



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
HEADQUARTERS, JOINT READINESS TRAINING CENTER AND FORT POLK  
7330 MISSISSIPPI AVENUE, SUITE 101  
FORT POLK, LOUISIANA 71459-5339

REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF:

AFZX-JA

**AUG 02 2004**

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Command Policy Memorandum SJA-03 - Indecent and Offensive Language

1. References:

- a. Army Regulation 600-20, Army Command Policy, 13 May 02.
- b. Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ), Articles 90, Article 91, Article 92, and 134.

2. Applicability: This policy applies to all persons on Fort Polk.

3. Enforceability: This policy is punitive. Violators of this policy may be subject to action under the UCMJ, adverse administrative action, or action for violation of Louisiana statutory criminal law.

4. Policy:

a. General Guidelines Regarding Offensive Language in Public Places: Public use of indecent and offensive language by Soldiers and civilians on Fort Polk is not only in bad taste, but disrespectful to all members of the community and its visitors. While private conversations remain the personal business of those involved, conduct in public places has a direct impact on the quality of life, good order and discipline, and the community. These standards apply to all Soldiers and civilians on Fort Polk. Everyone should assist in policing the use of indecent language on the installation.

b. Offensive Speech: Profanity and other types of offensive language are often prejudicial to good order and discipline, discrediting to the Army, and, therefore, punishable under Article 134 of the UCMJ, Indecent Language. Article 134 defines "indecent" language as that which "is grossly offensive to modesty, decency, or propriety, or shocks the moral sense because of its vulgar, filthy, or disgusting nature, or its tendency to incite lustful thought." Normally, on-the-spot counseling and education is appropriate. Leaders may also order Soldiers to stop using offensive or inappropriate language in public. Failure to abide by such an order may be punishable under Articles 90 or 91 of the UCMJ.

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c. Sexually Harassing Speech: Sexually harassing speech is of special concern. Pursuant to AR 600-20, paragraph 7-5, sexual harassment includes, among other things, sexually explicit profanity, sexual jokes, and comments of a sexual nature. Soldiers and civilian employees who violate this policy are subject to administrative or punitive action.

d. T-Shirts, Signs, and Gestures (Non-Verbal Communication): The standards discussed above apply not only to spoken language, but also non-verbal "speech," such as t-shirts, hats, bumper stickers, and gestures. Violators of the policy on non-verbal communication are subject to the same sanctions that apply to spoken language. Any person who violates the provision regarding bumper or window stickers may also have his or her vehicle banned from post until the offensive sticker is removed.

5. This policy will remain in effect until superceded or rescinded.

*I expect leaders to make on-the-spot corrections!*



MICHAEL D. BARBERO  
Brigadier General, USA  
Commanding

DISTRIBUTION:

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