

RECORD VERSION

STATEMENT BY

**THE HONORABLE AGNES GEREKEN SCHAEFER
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY
(MANPOWER AND RESERVE AFFAIRS)
UNITED STATES ARMY**

AND

**LIEUTENANT GENERAL PATRICK E. MATLOCK
DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF, G-3/5/7
UNITED STATES ARMY**

BEFORE THE

**SUBCOMMITTEE ON MILITARY PERSONNEL
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
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ON EXTREMISM POLICY AND TRAINING

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The Army's mission remains constant: to fight and win our nation's wars. We do this with a trained and ready Force, prepared to respond to the evolving threat landscape. There is no better investment to ensure the readiness of the Army than our people.

Members of the Army come from different backgrounds, cultures, and beliefs, yet they stand together as one force, united by their commitment to defend our nation. Respect for others, regardless of their race, religion, or background, is a fundamental value of our Army. Extremist and criminal gang activities, as defined in DoD and Army policy, are antithetical to the values of unity, discipline, respect, and integrity that define our Army. The goal of the Army's updated extremist and criminal gang activities policy is to protect Army personnel and their families, and the public from extremist and criminal gang behaviors, while respecting freedom of speech and privacy. We will remain vigilant in addressing extremism, and other harmful behaviors within our ranks. By doing so, we will be better prepared to fight and win our nation's wars to safeguard national security, uphold the Army's values, and ensure we preserve the values, ideals, and health of the All-Volunteer Force.

The Army requires many forms of training including but not limited to: Suicide Prevention; Sexual Harassment / Assault Prevention; Cybersecurity; Antiterrorism; Extremist Organizations and Activities; and Threat Awareness and Reporting. The U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC) standardizes our training materials for this training in accordance with standards outlined in Army policies, which are consistent with Department of Defense (DoD) policies, and often mandated by law.

To do this, the Army establishes proponent offices for every type of training requirement. These proponent offices develop and vet foundational training materials and standardized training within the Army. The Army also empowers commanders to locally develop tailored training based upon unique mission and environmental considerations. Proponents also develop and approve the training that certifies our trainers as experts in each field. Through the vetting of materials and certification of expert trainers, proponents standardize training across the Army. Through

standardization, the Army ensures our training materials align with Army values and policies during the development, approval, and delivery to the force.

The Assistant Secretary of the Army (Manpower & Reserve Affairs) provides oversight for both the Army's antiterrorism policy, and extremism policy, and their respective training requirements. The Deputy Chief of Staff, G-3/5/7 operationalizes those policies, with the support and assistance of the Provost Marshall General for antiterrorism policy, and they are implemented at the Command level.

Antiterrorism Awareness Training, Fort Liberty, July 10, 2024

The Secretary of the Army provided a response on July 16, 2024 to Congressional requests for information regarding the incident at Fort Liberty on July 10, 2024, in which non-standard terror awareness training slides were presented to an audience of 47 Soldiers. In that response, the Secretary of the Army stated unequivocally that non-profit groups such as National Right to Life and People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) are not terrorist groups and should not be described as such in Army documents or training materials; the slides do not represent the official policy or views of the U.S. Army. The documents also pre-date Army Directive 2024-07 (Handling Protest, Extremist, and Criminal Gang Activities). The Army is undertaking an Army-wide review to ensure that these or similar materials are not being disseminated elsewhere and that locally developed threat awareness and Army-wide antiterrorism training aligns with DoD antiterrorism standards, guidance, and training.

Senior Army leaders at Fort Liberty did not direct the slides be used in training. The incident was assessed through an Army Regulation 15-6 investigation directed by XVIII Airborne Corps leadership, which was completed on July 29, 2024. The following is a brief synopsis of key findings of the investigation into the incident:

- In accordance with the 2011 Army Installation Management Command (IMCOM) guidance outlining training requirements for personnel manning installation access control points, the Directorate of Emergency Services (DES) at Fort Liberty locally developed the terror awareness presentation.

- The terror awareness training presented to Soldiers at Fort Liberty on July 10, 2024, and in continuous use by the DES for terror awareness training since 2017, inaccurately referenced non-profit public advocacy organizations National Right to Life, Operation Rescue, Earth First, Earth Liberation Front, Animal Liberation Front, and PETA as terrorist groups, which is inconsistent with the Army's Antiterrorism policy and training.
- There is no evidence indicating the individual who developed and presented the training attempted to deliberately subvert DoD or Army policy, nor any evidence to suggest the individual attempted to further a personal viewpoint through the presentation.
- The slides have been used for training Soldiers augmenting installation access control points since 2017. The instructor added references to the displayed non-profit groups in 2017 based on the instructor's open-source research, inaccurately describing these groups, and hence implying they were terrorist groups.
- The slides were not reviewed or approved at any level of Fort Liberty DES leadership.
- Internal DES policy and standard operating procedure directing reviews or approval processes for this, or similar terror awareness presentations, were lacking.
- In 2022, IMCOM issued a policy memorandum setting minimum training requirements for soldiers assigned to gate guard duty. This memo removed terror awareness training as a requirement. However, Fort Liberty DES continued to conduct terror awareness training.
- Approximately 9,100 Soldiers augmenting installation access control points were trained using the presentation between 2017 and July 10, 2024. As part of the 15-6 investigation, samples of Soldiers were queried on training content, and customer feedback cards were sampled. The majority of Soldiers sampled either provided no feedback or did not recall the specifics of the terror awareness presentation. As a result, the investigation concluded that the impact of the

incorrect training was limited, and retraining Soldiers on these topics would likely cause confusion.

- No similar training discussing non-profit advocacy groups, pro-life beliefs, or animal rights organizations was found on Fort Liberty. No evidence indicated that the slides were acquired, shared, or presented outside of Fort Liberty.
- Immediately following the release of the information on social media, the Director of the Fort Liberty DES directed a series of corrective actions, including:
 - Cessation of the terror awareness training previously given.
 - A review of training to ensure compliance with Army regulatory requirements and guidance.
 - Legal reviews of training content.
 - Revalidation of instructors.
 - Directorate of Emergency Services leadership attendance of training.
 - Periodic checks of training courses and tracking of those checks.
- Immediately following the completion of the investigation and in accordance with its findings and recommendations, the XVIII Airborne Corps Commander directed the following:
 - Development of policy for periodic reviews of locally developed training for consistency with Army and DoD policy, to include approval levels and frequency.
 - Comprehensive review of antiterrorism training materials used by tenant units on Fort Liberty to ensure compliance with Army and DoD policy.
 - Updates to Department of the Army Security Guard and augmenting Soldier threat briefs to reflect the most current and emergent threats to Fort Liberty.
 - Authorization of disposition of any disciplinary concerns involving DES civilian employees as appropriate and necessary.
 - Forwarding the completed investigation to the U.S. Army Forces command Inspector General with recommendation for forwarding to the Department of the Army Inspector General.
 - Release of the investigation to any DoD entity with appropriate need to know, or as otherwise authorized by law, regulation, and policy.

The incident at Fort Liberty on July 10, 2024, involving the presentation of non-standard antiterrorism training slides to 47 Soldiers was related to the Army's antiterrorism policy, not the Army's updated extremism policy. Information on the Army's Antiterrorism policy applicable to the incident at Fort Liberty on July 10, 2024 is provided immediately below, followed by information on the Army's updated extremism policy and training information.

Army Antiterrorism Policy Highlights

- DoDI 2000.16, Volume 1, places the requirement to manage the Antiterrorism (AT) Level I Awareness Training on the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (CJCS).
 - AT Level I Awareness Training is required for all personnel annually during their first three years of service or employment, and triennially for all post-accession training.
 - The post-accession training can be provided under the instruction of a qualified Level I AT Awareness instructor, who has successfully completed AT Level II training, or by completion of a certified computer or web-based distance learning instruction for Level I AT Awareness. The CJCS maintains the Joint Knowledge Online (JKO) Level I AT Awareness Training.
 - Level I AT Training is required to include information on terrorist tactics and operations; individual protective measures; suspicious activity reporting; insider threat and active shooter attacks; terrorist surveillance techniques; improvised explosive device attacks; kidnapping, hostage survival; an explanation of threat level and Force Protection Condition (FPCON); and supplemental training focusing on emerging terrorist threat tactics.
- The Provost Marshal General (PMG) is the proponent for the Army AT Policy, Army Regulation 525-13 (Antiterrorism). The Commander, TRADOC is charged with developing all the AT training requirements in accordance with the AT Training Standards outlined in Army Regulation 525-13.

- The Army policy for AT Level I Awareness Training currently requires all personnel to complete the training annually. This will be updated in the next revision of AR 525-13 to mirror the policy in DoDI 2000.16 Volume I, which requires all personnel to complete AT Level I Awareness training annually for the first 3 years of employment or service, and triennially thereafter. Initial training will be provided by a qualified Level I AT Awareness instructor.
- Post-accession Level I AT Awareness Training can be accomplished by either a qualified Level I AT Awareness instructor or completion of the Joint Knowledge Online (JKO) web-based Level I AT Awareness Training.
- Army AT Level I Awareness Training includes all the subjects listed in the DoD policy, and additionally allows the Army's Antiterrorism Officers (ATO) to provide additional information to audiences regarding threats local to their installations.
- To strengthen Army AT policy, the Army recently published guidance clarifying review and approval requirements for locally developed antiterrorism training products, which specifies the training must be properly reviewed to ensure accuracy, relevance, and consistency with published Army and DoD protection-related training standards and approved by an O6-level Commander with support from his/her protection and legal staff.

Army Standardized Antiterrorism Training

Standardized, Army-wide AT training disseminated to Army installations is governed by AR 525-13, which regulates the content of AT Level I Awareness Training presented to training audiences by the Army's over 6,000 ATOs at unit-level. The most common example of this standardized training is the Army's AT Awareness Level I Training Support Package (TSP), developed by the U.S. Army Military Police School (USAMPS) AT Division, and typically used by ATOs to satisfy AT Level I training requirements when DoD-developed AT Level I individualized web-based training is not applicable. The Army's AT Awareness Level I TSP is reviewed by the Maneuver Support Center of Excellence and approved by the USAMPS Deputy Director for Training prior to release. Once approved, it is posted on the Army Antiterrorism Enterprise Portal for training use

by ATOs at battalion-level and above at Army installations. Army Regulation 525-13 also specifies that the AT Awareness Level I TSP may only be presented by an AT Level II certified ATO. The ATO Level II certification process is accomplished through ATO attendance at the resident ATO Basic Course at USAMPS, or via USAMPS-provided Mobile Training Team to Army installations.

Army Updated Extremism Policy Background

The DoD has maintained and periodically updated its policy on extremist and criminal gang activities for decades. Notable events that necessitated review and refinement of this policy include: racial discrimination in the military and surrounding communities in the late 1960s during the Civil Rights Movement; racially motivated murders committed by servicemembers in Fayetteville, North Carolina in 1995; the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001; the Fort Hood shooting by Army Major Nidal Hasan in 2009; and a nationwide increase in domestic extremism in 2019. Unfortunate incidents such as these are the reason both DoD and the Army must maintain and periodically update extremist and criminal gang activities policies.

On December 20, 2021, the Secretary of Defense announced the update of the Department of Defense Instruction (DoDI) 1325.06, titled “Handling Protest, Extremist, and Criminal Gang Activities Among Members of the Armed Forces.” This revision updated the definition of extremist activity; established 14 criteria/categories for behavior or actions that constitute “active participation” in extremist activities; underscored Soldiers' responsibilities to uphold their sworn oath to the Constitution; and strengthened commanders' authorities, responsibilities, and reporting requirements to uphold good order and discipline in the force. Upon issuance, the Secretary of Defense directed the development and implementation of Service-level extremism policy, in close coordination with DoD.

In response to this direction from the Secretary of Defense, the Army formally updated its own policy on extremist and criminal gang activities on June 26, 2024, with the release of Army Directive 2024-07 (Handling Protest, Extremist, and Criminal Gang

Activities). Army Directive 2024-07 incorporates revisions contained in DoDI 1325.06 and updates the Army's extremist and criminal gang activities policy previously published in Army Regulation 600-20 (Army Command Policy) on July 24, 2020. Army Directive 2024-07 will be integrated into the next revision of Army Regulation 600-20 (Army Command Policy), which will be published later this year.

In conjunction with Army Directive 2024-07, the Army released Army Directive 2024-08 (Reporting Prohibited Activities) on June 26, 2024, which implements the requirements of Section 554 of the FY 2021 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). This directive requires appropriate Army authorities to report allegations of Soldiers actively participating in prohibited activities, i.e., extremist, and criminal gang activities, to their servicing Inspector General office for collecting and forwarding to the DoD Inspector General for Diversity and Inclusion and Extremism on the Military, who is required to report this information to Congress annually.

Summary of Updated Army Extremism Policy

The Army's updated policy strictly conforms to DoD policy on protest, extremist, and criminal gang activities. There are no additional requirements. The Army's updated extremism policy is unbiased and impartial to specific groups, religions, ideologies, and political leanings. The majority of the new policy remains the same as the Army's July 2020 extremism policy. The following policy highlights exhibit the changes in the Army's updated extremism policy from the previous policy issued in July 2020:

Army Extremism Policy Highlights

- The Army's updated extremism policy provides the very same definition of extremism that is in DoD's current policy. It also bears very close resemblance to the Army's July 2020 extremism policy. The new Army policy defines 'extremist activities' as:
 - Advocating or engaging in unlawful force, unlawful violence, or other illegal means to deprive individuals of their rights under the United States Constitution or the laws of the United States, including those of any State,

Commonwealth, Territory, or the District of Columbia, or any political subdivision thereof.

- Advocating or engaging in unlawful force or violence to achieve goals that are political, religious, discriminatory, or ideological in nature.
- Advocating, engaging in, or supporting terrorism within the United States or abroad.
- Advocating, engaging in, or supporting the overthrow of the Government of the United States or any political subdivision thereof, including that of any State, Commonwealth, Territory, or the District of Columbia, by force or violence, or seeking to alter the forms of these governments by unconstitutional or other unlawful means (e.g., sedition).
- Advocating or encouraging military, civilian, or contractor personnel within the DoD or United States Coast Guard to violate the laws of the United States, or any political subdivision thereof, including that of any State, Commonwealth, Territory, or the District of Columbia, or to disobey lawful orders or regulations, for the purpose of disrupting military activities (e.g., subversion), or personally undertaking the same.
- The Army's updated extremism policy provides 14 criteria for activity or behaviors that constitute active participation in extremist activities, as established in DoDI 1325.06. These criteria are new to both DoD and Army policy and were added to ensure commanders and legal advisors can distinguish between constitutionally protected speech, thoughts, or ideas, which we do not consider extremism, and actively participating in extremist organizations, activities, or causes, which could be considered a violation of policy if substantiated by investigation. Examples of the criteria include:
 - Advocating or engaging in the use or threat of unlawful force or violence in support of extremist activities.
 - Knowingly communicating information that compromises the operational security of any military organization or mission, in support of extremist activities.
 - Recruiting or training others to engage in extremist activities.

- Attending a meeting or activity with the knowledge that the meeting or activity involves extremist activities, with the intent to support those activities.
- Engaging in electronic and cyber activities regarding extremist activities, or groups that support extremist activities-including posting, liking, sharing, re-tweeting, or otherwise distributing content-when such action is taken with the intent to promote or otherwise endorse extremist activities. Military personnel are responsible for the content they publish on all personal and public internet domains, including social media platforms, blogs, websites, and applications.
- The Army also updated reporting requirements. The Army's previous July 2020 extremism policy required Army personnel to report incidents involving extremism to the Army's Criminal Investigations Division, their servicing legal advisor, servicing security manager, and their supporting counterintelligence organization. The Army's updated extremism policy adds reporting requirements to the Insider Threat Hub for consistency with DoDI 1325.06 and adds reporting requirements to the servicing Inspector General office for consistency with section 554 of the FY 2021 NDAA.
- The Army's current extremism policy also contains updated training requirements, for consistency with DoDI 1325.06, further described below.

Army Extremism Training Requirements

Since 1988, Army extremism policy has required commanders to inform their servicemembers that participation in extremist organizations is inconsistent with the responsibilities of military service and prohibited. Over time, training on prohibited activities, i.e., protest, extremist, and criminal gang activities, was integrated into the DoD Military Equal Opportunity (MEO) program as a training requirement. Currently, it is included as a terminal learning objective of MEO common military training. The Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute (DEOMI), a joint DoD school established in 1971, trains MEO professionals, who advise commanders at the unit level for the Services. The DEOMI curriculum prepares MEO professionals to present all MEO

blocks of instruction, including prohibited activities training, to their units of assignment. While these training requirements exist in DoD MEO policy, they are applicable and integral to the Army's MEO and extremism policies.

The Army maintains a standardized program of instruction for extremism training titled "Protest, Extremist, and Criminal Gang Activities" (separate and distinct from the Army's standardized antiterrorism training support package). Both the Army's July 2020 extremism policy and now the Army's updated policy require commanders to utilize their unit's assigned MEO professional to present this program of instruction to his or her formation, and further specify that the training materials are not to be supplemented with other training materials or slides. The standardized program of instruction for extremism training is maintained and periodically updated by the Equal Opportunity Training Proponent in the TRADOC and posted online on the Central Army Registry to allow access to the approved training products for MEO professionals at installations throughout the Army. The program of instruction and assigned MEO professional are available to commanders to provide this training at the command's discretion, but no further extremism training was required prior to issuance of Army Directive 2024-07.

While the training delivery mechanism remains MEO professionals, Army Directive 2024-07 contains new training frequency and venue requirements that strictly adhere to extremism training requirements contained in DoDI 1325.06. The Army's Training and Doctrine Command is now required to ensure the Army's updated extremism policy and procedures are included in initial active-duty training, pre-commissioning training, professional military training, commander training, and other appropriate Army training programs. Generally, this will be accomplished using the Army's standardized program of instruction for extremism training, as previous described, with training provided only by MEO professionals at unit level who have graduated from DEOMI. In cases where extremism training needs to be specifically tailored for specific audiences for best effect, such as for law enforcement, recruiters, or legal advisors, this training will be prepared, approved, and administered by the professional military education venue that is required to present the training.