



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

6th AREA SUPPORT GROUP

UNIT 30401

APO AE 09107-0401

08 JUN 2004

AESG-P

MEMORANDUM FOR Soldiers and Civilian Employees of the 6th ASG

SUBJECT: 6th ASG Command Policy Letter 11, Media Guidelines

1. PURPOSE: To establish policy when dealing with media inquiries within the 6th ASG.
2. POLICY: Soldiers, especially overseas, are potential subjects and sources of information for the media. At all times, you represent the U.S. Army. Any statement made to the media by soldiers or civilian employees whether fact or personal opinion, may become that of an "official Army spokesperson."
3. GUIDELINES:
 - a. As employees of the U.S. government, we have a responsibility to answer media inquiries. However, only Commanders have the authority to approve the release of official responses and grant approval for media interviews and visits. Be sure to differentiate between your constitutional rights as private citizens to free speech and your responsibilities as a member of the Armed Forces when dealing with the media. You have a right to express personal views and opinions to the press, but you also have a responsibility not to make official statements concerning the U.S. Army without the Commander's approval.
 - b. The ASG Public Affairs Office and Garmisch Area Support Team Host Nation Office are trained to deal with the media. It is their job to act as the media liaison. They are the official command spokespersons. Refer any request for a media interview or visit to your local PA or HN office. If media representatives tell you they have already talked to the PA office, verify this before speaking with them by calling the PA office.
 - c. Do not call the media and invite them to your post or unit to cover an event without consulting the PA office first. If you have an event that warrants media coverage, contact the PA office.
 - d. The Stars & Stripes and AFN are media, just like German or U.S. TV, radio and print media. The fact they are I.D. cardholders gives them access, but not the right to conduct media business without coordinating with the PA office.
4. I expect everyone in the 6th ASG to follow this policy. Ensure new staff members are briefed on this policy.

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5. The point of contact for this policy is the 6th ASG PAO at DSN: 421-1400/2712 or CIV 0711-729-1400/2712.



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COL, QM
Commanding