

*AR 600-51
May 76*

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ARMY REGULATION

HEADQUARTERS

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

Washington, D.C., 16 June 1967

No. 600-51

PERSONNEL - GENERAL

STANDARDS OF CONDUCT

1. The Army today is composed of a high proportion of men and women who are young. Many of these personnel, whose backgrounds encompass all walks of life and all segments of American society, come to maturity while in the Army's care. All Army officers and noncommissioned officers have an obligation to guide their development toward the best standards of our society.

2. Over the years the Army has developed or adopted traditional functions such as Regimental Mess Nights, ceremonies for newly qualified airborne officers and helicopter pilots, and celebrations of branch birthdays as a means of developing esprit and a sense of unit within organizations. When these functions are carried out with taste and dignity they serve a useful purpose. On the other hand, when excesses are encouraged or permitted, or when the real object is obliterated by heavy-handed practices or overindulgence, these occasions lose their purpose, tend to misguide younger personnel, and can even result in tragedy.

3. All commanders will be constantly alert to any activity which could be construed as deleterious or demeaning to the individual participants. Close command supervision is required over the use of alcohol, the quality of entertainment in clubs and messes, and other aspects which affect the moral environment in which Army personnel live.

4. Commanders will insure that initiation and similar activities are conducted with military dignity and good taste. The guidelines to be observed include the following:

a. The drinking of alcoholic beverages will not be made a compulsory part of any ceremony. Toasting, if any, will be in moderation and under circumstances which do not draw special attention to those who prefer not to imbibe intoxicants. Participants will not be limited to a choice between an alcoholic and a nonalcoholic but unpalatable beverage or other unpleasant alternative.

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b. Any activity which might be hazardous to a participant, or which requires humiliating or unbecoming conduct on his part, is prohibited.

c. Dress will be in keeping with the traditional customs of the Service.

d. Since the desire to conform to group conduct or to please a superior are normal human characteristics, those conducting initiation and similar activities will not use "voluntary" individual participation to justify unusual demands on the participants.

5. A report on this subject will be submitted by major commands to Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel, Department of the Army, Washington, D.C. 20310, as of 31 January 1968. The report will—

a. Cite experience factors gained in the conduct of functions of the type included in this regulation.

b. Indicate any problem areas which may have been encountered.

c. Include suggestions for further improvements in the standards of conduct of military personnel at such functions.

By Order of the Secretary of the Army:

HAROLD K. JOHNSON,
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Chief of Staff.

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