# MILPERSMAN 1700-020

## PARTICIPATION IN CIVIL RIGHTS DEMONSTRATIONS

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| **References** | (a) DODI 1334.01 of 26 Oct 05 |
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| | (b) NAVPERS 15665I, U.S. Navy Uniform Regulations |

1. **Guidance**. Navy servicemembers have an obligation to maintain maximum readiness for military operations and, therefore, participation in non-military activities is limited. Because of their obligation, members shall not participate in civil rights demonstrations or any other political or public demonstrations while in uniform, under the following circumstances:

   a. Any meeting or demonstration which is a function of, or sponsored by an organization, association, movement, group, or combination of persons which the Attorney General of the United States has designated, pursuant to Executive Order 10450 as amended, as totalitarian, fascist, communist, or subversive, or as having adopted a policy of advocating or approving the commission of acts of force of violence to deny others their rights under the Constitution of the United States by unconstitutional means.

   b. 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.

   c. Except when authorized by the approval authority listed in reference (a), when participating in activities such as 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.

   d. When their activities constitute a breach of law and order.

e.  When violence is reasonably likely to result.

f.  When wearing the uniform would discredit the Armed Forces.

g.  When specifically prohibited by other regulations of the Department concerned.

2.  **Restrictions in Uniform**.  Reference (b) prescribes other restrictions on wearing the uniform in a demonstration.