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PUBLIC AFFAIRS

MEMORANDUM FOR CHIEF, COMMUNITY RELATIONS DIVISION
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HEAD, COMMUNITY RELATIONS BRANCH
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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE
CHIEF, COMMUNITY RELATIONS DIVISION
NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU

SUBJECT: Request for Guidance Regarding the San Diego Pride Parade

This is in response to requests from several Service components seeking guidance regarding service members in uniform participating in the San Diego Pride Parade on July 21, 2012, with the theme "America's Pride." We understand local commanders have been exercising their discretion on approval per current DoD Community Relations guidance; however, pursuant to DoDD 5410.18, OASD(PA) approval is being sought now since the event has garnered national media attention.

It is our understanding that the event organizers plan to have a portion of the parade that is dedicated to military members. Service members do not need approval to wear civilian clothes and march or ride in nonpartisan parades. However, we further understand organizers are encouraging service members to seek their commander's approval to march in uniform and to display their pride.

Based on our current knowledge of the event and existing policies, we hereby are granting approval for service members in uniform to participate in this year's parade, provided service members (1) participate in their personal capacity and (2) ensure the adherence to Military Service standards of appearance and wear of the military uniform. This approval is applicable for individual participation in the 2012 San Diego Pride Parade only.

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Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense
for Community and Public Outreach