

IS YOUR GROUP A PRIVATE ORGANIZATION?

Groups on U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys play a vital role in building community and morale. Command Policy #19 provides a supportive framework to ensure your group can operate successfully while protecting its members.



Quick Check: Does your group do any of the following?

1. **Official Structure.** Do you have designated roles (like a President or Treasurer) or written rules like bylaws or a charter?
2. **Handles Money.** Does your group collect dues, membership fees, or donations? Does it have a group bank account or require members to pay the group for activities, even if it's just to reimburse someone?
3. **Facility Use.** Does your group book or reserve installation facilities (like meeting rooms or pavilions) under a collective group name?
4. **Community Representation.** Does your group present itself as the official voice for a specific part of the installation community?
5. **Commercial Activity.** Do members use group meetings, events, or communication channels to advertise or operate a personal business?
6. **Exclusivity.** When your group gathers in public spaces on the installation, is information about your event intentionally shared in a way that excludes other eligible community members from joining?

Principles to Remember

Everyone is an Individual. Think of it as everyone acting on their own behalf. Each person or family covers their own expenses, supervises their own family members, and is responsible for their own actions. The group itself has no official bank accounts or collective liability.

Open and Inclusive Community. To keep our community healthy and fair, any information about meetups in public, on-post locations should be shared openly with everyone. Don't purposefully exclude other eligible community members from joining the fun!

Use Public Spaces. Informal meetups should be held in common areas accessible to all, such as installation parks, playgrounds, or community centers during open hours. This ensures that other eligible community members are aware of the gathering.

By following these principles, your group can function as a positive social network for the community without taking on the legal and financial responsibilities of a registered PO.

Guidelines for Informal Social Gatherings

If you have answered "No" to all the questions under the Quick Check, your group is considered an informal social gathering. These casual meetups are a fantastic part of our community life and we encourage them. By following a few simple principles, your group can stay a positive, hassle-free social network without taking on the legal or financial responsibilities of a registered PO.

Why Registration Matters

If you answered "Yes" to one or more of the questions under the Quick Check, your group may fit the criteria of a Private Organization (PO). Registration isn't just about paperwork - it's about protection. By registering your group as a PO, you gain access to a clear set of guidelines that help with:

Liability Protection. Ensuring members are protected from personal liability during group activities.

Financial Clarity. Establishing accountable ways to handle and track funds.

Fair Access. Guaranteeing your group can officially use installation facilities and resources fairly.

For more information about private organizations please email:
usarmy.humphreys.imcom.mbx.fmwr-private-orgs@army.mil



FAQ

1. Can we have a coordinator to organize events?

Yes! Anyone can step up to suggest a meetup. However, to stay "informal," your group shouldn't have official titles like "President" or "Treasurer." Think of it as a group of friends hanging out rather than a structured organization with a board of directors.

2. Can we pool our money for group tickets or supplies?

No. To keep things simple and avoid the need for financial audits, informal groups cannot collect dues or fees. Each family should pay the vendor or store directly. This ensures that no one person has to carry the legal responsibility for the group's money.

3. How do we use installation facilities like the library or community rooms?

Informal groups don't book spaces under a group name. Instead, any community member can reserve a space for a private gathering using their own name, following the facility's standard rules.

4. Is our private Facebook group okay?

Absolutely. You are welcome to use private social media for chatting and planning! Just remember, if you're meeting at a public on-post spot (like a playground), make sure the event is open so other eligible community members don't feel intentionally excluded from public resources.

5. Can our group host a fundraiser or bake sale?

Not as an informal group. Fundraising on the installation is reserved for registered POs, Soldier and Family Readiness Groups (SFRGs), clubs associated with any of the Humphreys Schools, and the Scouts. If your group wants to raise money, we can help you start the registration process to make it official!

6. What does a "compliant" informal gathering actually look like?

Picture this - A few families chat in a WhatsApp or Kakao group decide to meet at the park at 10:00 AM. Everyone brings their own snacks, watches their own kids, and handles their own gear. There's no "manager or leader," no money is exchanged, and anyone else at the park is welcome to say hello!

7. Why do these rules exist?

Command Policy #19 is all about protection. It ensures that if something goes wrong, individuals aren't held personally liable for a group's action. It also keeps things fair for everyone on the installation.

8. What happens if our group starts acting like a PO?

If your group grows to the point where you need a bank account, formal leadership, or want to host fundraisers, it's time to make it official. We will guide you through the registration process to ensure your group is properly registered as a PO. Until you are registered, you'll just need to pause those specific activities (like collecting money) to stay compliant with Command Policy #19.

9. Can we use "Humphreys" in our groups name (e.g., "Humphreys Book Club")?

Yes! However, we highly recommend adding a disclaimer to your "About" section to prevent any perception of official endorsement by the U.S. Army or U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys. A simple disclaimer such as, "This is an unofficial group and is not endorsed by the U.S. Army or U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys," ensures your group's status is clear to all your members and followers.