

EXSUM

19 December 2005

Clarification of Army Policy for Family Readiness Group (FRG) Funding.

Traditional FRGs are considered official programs of the Department of the Army. An FRG's fundraising activities are limited to raising funds in support of an informal fund per AR 600-20, paragraph 4-21. This informal fund can **only** be funded by donations/fundraising activity of uniformed members *in the unit*. There can be no solicitations or fundraising from personnel outside of the unit as this would violate the Joint Ethics Regulation (JER), AR 1-100, *Gifts and Donations* and 600-29, *Fundraising within the Department of the Army*. However, **Unsolicited Gifts** can be accepted from Non-federal entities (private businesses/private organizations such as AFSC or AWC) by the Installation Garrison/Area Commander on behalf of a FSG or directly by the FRG. When donations are made to the Installation/Area Commander, all FRGs on that installation would share equally in the donated funds (thus there is no individual "unit" control of any donated money once it is received). Additionally, FRGs can receive appropriated funds (unlike Private Organizations) from the supported Army unit for incidental expenses for items such as training, resource materials, child care, mileage, newsletters, etc. FRGs can also respond to invitations for funding available to the community such as funding from Private Organizations such as the Army Wives Club or American Forces Spouses Club; the prohibition on fundraising merely prevents them from making external solicitation efforts.

FRGs **are not** characterized as Private Organizations (because they are classified as an official program of the DA). However, there is nothing that prevents personnel from an FRG (and the Unit) from forming a Private Organization to support common shared goals and objectives (like soldier moral programs/charities). If these Private Organizations are established its leaders should consist of different leaders than the FRG and this new Private Organization cannot be shown favoritism by the Command over other Private Organizations. Once established and approved (by the Installation Commander), these Private Organizations can conduct occasional fundraising on the installation and receive funds from DA personnel as well as non-federal entities (civilians on or off post). These funds could then be used to support BN Christmas Ball, care packages for deployed soldiers, etc. Private Organizations can fundraise on or off the installation and are not limited to fundraising from members of the Unit. However, if individuals form a Private Organizations it is essential that the Command treats these Private Organizations in the same manner that all similarly situated POs are normally treated by the Command (no favoritism). If the Unit/FSG wishes to create an approved Private Organization, AR 210-22 is the regulation that controls. Ms. Un Song Yim, Area II Private Organization Coordinator at 723-4152, can provide you information on creating and registering your private organization with the Area Commander.

FRGs are not **required** to create a supporting Private Organization; if personnel do not want to form a new Private Organization, personnel can remain in a FRG and conduct limited fundraising activities. The Garrison Commander/Area Commander may accept a conditional donation meant for a FSG into the Installation ACS program as provided by AR 215-1, paragraph 7-39 and AR 608-1, paragraph 3-2. Thus, unit charitable/morale activities can be funded through FSG internal fundraising/donations and unsolicited donations can be accepted by the Garrison/Area Commander and earmarked for FSG use. Whether personnel decide to form a supporting Private Organization in addition to their FRG, the goal of funding charitable and soldier moral activities can be accomplished.