

IG Bulletin



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Inspector General Observations

By LTC Gregory S. Vinciguerra, Command Inspector General

The issue of whistleblowing, and whistleblower reprisal or retaliation, especially towards victims of sexual assault, has increasingly been in the news lately. In the same way that every Soldier is a Safety Officer, every Soldier and Federal employee has the right to submit a protected communication with information one believes violates a law, rule or regulation; shows gross mismanagement; waste of funds; abuse of authority or about a specific danger to public health and safety. Brave Soldiers or Federal employees stood up to point out a violation in a law, rule or regulation and in return, had some sort of negative retaliation from their unit or leadership. This is whistleblower reprisal and is a destructive behavior that quickly degrades the trust and integrity of a

unit or organization, and you can play a role in preventing and reporting it. Retaliation is harmful action against someone for something they did or said. It includes ostracism and is often described as professional or social. It is a violation of the UCMJ.

Professional reprisal against a Soldier could be loss of privileges, a denied promotion or training, or being transferred to a less favorable job.

Social retaliation, or ostracism, means excluding someone from social acceptance, or denying privilege of friendship just because they reported or intend to report a crime. Reprisal amongst peers can be just as damaging to someone as professional reprisal.

Social media can be a common platform for social retri-

sal. Commands and Soldiers should be aware that in the online world, messages and comments can discourage reporting of a crime and ostracize those who have already stepped forward. Social media posts should be treated just the same as if the message was publicly announced. If you wouldn't say it in person then you shouldn't be posting it on social media.

You can act now. Every command, and everyone in it, must work to assess its climate to ensure there is an environment that allows for Soldiers to do the right thing without fear of reprisal.



Airborne Hazards and Burn Pit Registry

By SFC Juan Aguilar Jr., Assistant Inspector General

The Office of the Surgeon General, The United States Army Medical Command, and The United States Army are attempting to inform the Army community of the Department of Veterans Affairs new Airborne Hazard and Open Burn Pit Registry. Veterans and Service Members who have been in close proximity of burn pits or exposed to the smoke for extended periods of time may have a higher probability of developing health complication. Exposure to Burn Pits was quite common among Service members overseas, particularly those who served in Iraq and Afghanistan, and may develop short and long term health effects.

A burn pit is an area devoted to open-air combustion of trash. The use of burn pits is a common waste disposal practice at military sites outside the United States. Smoke from these pits contained substances that may present short-term and

long-term health effects, especially for those who were exposed for long periods of times and in close proximity of the fumes. Types of waste products destroyed in burn pits include, but are not limited to: chemicals, medical and human waste, munitions and unexploded ordnance, and general rubbish. Burning waste in pits can create more airborne hazards than compared to controlled high-temperature burning similarly found in commercial incinerators.

The Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry is a database of health information about Service members and Veterans who have deployed to various conflicts abroad. While there is not enough medical or scientific information to conclude that exposure to airborne hazards or burn pit smoke is associated with long-term health effects at the population level, the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs are continuing to address

this issue through health studies of Service members and Veterans who have deployed to conflicts where airborne hazards may have been present or burn pits may have been used. The Department of Defense and Veteran Affairs are also working on additional initiatives to address clinical issues and determine whether any additional long-term health studies are needed.

Participation in the Airborne Hazard and Open Burn Pit Registry is voluntary and will not affect access to Veteran Affairs health care or compensation benefits.



See Burn Pit Page 2

Initial and Subsequent Command Inspections are a Must

By MSG Steven R. Jenderseck, Inspector General NCOIC

When it comes to the Organizational Inspection Program (OIP), the Initial Command Inspection (ICI) and the Subsequent Command Inspection (SCI) are a must for new company level commanders. AR 1-201, Army Inspection Policy dated 4 April 2008 states that “A new company (or similarly sized organization) will receive an ICI from their rater. The initial command inspection will occur within the first 90 days of assumption of command.” The purpose of the ICI is to ensure that the new commander understands the unit’s strengths and weaknesses in relation to higher headquarters’ goals and all established standards. Only the inspected commander and that com-

mander’s rater will receive the specific results of the initial command inspection. The ICI will not, however evaluate the commander’s performance since assuming command.

The purpose of the subsequent command inspection is to measure progress and reinforce the goals and standards established during the initial command inspection. AR 1-201 states that “Commanders will conduct SCIs following all initial command inspections and not later than one year after completion of the new commander’s ICI.” SCIs are often focused inspections that only look at specific areas and are not necessarily complete re-inspections. Unlike the ICI, the

SCI can be used to evaluate the inspected commander’s performance. When it comes to any command inspection, as a minimum, the inspecting commander must attend the in-briefings, out-briefings, actively conduct part of the inspection, and provide the inspected commander with an assessment of strengths and weaknesses upon completion. Not only are ICIs and SCIs required according to AR 1-201, but they can be an excellent tool for setting that new commander up for success.



BAS in the Field Environment

By MSG Steven R. Jenderseck, Inspector General NCOIC

During September 2014, the Army Audit Agency concluded their inspection of Basic Allowance for Subsistence (BAS) Pay for Soldiers in Field Training. They identified a significant problem in Commands not collecting BAS payments back from Soldiers when they received government-furnished meals during field training. This audit found that the Army lost \$4.7 million during an 18 month period at the two installations reviewed during this effort.

DoD 7000.14-R, Volume 7, Chapter 25, Financial Management Regulation states “military members may not be provided meals or rations at no charge by or on behalf of the Government while entitled to BAS for the same period.” Furthermore, “all members on field duty will be charged for all meals made available whether eaten or not.” This directive is pretty cut and dry for our responsibilities as Soldiers and leaders. At a time

when our politicians are looking to tighten our defense budget, we as leaders must ensure we are following policy.

This obligation applies not only to commanders, but also is a regulatory obligation for Soldiers receiving BAS to pay for government-furnished meals. I encourage commanders to look at the BAS area periodically to ensure that their unit Adjutant officers know their responsibilities concerning this matter.

To assist units, the Department of the Army, Office of the Vice Chief of Staff developed an Internal Control Checklist for unit BAS collection operations to ensure units remain in compliance with Department of Defense and Army policy. This checklist can be found in All Army Activity (ALARACT) 037/2012. The Army Audit Agency plans to conduct follow-up audit in FY 15 to ensure the Army corrects this problem.

Burn Pit cont.

Veterans and Service members can use the registry questionnaire to report exposures to airborne hazards, as well as other exposures and health concern. Enrollment into the Airborne Hazard and Open Burn Pit Registry can be completed through the Veteran Affairs website. A Department of Defense Self-Service logon will be required for completion of the questionnaire.

Additional information, resources, and eligibility can be found in The All Army Activities message 216/2014 [Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry](#), or <https://veteran.mobilehealth.va.gov/AHBurnPitRegistry/>

Upcoming Inspections

The Fort Sill Inspector General typically conducts at least one special inspection (directed by the CG) every quarter; and sometimes more when a special situation dictates the necessity. Other Inspectors General (e.g. TRADOC IG, DAIG, FORSCOM IG) also conduct annual and quarterly inspections. Inspections do not always affect all units and coordination directly with the affected units will occur as soon as details are known. The following are the inspections that are currently on the calendar that will potentially affect

| DATE | Inspecting Agency | Units Affected | Inspection Topic |
|-----------------------|-------------------|---|-------------------------------|
| 30 MAR 15 - 10 APR 15 | FCoE IG | 30th ADA, 428th FA, 434th FA, FCoE-HQs Det (SJA & 77th Army Band) | Counseling |
| 6 APR 15 - 10 APR 15 | HQDA-IG | 30th ADA, 428th FA, 434th FA, | IMT-SHARP |
| 13 APR 15 - 24 APR 15 | FCoE IG | 30th ADA, 31st ADA, 75th FiB, 214th FiB, 428th FA, 434th FA, DENTAC, MEDDAC, USAG-FS, FCoE-HQs Det, FCoE-Safety | Motorcycle Mentorship Program |
| 1 JUNE 15 - 12 JUN 15 | FCoE IG / SRMC-IG | MEDDAC & WTU | Warrior Transition Housing |