GENERAL ORDER NUMBER 1B (GO-1B)

TITLE: Prohibited Activities for United States Air Force Personnel Assigned to or Attached for Duty to Units within the United States Central Command (USCENTCOM) Area of Responsibility (AOR).

PURPOSE: To identify conduct that is prejudicial to the maintenance of good order and discipline of all United States Air Force personnel assigned to or attached for duty to units within the USCENTCOM AOR.


APPLICABILITY: This General Order is applicable to all United States Air Force military personnel assigned to or attached for duty to units within the USCENTCOM AOR and to civilians and contingency contractor personnel serving with, employed by, or accompanying such forces.

1. STATEMENT OF MILITARY PURPOSE AND NECESSITY: Operations and deployments in the USCENTCOM AOR place personnel of this command in countries where local laws and customs prohibit or restrict certain activities that are generally permissible in western societies. Restrictions on these activities are essential to preserving US/host nation relations and combined operations of US and friendly forces. In addition, personnel are assigned or attached to this command in the USCENTCOM AOR to support contingency operations. These are military operations where preservation of good order and discipline is essential to performance of the mission and force protection. High operational tempo combined with often-hazardous duty necessitates additional restrictions on certain activities to ensure mission accomplishment and force protection.

2. PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES:

   a. Purchases, possession, use or sale of privately owned firearms, ammunition, explosives, or the introduction of these items into the USCENTCOM AOR;

   b. Entrance into a mosque or other site of Islamic religious significance by non-Muslims unless directed to do so by military authorities, required by military necessity, or as part of an official tour conducted with the approval of military authorities and the host nation. Commanders are authorized to implement more restrictive procedures for force protection reasons if they determine the current local security situation warrants such action;

   c. Introduction, purchase, possession, use, sale, transfer, manufacture or consumption of any alcoholic beverage. The prohibition against possession, use, and consumption of alcoholic
beverages is waived for all areas in the USCENTCOM AOR except Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Iraq. Where not prohibited by the General Order, the possession, use and consumption of alcoholic beverages will follow appropriate deportment in respecting host nation laws and customs. Because of the high operations tempo and often-hazardous duty faced by United States forces in the USCENTCOM AOR, it is essential that commanders and supervisors exercise active control over these activities and they are therefore directed to use discretion and sound judgment in promulgating and enforcing appropriate guidelines and restrictions, regularly reviewing them to ensure they are commensurate with current or foreseen operations and threats and the maintenance of good order and discipline;

d. Introduction, purchase, possession, use, sale, transfer, manufacture, or consumption of any controlled substances, or drug paraphernalia. Prescription drugs must be accompanied by the original prescription label of the prescribing medical facility or authority;

e. Introduction, purchase, possession, transfer, sale, creation, or display of any pornographic or sexually explicit material, including but not limited to photographs, videotapes, CDs, or DVDs, movies, drawings, cartoons, books, magazines, or similar representations. For purposes of this order, “sexually explicit material” means material, the dominant theme of which is the depiction or description of nudity, including sexual or excretory activities or organs, in a lascivious or lustful way. The prohibitions contained in this subparagraph do not apply to materials displayed or obtained by or from AFRTS, AAFES or MWR outlets in the USCENTCOM AOR;

f. Photographing or filming detainees or human casualties, as well as the possession, distribution, transfer, or posting, whether electronically or physically, of visual images depicting detainees or human casualties, except as required for official duties. “Human casualties” are defined as dead, wounded or injured human beings, to include separated body parts, organs and biological material, resulting from either combat or non-combat activities. This prohibition does not apply to the possession of visual images acquired from open media sources (e.g., magazines and newspapers), nor is the distribution of these unaltered images, subject to copyright markings or notices. Additionally, possession and distribution of open media source images is not prohibited if required for official duties. Finally, with their express consent, the photographing and possession of images of wounded personnel while within medical facilities and during periods of recovery is also not prohibited.

g. Gambling of any kind, to include sports pools, lotteries and raffles, unless permitted by host nation laws and applicable service or component regulations;

h. Removing, possessing, selling, defacing, or destroying archeological artifacts or national treasures;

i. Selling, bartering, or exchanging any currency other than at the official host nation exchange rate;

j. Adopting as pets or mascots, caring for, or feeding any type of domestic or wild animal;

k. Proselytizing or attempting to win converts of any religion, faith or practice;
I. Attending host nation public disciplinary proceedings of any kind, including executions;

m. Taking or retaining individual souvenirs or war trophies. Explanation of this prohibition is as follows:

(1) Private or public property may be seized during exercises or operations only on order of the commander, when based on military necessity. Such property will be collected, processed, secured and stored for later return to the lawful owner. The wrongful taking of private property, even temporarily, is a violation of Article 121, UCMJ. Public property seized by the United States Armed Forces is the property of the United States. The wrongful retention of such property is a violation of Article 108, UCMJ;

(2) No weapon, munitions, or military article of equipment obtained or acquired by any means other than official issue may be retained for personal use or shipped out of the USCENTCOM AOR for personal retention or control;

(3) This prohibition does not preclude the lawful acquisition of tourist souvenirs that can be legally imported into the United States;

n. Visitation by persons to the sleeping quarters of a person of opposite gender is prohibited except for official purposes or as approved by the Commander or Vice Commander of the 9th Aerospace Expeditionary Task Force, the Air Expeditionary Wing Commander or Air Expeditionary Group Commander.

3. PUNITIVE ORDER: Paragraph 2 of this General Order is punitive. Violations of the prohibitions in Paragraph 2 of this General Order by military personnel may result in punishment under the UCMJ. Civilians and contingency contractor personnel serving with, employed by, or accompanying the Armed Forces of the United States in the USCENTCOM AOR may face criminal prosecution or adverse administrative action for violation of this General Order. Commanders and supervisors are expected to exercise discretion and sound judgment in enforcing this General Order.

4. INDIVIDUAL DUTY: All persons, military and civilian, subject to this General Order are charged with the individual duty to become familiar with and respect the laws, regulations, and customs of their host nation insofar as they do not interfere with the execution of their official duties. Acts of disrespect or violations of host nation laws, regulations, and customs may be punished under applicable criminal statutes and administrative regulations.

5. SUBORDINATE COMMANDER RESPONSIBILITY: Subordinate commanders and supervisors are charged to ensure all personnel are briefed on the prohibitions and requirements of this General Order.

6. CONFISCATION OF OFFENDING ARTICLES: Items violating this General Order may be considered contraband, confiscated, and destroyed. Before destruction of contraband, commanders or law enforcement personnel should coordinate with their servicing judge advocate.
7. USCENTCOM WAIVERS AND AMENDMENTS: If USCENTCOM publishes any waivers or amendments to USCENTCOM GO-1B and those waivers or amendments effect a provision of this General Order, then the waivers or amendments apply equally to the provision of this Order. For instance, waivers that exempt application of GO-1B to personnel assigned to Defense Attaché Offices and other activities that are conducted under the direction and control of the Chief of Mission at a US Embassy also apply to exempt those personnel from application of this General Order. It will be noted, however, that personnel who are co-located at a US Embassy or joint headquarters are not exempt if they are not under the direction and control of the Chief of Mission; for example, personnel are not exempt if they are located at a US Embassy or joint headquarters and are assigned to detachments or elements of 9 AETF, 9 ASUS, and Air Component Coordination Elements.

8. EFFECTIVE DATE: This General Order is effective immediately. It will remain in effect until rescinded by COMUSCENTAF or higher authority. This order supercedes USCENTAF General Order 1A (GO-1A), dated 23 March 2003, as amended by memoranda dated 11 April 2003, 21 August 2003, and 10 January 2005.

GARY L. NORTH
Lieutenant General, USAF
Commander