MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Web Access Blocking and Usage Practices

1. This memorandum identifies exceptions to the existing Web access blocking policy and re-emphasizes appropriate Web site usage practices. As a general principle, Army organizations are encouraged to use the Internet and Web services to access, develop, and exchange information in the execution of Army missions. Except for specific prohibited subject matter, access to Army and external Web sites is authorized according to the controls applied by the Web site owners.

2. This guidance applies to the Active Army, the Army National Guard/Army National Guard of the United States, and the U.S. Army Reserve.

3. Web access blocking is authorized per AR 25-1 and AR 25-2. These regulations permit permanently blocking user access to inappropriate web sites associated with the prohibited areas itemized in para 6-1.f., AR 25-1. Web site blocks for specific prohibited Web sites are applied in order to reduce security risks to enterprise systems; however, the Global War on Terrorism makes it necessary for organizations to access prohibited sites in the line of duty. As a result of these new mission requirements, the following guidance applies:

   a. Exceptions to the Web access or Web "filtering" policy will include positions which require unimpeded access to the Internet due to mission requirements, such as public affairs officers, intelligence specialists, staff judge advocates, inspectors and auditors, and criminal investigation specialists. Other exceptions, as required, may be authorized by the Designated Approval Authority. Organizations requiring exceptions to Web access blocking will maintain records to document access requirements for each position.

   b. Authorized access to prohibited Web sites to support mission requirements is not subject to administrative, criminal, or other adverse action.

   c. Updates to the above Army regulations will reflect this guidance.
4. My point of contact for this action is Ms. Arlene Dukanauskas. (703) 602-9654, arlene.dukanauskas@us.army.mil.

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