal opportunity policy. Commanders will advise soldiers that extremist organization's goals are inconsistent with the Army goals, beliefs, and values concerning equal opportunity.

*b.* Advising soldiers that any participation in extremist organizations or activities:

(1) Will be taken into consideration when evaluating their overall duty performance to include appropriate remarks on evaluation reports.

(2) Will be taken into consideration when selections for positions of leadership and responsibility are made.

(3) Will result in removal of security clearances, where appropriate.

(4) Will result in reclassification actions or bar to reenlistment actions as appropriate.

## **11. OTHER COMMANDER'S ACTIONS:**

*a.* Understand what their soldiers' beliefs are.

*b.* Be alert for indicators of extremist ties or behaviors.

*c.* Enforce policies on participation.

*d.* Educate and counsel soldiers on their understanding of Army policy.

*e.* Report suspected criminal behavior to the Military Police or Criminal Investigation Command.

*f.* The commander of a military installation or other military controlled facility under the jurisdiction of the United States shall prohibit any demonstration or activity on the installation or facility that could interfere with or prevent orderly accomplishment of the mission of the installation or facility, or present clear danger to loyalty, discipline, or

morale of the troops. Furthermore, such commanders shall deny requests for the use of military controlled facilities by individuals or groups that engage in these discriminatory practices .

## 12. INDIVIDUALS' ACTIONS:



## INDIVIDUALS' ACTIONS

Individuals should:

- examine personal viewpoints in light of Army values
- reject extremist affiliation & literature
- encourage others to avoid affiliation
- report indicators to chain of command
- seek clarification

Figure B-8. INDIVIDUALS' ACTIONS

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Individuals' should:

- a. Examine personal viewpoints in light of the Army's values and loyalty to the team.
- b. Reject affiliation with any extremist organizations, activities, and beliefs.
- c. Decline the distribution or circulation of extremist literature or views even if not from a group.
- d. Encourage others (peers and subordinates) to avoid affiliation through leadership.
- e. Report specific indicators to the chain of command so appropriate action can be taken before a situation gets worse.
- f. Seek clarification from chain of command on "hot" topics, current issues, and current policies.

## 13. TRAINING ON EXTREMIST ACTIVITIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

a. Each member of your unit should receive training on extremist activities and organizations. By providing training to your soldiers, you not only educate them, but also put them on notice of the potential adverse effects that participation in these types of activities may have on their military careers. The training provided to soldiers should include not only the policy and prohibition on participating in extremist organizations or activities, but at a minimum the following:

- (1) Soldiers should be clearly instructed that extremist organizations' goals are inconsistent with the Army's goals, beliefs, and values with regard to equal opportunity.
- (2) Participation in extremist organizations or activities may be taken into consideration when evaluating their overall duty performance, to include appropriate remarks on evaluation reports.
- (3) When selections for positions of leadership and responsibility are made, their participation may be considered.
- (4) Participation may lead to removal of security clearance.
- (5) Participation may result in reclassification actions or bar to reenlistment actions being initiated and finalized.
- (6) UCMJ actions may be initiated.
- (7) Involuntary separation from the Army for unsatisfactory performance or misconduct, or for conduct deemed prejudicial to good order and discipline or morale.
- (8) Other administrative or disciplinary action deemed appropriate by the commander.

b. To enhance the relevance of this training, trainers may utilize a variety of sources. Information on extremist is readily available on the internet. Trainers must, however, ensure that they clearly indicate the source of any non-DOD materials cited in training, noting that they do not reflect official DOD positions or guidance.

#### 14. CONDUCT A CHECK ON LEARNING AND SUMMARIZE THE LEARNING ACTIVITY

Q. What is expected of military members with regard to participation in extremist organizations or activities?

A. Military personnel must reject participation in extremist organizations and activities.

Q. What are some specific activities which are prohibited?

A. Participation in a public demonstration or rally.

Attending meetings or activities with knowledge the activity involves an extremist cause when on duty or in uniform, when in a foreign country (whether on or off duty or in uniform)

When it constitutes a breach of law and order

When violence is likely to result or when in violation of an off-limits sanctions or a commander's order.

Fund-raising, recruiting, training (including encouraging other soldiers to join), creating, organizing, or taking a visible leadership role in such an organization or activity

Distributing literature on or off a military installation if the primary purpose and content concerns advocacy or support of extremist causes, organizations, or activities and it appears that the literature presents a clear danger to the loyalty, discipline, or morale of military personnel, or if the distribution would materially interfere with the accomplishment of a military mission

Q. What is the one predominant theme found in most extremist organizations or activities?

A.. Superiority of one race or ethnic group over another.

Q. How do you define the term "ideology?"

A. A systemic body of concepts especially about human life or culture; a way of thinking used by a group or individual to express their beliefs and social values.

**Closing:** Extremism in any form can have a very serious and negative impact on unit cohesion and effectiveness. As Army leaders, you are in the best position to know what soldiers are doing. You must always try to be informed of activities in the living and work areas. As a leader, you are in an influential position, which enables you to be the first line of defense against such activities. You should always be on the alert for signs of extremist activities within your organization. Encourage your soldiers to report individuals who approach them on the subject of extremism. If you see evidence of this type of behavior or activities, immediately report your concerns up the chain of command. Our soldiers have a right to expect the Army to keep these types of activities out of their living and work areas. You have a responsibility to do your absolute best to ensure these activities do not occur in your unit.

## **Glossary**

### **Section I Abbreviations**

#### **DCSPER**

Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel

#### **DOD**

Department of Defense

#### **EO**

Equal Opportunity

#### **EOA**

Equal Opportunity Advisor

#### **HQDA**

Headquarters, Department of the Army

#### **IG**

Inspector General

#### **MPI**

Military Police Investigations

#### **PMO**

Provost Marshal Office

#### **SJA**

Staff Judge Advocate

#### **UCMJ**

Uniform Code of Military Justice

### **Section II Terms**

#### **Extremist**

An extremist is any person who advocates racial, gender, or ethnic hatred or intolerance; advocates, creates, or engages in illegal discrimination based on race, color, gender, religion, or national origin; advocates the use of or uses force, violence or unlawful means to deprive individuals of their rights under the U.S. Constitution.

#### **Extremist Organizations**

A group which advocates racial, gender, or ethnic hatred or intolerance; advocates, create, or engage in illegal discrimination based on race, color, gender, religion, or national origin; advocates the use of or use force, violence or unlawful means to deprive individuals of their rights under the United States Constitution or the laws of the United States or any State by unlawful means.

### **Section III**

#### **Special Abbreviations and Terms**

This section contains no entries.

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