SUBJECT: Wearing of the Uniform

(b) Deputy Secretary of Defense Memorandum, “DoD Directives Review - Phase II,”
    July 13, 2005
(c) Executive Order 10450, April 27, 1953 as amended
(c) Section 772 of title 10, United States Code

1. REISSUANCE AND PURPOSE

This Instruction reissues reference (a) as a DoD Instruction as prescribed by reference (b) and continues
to set limitations on wearing of the uniform by members of the Armed Forces. It also continues to
establish policy on wearing of the uniform by former members of the Armed Forces.

2. APPLICABILITY

This Instruction applies to the Office of the Secretary of Defense, the Military Departments, the
Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Combatant Commands, the Office of the Inspector General of
the Department of Defense, the Defense Agencies, the DoD Field Activities, and all other organizational
entities in the Department of Defense (hereafter referred to collectively as the “DoD Components”).

3. POLICY

It is DoD policy that:

3.1. The wearing of the uniform by members of the Armed Forces (including retired members and
members of Reserve components) is prohibited under any of the following circumstances:
3.1.1. At any meeting or demonstration that is a function of, or sponsored by an organization, association, movement, group, or combination of persons that the Attorney General of the United States has designated, under Executive Order 10450 as amended (reference (c)), as totalitarian, fascist, communist, or subversive, or as having adopted a policy of advocating or approving the commission of acts of force or violence to deny others their rights under the Constitution of the United States, or as seeking to alter the form of Government of the United States by unconstitutional means.

3.1.2. During or in connection with furthering political activities, private employment or commercial interests, when an inference of official sponsorship for the activity or interest may be drawn.

3.1.3. Except when authorized by the approval authorities in subparagraph 4.1.1., when participating in activities such as unofficial public speeches, interviews, picket lines, marches, rallies or any public demonstration, which may imply Service sanction of the cause for which the demonstration or activity is conducted.

3.1.4. When wearing of the uniform may tend to bring discredit upon the Armed Forces.

3.1.5. When specifically prohibited by regulations of the Department concerned.

3.2. Former members of the Armed Forces, unless under another provision of this Instruction or under the terms of Section 772 of title 10, United States Code (reference (d)), who served honorably during a declared or undeclared war and whose most recent service was terminated under honorable conditions may wear the uniform in the highest grade held during such war service only on the following occasions and in the course of travel incident thereto:

3.2.1. Military funerals, memorial services, weddings, and inaugurals.

3.2.2. Parades on National or State holidays; or other parades or ceremonies of a patriotic character in which any Active or Reserve United States military unit is taking part.

3.2.3. Wearing of the uniform or any part thereof at any other time or for any other purposes is prohibited.

3.3. Medal of Honor holders may wear the uniform at their pleasure except under the circumstances set forth in paragraph 3.1., above.

4. RESPONSIBILITIES

4.1. The Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness and the Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness shall approve the wearing of the uniform for members of the Armed Forces assigned to OSD and the Directors of the Defense Agencies and the Directors of Defense Field Activities for situations under paragraph 3.1.3., and shall ensure the following officials are designed as approval authorities:
4.1.1. The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff for the Commanders of the Combatant Commands.

4.1.2. The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff for members of the Armed Forces assigned to the Joint Staff.

4.1.3. The Commanders of the Combatant Commands for members of the Armed Forces assigned to their commands.

4.1.4. The Directors of the Defense Agencies and Directors of Defense Field Activities for the members of the Armed Forces serving within their Agency or Activity.

4.1.5. The Secretaries of the Military Departments for members of the Armed Forces serving within their Military Departments.

4.1.6. The Inspector General, Department of Defense, for members of the Armed Forces assigned to the Office of the Inspector General.

4.2. Officials identified in subparagraph 4.1 may delegate their authority to subordinates; however, under no circumstances may a military officer review and approve the wearing of the uniform for himself, herself, or a military superior.

5. **EFFECTIVE DATE**

This Instruction is effective immediately.

David S. C. Chu
Under Secretary of Defense
(Personnel and Readiness)