



HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES FORCES KOREA
UNIT #15237
APO AP 96271-5237

FKCC

15 JUN 2020

MEMORANDUM FOR ALL U.S. COMMANDS AND UNITS IN THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

SUBJECT: ORDER PROHIBITING DISPLAY OF THE CONFEDERATE BATTLE FLAG

1. The Confederate Battle Flag does not represent the values of U.S. Forces assigned to serve in the Republic of Korea. While I acknowledge some might view it as a symbol of regional pride, many others in our force see it as a painful reminder of hate, bigotry, treason, and devaluation of humanity. Regardless of perspective, one thing is clear: it has the power to inflame feelings of racial division. We cannot have that division among us.

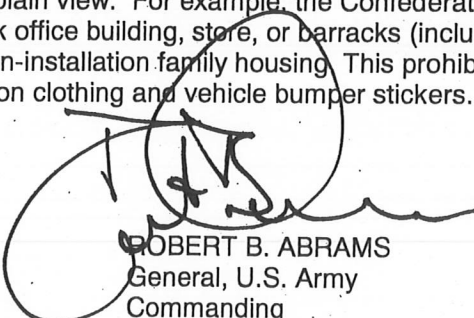
2. As the Senior Military Officer Assigned to Korea and the Commander of RoK-US Combined Forces Command, United Nations Command, and U.S. Forces Korea, it is within my authority and responsibility to take reasonable, necessary, and lawful measures to protect people, installations, and property, and to ensure good order and discipline among our force. Accordingly and effective immediately, I direct all commanders to identify and ensure the removal of all display of the Confederate Battle Flag or its depiction within work places, common-access areas, and public areas on USFK installations.

3. Applicability: All USFK military commands, installations, family members, DoD and KN civilian employees, DoD retirees, contractors, and any other persons with access to USFK installations.

4. Definitions.

a. The term "Confederate Battle Flag" refers to the battle flag carried by Confederate armies during the Civil War. It has various color schemes and configurations and is generally described as a flag with a red or blue field with two blue or red diagonal lines and white stars; it is commonly called the "Stars and Bars." This definition does not include the display of the Confederate Battle Flag where it is depicted, but not the main focus of display. For example, artistic, educational, or historical displays depicting the Civil War where the Confederate Battle Flag is present, but not the main focus, remain permissible. It also does not include state flags which incorporate the Confederate Battle Flag.

b. The term "work places, common-access areas, and public areas" includes, but is not limited to: office buildings, facilities, military and government vehicles, aircraft, hangars, conference rooms, individual offices, cubicles, storage rooms, tool and equipment rooms, workshops, break rooms, dining facilities and messes, gyms, recreational areas, commissaries, exchanges, latrines/heads, open bay barracks, shipboard berthing, and common areas of barracks, bachelor quarters, and on-installation family quarters, and all areas in public or plain view. For example, the Confederate Battle Flag shall not be displayed on the outside area of a work office building, store, or barracks (including parking lots); or, the front yard, deck, or external porch of on-installation family housing. This prohibition includes depictions of the Confederate Battle Flag on clothing and vehicle bumper stickers.



ROBERT B. ABRAMS
General, U.S. Army
Commanding