

INFORMATION PAPER

SUBJECT: Fundraising on Fort Jackson

1. Purpose. To help personnel understand fundraising issues on Army installations and avoid illegal activities.

2. Facts.

a. Unlike some private sector worksites, the Army strictly controls fundraising in the work place and in other parts of the installation. Army Regulation 600-29, Fund-raising Within the Department of the Army, only allows a few types of fundraising, described below. Certain types of fundraising are also considered gambling, and are illegal in South Carolina. Besides violating Army regulations, private individuals and groups may unwittingly break state law if they are not aware of these restrictions. Since many employees have interests or charities for which they wish to raise money, fundraising questions come up very frequently.

b. The five types of fundraising the Army allows are the annual Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) and the AER campaign, MWR fundraising activities, religious fundraising under the auspices of the Installation Chaplain, occasional fundraising by recognized private organizations, and limited fundraising to assist the unfortunate.

(1) The CFC and AER campaigns are the only ones permitting on-the-job solicitation of funds. Neither individuals nor private organizations may go about the workplace selling items or asking for donations. This is a prime area for abuse – how many times have we seen employees selling candy or other items in their offices for a school, church, or other group? These are almost always good causes, but not permitted in the Army workplace.

(2) The Chaplain may raise funds by offerings. Besides the general congregation offerings, the Chaplain may take “designated offerings.” These are special purpose collections for missionary, benevolent or other philanthropic purposes.

(3) Private organizations that operate on Fort Jackson, such as the Riding Club, the spouses’ clubs, the regimental associations, and a number of others may fundraise occasionally. This fundraising takes many forms, e.g., bake sales, car washes, “yard” sales, and so forth. These groups must have prior command permission to hold these events. At Fort Jackson, the Director of Community Activities is the approval authority for private organization fundraising. Occasionally, other private groups not operating on Fort Jackson may obtain permission to hold fundraising events on the installation,

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usually only if these events do not target the Federal workforce. Family readiness groups, although not actually private organizations, may also raise funds on the installation with appropriate permission as required by the installation commander.

(4). "Limited fundraising to assist the unfortunate" is the last category of permissible fundraising. This permission allows the placement of collection boxes for food, clothing, or other items that persons may wish to donate. It does not extend to personal solicitation or fundraising events.

c. Workplace fundraising issues. With the limited permissible fundraising outlined above, it easy to see that most "informal" fundraising that employees want to do is not authorized. Consequently, individuals, informal groups of individuals, and official activities (e.g., the "SJA Office" a specific military unit, etc.), cannot raise money on the installation. Groups who do wish to raise money have several choices:

(1) Work with an established FJ private organization. Individual employees or groups of employees who feel the need to raise money may request that a private organization work with them to have a fundraiser in support of their cause. Family readiness groups can also fill this role.

(2) Solicit through installation public access avenues. For example, the individual or group may place an ad in *The Leader* requesting contributions to a post office box or other non-official location. They may also use other public methods, such as unofficial bulletin boards set aside for this purpose. This may be an effective avenue when an individual or group wants to raise money for a local hardship victim or other local circumstance known to the FJ community.

(3) Work to raise money as a group off the installation. Employees are free to raise money off the installation. However, employees must take care to avoid any implication that their fundraising has the endorsement of the Army or Fort Jackson. This means that they may not wear uniforms or identify themselves as Army activities.

Lastly, a word about raffles. Raffles are considered "lotteries," and are illegal (a criminal offense) in South Carolina. Private individuals and organizations do not enjoy the same immunities as the Federal government does merely because they operate on a military installation.

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