

COMMANDER'S ORIENTATION

1. Position of the Army and its Personnel:

The United States Army and you, as members of the (appropriate unit designation) are not in a position to argue the merits or principles of the case. You are merely assigned the mission of enforcing the orders of a duly constituted federal court and of maintaining law and order. You must follow instructions and orders issued to you by your commanders. You cannot vary or change instructions or orders issued to you by your commanders.

2. The Mission:

The mission involves assisting local authorities, not interfering with them, in preserving law and order.

3. Civilian News Media Representatives:

The situation you are now involved in is receiving world-wide publicity. It is reasonable to assume that hundreds of newspapers, radio, and television correspondents will be present when you arrive on the scene. Accordingly, the following instructions will be adhered to with NO deviations of any sort.

a. Do not discuss the situation with any civilians, and particularly with representatives of the press. Requests for comments from the press will be politely declined and press representatives referred to the Information Officer.

b. No effort should be made to control the news media representatives, including photographers, on public property so long as they DO NOT interfere with the carrying out of the military mission.

4. Suppressing Violence and Maintaining Order:

a. When required, and upon orders, you will be deployed to certain areas for the purpose of suppressing violence and to establish and maintain order. Upon arrival at the scene of any disturbance, you must make the best military impression upon those who are creating the disturbances. You must follow instructions and orders exactly as issued.

b. You may be instructed to make such display of force as is required and considered practival. This display of force may have the effect of accomplishing everything desired. Every effort will be made to disperse crowds without use of force. Action will be firm, yet courteous, You will exhibit an attitude of restraint, realizing that all unlawful crowds contain many curious and harmless citizens. If crowds cannot be dispersed by your military display of force, you may receive orders to use tear gas. Accordingly, your gas mask must be fitted and always ready for use.

5. General Instructions:

a. Your conduct must be above reproach. A sharp, neat appearance must be presented to the public at all times.

b. Military bearing, snap and precision indicate how well you are trained. You must be alert, pay attention to your leaders and respond smartly.

c. You will avoid in every way any contact with the civilian populace in general, and students in particular, when not requered to do so in performance of your duty.

d. All duties must be executed calmly, politely, and respectfully, but firmly.

e. Public property must be protected. Upon orders, you will take action to protect all law abiding citizens in their person and property.

6. Security Precautions

a. Under no conditions will firearms be used. When and if you are issued live ammunition, you WILL NOT, repeat, WILL NOT load your weapons until given specific orders to do so.

b. DO NOT, repeat, DO NOT make any statements to the press, radio, or TV or anyone concerning you, your mission, or unit.

c. DO NOT discuss our mission with any stranger or within their hearing. (The best rule here: Keep your mouth closed and your ears and eyes open.)

7. In conclusion:

Let those who will review our conduct and performance later on have only one comment. "They were truly soldiers who conducted themselves in the highest traditions of the United States Army."