



**COMMANDING GENERAL
THIRD ARMY
UNITED STATES ARMY CENTRAL
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FORT MCPHERSON, GA 30330-1064**

July 20, 2009

To the Third Army/USARCENT Team,

Our focus as a successful organization must remain on Mission, People and Teamwork. When our people—military or civilian—commit crimes such as the illegal use, possession, or distribution of drugs and alcohol while in the USARCENT Area of Responsibility (AOR), we are failing our mission, failing our people, and failing our teammates.

The wrongful possession or distribution of drugs in the USARCENT AOR is a violation of the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ), host nation law, and US federal law. Pursuant to USCENTCOM General Order 1B, the wrongful consumption, possession, or distribution of alcoholic beverages is prohibited in several countries within the USARCENT AOR. In addition, alcohol consumption, possession, or distribution may also be a violation of host nation law. The UCMJ, federal and host nation law also prohibit sending or receiving alcohol or drugs through the mail. US federal law and the UCMJ also prohibit the possession of illegal drugs for personal use, distribution, or sale. These laws apply to Soldiers, Family members, DoD civilians, and contractors.

The Military Extraterritorial Jurisdiction Act (MEJA) subjects civilian or contract personnel to prosecution in federal courts for crimes committed while accompanying the Armed Forces overseas, including the USARCENT AOR. The USARCENT Office of the Staff Judge Advocate works closely with USCENTCOM and the Department of Justice to coordinate potential prosecutions of civilians under MEJA.

Furthermore, in 2006, Congress extended UCMJ jurisdiction to include not just U.S. servicemembers, but also any person serving with or accompanying an armed force in the field during a time of declared war or contingency operation. As a result, DoD civilians and contractors who are employed with the Third Army/USARCENT overseas during the current contingency operation could be subject to court-martial.

Contract personnel may also be subject to host nation jurisdiction for crimes they commit overseas, including the wrongful possession of drugs. Under existing international agreements, the host nation has primary jurisdiction over civilian contract employees in the nations of Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, and the United Arab Emirates. Recently, host nations have demonstrated their desire to prosecute civilian contractors for violations of host nation law.

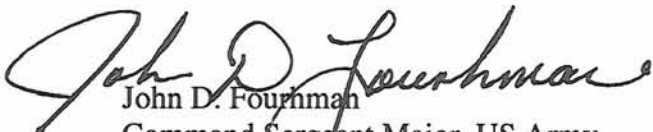
US CENTCOM General Order 1B promotes the readiness of US personnel and recognizes that local laws or customs may prohibit the use of alcohol by regulating the possession and consumption of alcohol within the USARCENT AOR. General Order 1B prohibits the “introduction, purchase, possession, sale, transfer, and manufacture or consumption of any alcoholic beverage within the


countries of Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Iraq.” Although the consumption of alcohol is legal in Qatar, Bahrain, and the United Arab Emirates, USARCENT personnel must continue to comply with local command policies and host nation law. Command policies may regulate the time, locations, and quantities in which alcohol may be purchased or consumed. Moreover, many countries within the USARCENT AOR prohibit the operation of a motor vehicle after the consumption of alcohol. Prior to consuming alcohol within the USARCENT AOR, review and understand local command policies. Consumption of alcohol while on duty, or engaging in drunken and disorderly behavior, is never permitted.

The laws on drugs and alcohol promote the health, welfare, good order and discipline of USARCENT personnel. Soldiers who violate laws and policies may face a range of possible adverse actions, to include non-judicial punishment, administrative separation, or even court-martial. As stated above, DoD civilian employees and contractor employees may be barred from entry onto military installations, termination from their employment, and even prosecution in federal or military courts. Contractor employees face the added risk of prosecution under host nation law.

Everyone in Third Army/USARCENT must uphold the standards and the law. It falls on all of us to have the discipline to do what is right, regardless of who is watching.

Patton's Own!


John D. Fourman
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