

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, U.S. ARMY FIELD ARTILLERY CENTER AND FORT SILL
FORT SILL, OKLAHOMA 73503

USAFACFS Circular
No. 600-04-01

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Expires: 30 September 2005
Personnel: Unit Mailroom Management
UNIT MAILROOM OPERATIONS AND INSPECTIONS

- 1. PURPOSE.** This circular establishes (explains) procedures for mailroom operations and quarterly unannounced mailroom inspections and criteria for rating.
- 2. REFERENCES.**
 - a. DOD 4525.6M, August 2002, DOD Postal Manual.
 - b. AR 600-8-3, Dec 89, Unit Postal Operations.
- 3. SCOPE.** This circular applies to all unit mailrooms at Fort Sill, OK.
- 4. RESPONSIBILITY.** Commanders are responsible for ensuring mailroom operations, mail processing, mail directory service, and mail redirect comply with the provisions of references a and b and this circular.
- 5. MAIL DELIVERY PROCEDURES.** The United States Post Office (USPO), Fort Sill, delivers personal soldier mail to the mail boxes located outside of each unit mailroom's building (brown box). The Post Office will deliver Monday through Friday, except holidays.
 - a. The unit mail clerk signs for a key to their mailbox from USPO. The unit mail clerk will keep this key in an envelope within the mailroom in a secure location when not being used. Mark envelope "Mailbox Key." Installation Postal Inspectors will check for the key. Only the USPO can authorize the duplication of this mailbox key.
 - b. USPO will not deliver accountable mail to FATC training battalions. USPO will provide notice to each mail clerk indicating they have accountable mail to pick up. FATC and DPS mail clerks are authorized to pickup personal accountable mail for trainees/students and prisoners in the Regional Correctional Facility and accountable official mail. All other mail clerks can only pickup accountable official mail; not accountable personal mail for soldiers within their units.
 - d. Upon change of unit mail clerk, the departing unit mail clerk will return the mailbox key to USPO and the new unit mail clerk will sign for the key.

6. USE OF PS FORM 3883 AND FORT SILL FORM 652.

a. Mail Clerks picking up accountable mail from USPS sign for the mail using PS Form 3883. The mail clerk receives a copy of this form after signing.

b. Mail Clerks will use Fort Sill Form 652 when returning personal or official accountable mail to USPS, issuing personal accountable mail to individual soldiers, delivering official accountable mail to appropriate offices, or when transferring accountable mail between mail clerks. When returning to USPS or transferring accountable mail between mail clerks, make an extra copy, as both the USPS and the new mail clerk will need a copy. You can download a copy of Fort Sill Form 652 from the following web site.

http://sill-www.army.mil/doim/FS_Bank_Forms/FS_BLANK_FORMS.htm

c. Mail clerks need to ensure they have a Fort Sill Form 652 for every article listed on PS Form 3883. This is how the postal inspectors will verify you have properly processed each piece of accountable mail.

7. INDIVIDUAL MAIL BOXES. Units may use the individual mail boxes located outside of the Single Soldier Quarters, outside of barracks, or those located inside barracks, as long as the following conditions are met.

a. **Only** unit mail clerks or alternate unit mail clerks have access to individual mailboxes of soldiers assigned to their unit. For example, if a soldier is assigned to 2^d Bn, 4th FA, **only** 2^d Bn, 4th FA mail clerk can have access to this soldier's individual mailbox.

b. Soldiers must keep their individual mailbox free of excess mail. If the mail clerk cannot place mail in a soldier's individual mailbox because of excess mail, the mail clerk will notify the Postal Officer. The Postal Officer will verify status of the soldier and take appropriate action as indicated below.

(1) If the soldier is present for duty and able to pickup his/her mail, the postal officer will notify the soldier of the requirement to remove his/her mail from his/her receptacle. If soldier does not pick up their mail, the mail clerk has the authority to return all mail in the receptacle to sender. Endorse the mail with "Unable to Deliver. Return to Sender."

(2) If the soldier is unable to pick up his/her mail because of TDY, hospitalization, etc., the mail clerk will remove the mail from the receptacle and hold in the mailroom until soldier's return.

c. If an activity wishes to consolidate mailroom operations at brigade level, they may do so. This does not invalidate the need for TOE units to have trained mail clerks at battalion level. If you wish to consolidate at brigade level, you will have to designate a

full time mail clerk and alternate mail clerk to handle mailroom responsibilities. **All mail clerks should have access to government vehicles.**

8. MAILROOM INSPECTIONS. The Installation Postal Officer or his/her designated representative will inspect unit/activity mailrooms on a quarterly unannounced basis. The Postal Inspector will allow on-site corrections to deficiencies as long as they are not one of the deficiencies listed in paragraph 9 below. The Installation Postal Inspector will prepare a written report and submit to the commander along with Fort Sill Form 435 within 7 working days after the inspection. You can download a copy of this form from the following web site. We will issue a rating of "satisfactory" or "unsatisfactory."

http://sill-www.army.mil/doim/FS_Blank_Forms/FS_BLANK_FORMS.htm

9. RATING CRITERIA. The Installation Postal Inspector will rate a unit/activity "unsatisfactory" based on the following criteria:

a. Two checks of "no" in any of the following items or sub-items of FS Form 435.

(1) Item 6, item 10, item 12, item 33, item 38, item 41, item 46, and item 47. These items emphasize supervision, security, and accountability of the mail.

(2) Item 19. The inspector will check 10% of the unit/activity locator cards, up to a maximum of 50 cards. If 5 percent of the inspected locator cards are missing or found to contain errors, this will result in a "no."

b. Item 49.

(1) If the unit has not corrected deficiencies cited in a previous satisfactory inspection, the Installation Postal Inspector will issue an UNSATISFACTORY rating.

(2) If the unit has not corrected deficiencies cited in a previous UNSATISFACTORY rating, the postal inspector will issue another UNSATISFACTORY rating. Results of the second UNSATISFACTORY rating are sent to the next higher command.

c. A total of four or more "no" ratings on all areas of the checklist.

d. The postal inspector must conduct **unannounced quarterly** mailroom inspections. To minimize the inspection time, the inspector tries to arrive during the mailroom posted open time. The inspector normally will make another inspection attempt within a week's time. If the mailroom is not open during the posted time, the inspector will notify the Installation Postal Officer. The Installation Postal Officer will notify the unit's command of the attempted mailroom inspection. If the postal inspector tries to conduct two consecutive inspections (same unit) and arrives during the posted mailroom open times, the inspector will issue an UNSATISFACTORY rating.

10. INSPECTION RESULTS. The Installation Postal Inspector will give a courtesy copy of the inspection checklist to the unit postal officer. DOIM will forward the official copy of the inspection checklist to the mailroom commander.

11. REINSPECTIONS. The Installation Postal Inspector will reinspect unit/activities that receive an "unsatisfactory" rating within 15 working days of the unsatisfactory inspection. If a unit/activity receives three consecutive "unsatisfactory" ratings, the Installation Postal Officer will close the mailroom and make arrangements with the commander concerned to have another mailroom process his/her unit/activity's mail. The mailroom will remain closed until all deficiencies are corrected.

(ATZR-URA)

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