

IG Bulletin



MAY 2017

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Inspector General Observations

By LTC Gregory S. Vinciguerra, Command Inspector General

It's generally known that DoD and Congress are required to certify officer promotions, however Army regulations and policies also require that personnel are subject to similar screening and vetting when nominated for positions of trust. The U.S. Army Inspector General Agency (USAIGA) is part of that process of ensuring that appropriate individuals are promoted or assigned to positions of trust, high profile assignments or schools. Those subjected to screenings include: CW2 through COL promotions, LTC-COL Command selectees, Sergeants Major Academy selectees, Drill Sergeant and recruiter selectees, Sexual Assault Response Coordinators or Victim Advocates assignments, IG positions and other positions of trust. Only the Army IG Records Screening and Oversight Division (RSO) is authorized to conduct IG records screening, not any local IG office. USAIGA

provides information to authorized requesters and has no "vote" in the decision process.

The promotion screening process involves multiple steps and entities. The post-board screening occurs before the results of a promotion selection board are forwarded to the Secretary of the Army (SA). The USAIGA receives a list of names to screen from an authorized requestor (for promotions, Army G1). The RSO Div checks each name against IG records to see if an individual has any substantiated IG allegations or open or ongoing IG investigations, and if the individual does not, the RSO Div notifies the requestor that the individual is cleared. However, if the individual has a substantiated allegation or an open or ongoing investigation, RSO Div will review the case file under AR 20-1. If or when the case is closed, they will prepare and provide a synopsis of any

substantiated allegations to the requestor.

A board at HQDA convenes to review any derogatory information from the post-board screening and advise the Army G1 whether the information is substantiated or relevant, and if it might reasonably, and materially affect a promotion recommendation. This board is the officer review board (ORB). If the ORB clears an individual, the promotion process proceeds, but if the ORB doesn't clear the individual, the promotion review board (PRB) process is initiated. Following this action, the DA Secretariat has 120 days to convene and conduct the PRB. Before the PRB convenes, the HRC adverse actions team will inform the individual of the reason for the action and provide a case manager a copy of any information that the PRB will consider. The individual is afforded a reasonable opportunity to submit



comments on this information for consideration by the PRB. The PRB's recommendation is staffed through channels to the SA, who will direct the individual's retention or removal from the selection list. 8 to 12 months generally pass from the initial PRB notification to final SA notification.

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Flags

By MSG Joshua C. Holthus, Inspector General NCOIC



Lately the IG office is seeing a trend on Fort Sill pertaining to suspension of favorable actions, or Flags. To clear up any misunderstandings, we want to get this information out to ensure that leaders do the right thing for the Army, as well as the Soldier.

Flags are an administrative tool and are not meant for punishment or restriction, nor are they the final disposition. They are utilized to prevent the execution of any type of favorable action to a Soldier who may not be in good standing. Flags are also used to prevent movement of a Soldier if the command decides the Soldier should remain with the unit until his/her status changes to favorable.

Issues brought to the IG office are often referred down to the chain of command. This is done so the chain of command can use the results of the investigation to initiate any type of adverse action because IG records cannot be used for adverse action IAW AR 20-1, paragraph 3-3a. The common trend across post is that Soldiers are not always flagged IAW AR 600-8-2 when a command initiates an investigation after a case is referred by the IG. Paragraph 2-1i states "...if the Inspector General refers an investigation to the command, flagging actions will be initiated based on the command investigation." According to paragraph 2-1d, the Flag should be initiated using DA Form 268 within three working days of a Soldier being identified as being in an unfavorable status. In the circumstances of an IG referral that results in an investigation by the command, code "L, Commander's Investigation" will

be used. Refer to Table 2-1 for the proper code for any other instances that would require initiating a Flag on a Soldier (for example, APFT Failure, ABCP, etc.). Once the investigation is complete, the Flag will be removed within three working days IAW paragraph 2-1d. If the commander then decides to begin adverse action as a result of the inspection, a new Flag using code "A, Adverse Action" will be initiated. Throughout this process, leaders cannot forget the most important step, counseling the Soldier so they are informed about what is happening, why it is happening, and what they have to do to overcome any issues.

See Flags Page 2

Summer Safety

By CPT Aaron K. King, Chief of Inspections



The famous Oklahoma actor, Will Rogers once said, “If you don’t like the weather here, wait a minute, it will change.” Spring has arrived and the temperatures are rising. The change in

temperature this time of year generally signifies the impending culmination of the school year and leads to an increased number of outdoor activities. More and more Soldiers and families will be spending time outside, whether on or off duty. Pedestrians are already more prevalent as many people are taking advantage of the warmer temperatures while cycling, running, jogging, or walking along streets. Children are more active in the evenings in neighborhoods and playgrounds, with the guarantee their activity will grow throughout the day as schools let out for the summer. Warmer temperatures and outdoor activity denotes an enjoyable time of year, but also bring forth the emergence of safety concerns.

The most prominent safety threat during the warmer months is heat injury. Hydration and proper work-rest cycles are key factors that mitigate heat injuries. These apply to not only Soldiers, but also chil-

dren and pets. Hydration systems and sun-block are vital when spending an extended amount of time outdoors. Army Regulation 670-1, Wear and Appearance of Army Uniforms and Insignia, states in Chapter 3-7, d. “Commanders will not prescribe seasonal wear dates for uniform items, but may prescribe uniform(s) based on safety reasons (for example, for extreme cold or hot weather based on temperature).” Soldiers often forget or decline sun block while working outdoors, which ultimately can cause severe pain and discomfort. However, neglecting to put sun block on children is not only painful for the child, but proves miserable for parents.

A second safety concern this time of year is threat of severe weather. It is no secret that Oklahoma is the heart of Tornado Alley. Tornado season is typically April-June, but it is common to see tornadoes outside those months. Tornadoes, however, are not the only threat associated with severe weather. Lightning, strong winds and large hail cause significant damage as well as heavy downpours, which can surprise anyone with flash flooding. Although storm prediction methods have vastly improved, severe storms can develop very quickly, especially in the hot afternoon hours of spring and summer days. Always

have a plan.

Poor driving habits is the final safety concern. This is not exclusive to the warmer months, but adheres to the theme of increased outdoor activity. Speeding through traffic and red lights around Lawton/Fort Sill seems to be an epidemic. What is even more frustrating are the drivers in the aforementioned children-filled neighborhoods with no regard to the posted speed limit. Additionally, texting and driving is an issue on and off Fort Sill. Military families should be well aware that the use of cellular devices while driving is prohibited on any federal installation, unless connected to a hands-free device (DoDI 6055.04). In 2015, Oklahoma passed House Bill 1965, a law banning texting and driving. Yet, texting and driving remains a major problem around the Lawton/Fort Sill region. Bad habits like speeding and distractions like texting can easily cause traffic collisions, but just as easily end the life of a child playing near a street or a pedestrian on a morning run.

These safety concerns are in no way inclusive, but are three of the top issue leaders must emphasize going forth into the summer. This is a wonderful time of year and everyone should enjoy it fully in the safest manner possible.

Observations Cont.

If the USAIGA identifies that an individual has a substantiated allegation in a closed IG case, they will provide a synopsis to the Army G1. If the individual was the subject of an open case, the IG will report to G1 that there is an ongoing investigation and will continue to monitor the status of the case until it closes. Depending on the outcome of the case, the USAIGA will report to Army G1 that the individual is cleared, or will provide a synopsis of any substantiated findings. An individual’s promotion will not proceed until the investigation is closed, at which time the RSO Div reports any derogatory information for adjudication by the appropriate authorities, as described above. Again, the decision on whether or not the individual is promoted is not made by USAIGA. It is also important to understand that substantiated IG allegations are not automatic grounds for removal from a list. In FY16, roughly one-third of individuals the ORB considered with a substantiated IG allegation were referred to a PRB.

For more information regarding ORB/PRB process please contact this office or your S1/G1.

Flags Cont.

There are two types of Flags: transferrable and nontransferable flags. Soldiers who are flagged with transferrable flags may be reassigned to other units following the rules outlined in paragraph 2-8. These instances are rare and require coordination between the losing and gaining commands. Once a Soldier who is flagged is transferred, the responsibility to manage Flagging actions moves to the gaining command. Again, refer to Table 2-1 to see which flags are and are not transferrable.

If there are any questions pertaining to Flags, do not hesitate to call the IG office; however, your S1 more than likely has the correct answer. AR 600-8-2, Appendix B also has great flowcharts to assist in taking the correct steps. If a case is referred to you, the Inspector General representative will ask for a copy of any Flag initiated. This is to ensure the proper steps are being done, as well as to make sure the command and Soldier are taken care of.

Upcoming Inspections

Date	Agency	Units Affected	Topic
May 17-18	TRADOC IG	428, 434, 30, USAG-FS	Soldier 2020
Jun 5-16	FCOE IG	FCOE, 428, 434, 75, 30, 31, USAG-FS	Promotion Re-inspection
July 10-21	FCOE IG	FCOE, 428, 434, 75, 30, USAG-FS	TASP Re-inspection
Aug 7-18	FCOE IG	TBP	AVAP



Office of the Inspector General,
USAFCEFS



BLDG 1616 Randolph Road
Fort Sill, OK 73503

Inspector General Mission

The Office of the Inspector General provides assistance, teaches and trains, and conducts inspections and investigations as directed by the Commanding General for and throughout the United States Army Fires Center of Excellence and Fort Sill in order to assist commanders in achieving disciplined and combat-ready units and to maintain the operational effectiveness of the command.

For questions or assistance, or to file a complaint:

Comm: 580-442-6007/3224

DSN: 639-3224

E-mail:

usarmy.sill.fcoe.mbx.fort-sill-inspector-general@mail.mil

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