



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY
121 BLAKE ROAD
ANNAPOLIS MARYLAND 21402-1300

USNAINST 5820.2B
28/SJA
26 APR 2011

USNA INSTRUCTION 5820.2B

From: Superintendent

Subj: AUTHORIZATION FOR CIRCULATION OF PETITIONS

Ref: (a) 5 USC 7211
(b) 5 USC 7102
(c) 10 USC 1034
(d) Article 1154, U.S. Navy Regulations
(e) DoD Instruction 1325.06

1. Purpose. To publish the policy of the United States Naval Academy pertaining to the circulation of petitions.

2. Cancellation. USNA Instruction 5820.2A

3. Background. The Naval Academy respects the right to free speech to the maximum possible extent consistent with the maintenance of good order and discipline of the Armed Forces and the preservation of national security.

4. Petition Policy

a. On Naval Academy grounds, except as provided in subparagraph 4c, a person or a group of persons, whether military or civilian, may not circulate, distribute, or post a petition, nor solicit or petition for signatures, without the prior authorization of the Superintendent.

b. Off Naval Academy grounds, while in uniform, a military member attached or assigned to the Naval Academy, may not circulate, distribute, or post a petition, without the prior authorization of the Superintendent.

c. Per reference (a), federal government civilian employees, as individuals or as a group, have a right to petition Congress or a member of Congress. Per reference (b), each civilian employee has the right to form, join, or assist any labor organization. Accordingly, a civilian employee or a group of civilian employees does not need to obtain the Superintendent's prior authorization for the circulation of a petition on the Naval Academy grounds during non-working hours and in non-work areas, provided the petition is addressed to Congress or a member of Congress; or:

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(1) It is circulated for the purpose of forming, joining, or assisting any labor organizing; and

(2) It is circulated only among civilian employees.

A copy of such petition shall be forwarded to the Superintendent for information purposes.

d. Per reference (c), a military service member has the right to communicate individually with members of Congress. For such communications, no prior authorization by anyone in the chain of command is required. However, per reference (d), no person in the naval service shall, in his or her official capacity, apply to Congress or to either house or any committee of either house, for legislation, appropriations, or Congressional action of any kind, without the express consent and knowledge of the Secretary of the Navy.

5. Authorization Procedure. A request for authorization required by this instruction shall be submitted in writing to the Superintendent and shall include a copy of the petition and a description of the plan or method of circulation, distribution, or posting.

6. Authorization Criteria. In accordance with reference (e), the authorization required by subparagraph 4a shall be granted unless the Superintendent determines that the circulation, distribution, and /or posting of the petition would result in a clear danger to the loyalty, discipline, morale, or readiness of members of the command or would result in a material interference with the mission of the Naval Academy.

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S. S. VAHSEN
Chief of Staff

Distribution:
All Non Mids (electronically)