



Inspector General Bullet in



Shooting You in the Right Direction

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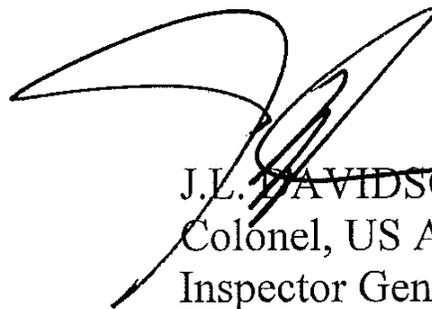
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Greetings from the Command Inspectors General Office and welcome to the Quarterly IG Bulletin. Our intent is to provide useful feedback and information to the members of the Tennessee Army and Air National Guard in regards to recent trends from Inspector General Action Requests (IGARS), IG Inspections/Investigations as well as Lessons Learned and Best Practices we have seen through our IG Site Visits. First I would like to say thanks to MSG Rodney Whaley and LTC Jack Coleman for their hard work as Assistant and Detailed IGs as they depart the IG office. MSG Whaley recently retired after 26 years of service and LTC Coleman has moved to the J3 office. We thank them both for their service as well as their friendship.


J.L. DAVIDSON
Colonel, US Army
Inspector General

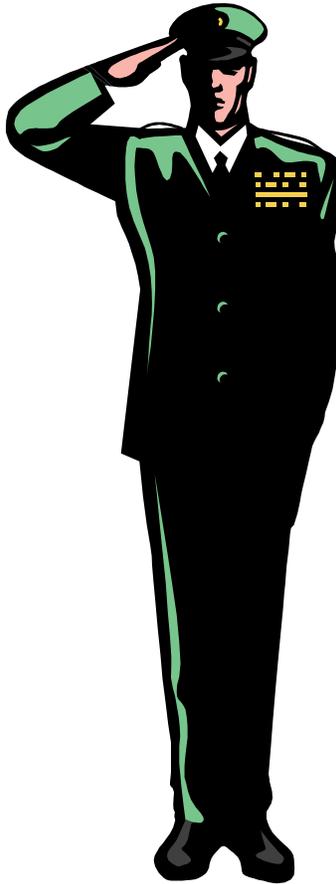
Command Inspections

I want to use my article to highlight the requirements for Command Inspections as outlined in AR 1-201, Army Inspection Policy as well as JFHQ-TN Regulation 1-201, Tennessee National Guard Inspection Policy. The TN NG Command IG recently provided feedback to the TAG on the Tennessee Army National Guard's compliance in regards to the Command Inspection Program.

Bottom Line Up Front: The overwhelming majority of TN Army NG Commands are **not** conducting Initial Command Inspections (ICI) in accordance with the Army and TN JFHQ's regulations.

Command Inspections are one leg in the triad of the Organizational Inspection Program which includes Command Inspections, Staff Inspections, Assistance Visits, and IG Inspections. Command Inspections ensure units comply with regulations and policies and allow commanders to hold leaders at all levels accountable for this compliance. Command inspections allow the commander to determine the training, discipline, readiness, and welfare of the command and are so important that the commander must be personally involved. In addition, command inspections help commanders identify systemic problems within their units or commands and assist in the recognition of emerging trends.

AR 1-201 states that a new company (or similarly sized organization) commander within the Reserve Component will receive an ICI from their rater within 180 days of the assumption of command. Units of the Army National Guard serving on active duty will adhere to the 90-day timeline standard as applicable.



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 commander's rater should receive the specific results of the initial inspection. These results will serve as the basis for a goal-setting session between the incoming commander and his or her rater that will establish realistic goals to improve unit readiness. The incoming commander should receive a clear picture of the goals, standards, and priorities for the unit. These inspection results help set goals and may cause refinement in the DA Form 67-9-1 (Officer Evaluation Report Support Form).

The commander of the inspecting headquarters must participate for an inspection to be a command inspection. By participating, the inspecting commander sets the overall standard for the conduct of the inspection and closely supervises and engages in the inspection. This involvement allows the commander to gain first-hand knowledge of the strengths and weaknesses in key areas of concern and assists in developing realistic action plans to improve those weaknesses. At a minimum, the commander must attend the in-briefings and out-briefings, actively conduct part of the inspection, and provide the inspected commander with an assessment of strengths and weaknesses upon completion.

While recent OPTEMPO requirements may have taken precedence over Command Inspections, the forecasted OPTEMPO indicates that ample time will be available for commanders to adhere to regulatory requirements. Commanders must pay particular attention to the time-distance factors and the compressed training time available in the Army National Guard. The Command Inspection must not consume valuable training time that could be devoted to mission-essential task list efforts.

COL Jeff Davidson

Incentive Bonuses



Purpose: The Selected Reserve Incentive Program (SRIP) helps leadership and personnel managers meet and sustain ARNG readiness requirements. The program provides recruiting and retention incentives to help fill critical shortages. Incentives are used when other less costly methods have proven inadequate or ineffective, and only when necessary to support unit and skill staffing requirements.

Several issues with the Incentives program have manifested over the years. All have significantly impacted Soldiers lives and have become a major complaint item. As a result of the proliferation of bonus issues and concerns, I contacted SSG Alicia Hollis. SSG Hollis is the NGTN JFHQ Incentive Manager Assistant and is considered an expert in her field. She discussed with me the three most common and avoidable problems in the bonus program. If you have recently signed a bonus contract or if you are in an MOS which has an incentive bonus attached to it, you might want to take a moment and review this information in order to avoid some of these common problems. We will review three of them in this article.

The most common incentive contract issue is the inaccuracy of the documentation. It is vital that you review all information being submitted on your incentive contract. This includes inconsistent dates. When you place fictitious dates, approximate dates, or "close enough for government work" dates, you can be guaranteed that those discrepancies will be noticed and will immediately halt your incentive contract processing. Such inaccuracies indicate potential fraud and require an immediate in-

quiry. Be sure to use the most recent information and bonus addendums available. If you have a question, email NGTNincentivemanagers@ng.army.mil. Using out of date bonus addendums will also stop the processing of your incentive contract and require extra time and research to ensure that the information is correct. There is no excuse for not having the proper signature of the witnessing official. When the Incentive application is being filled out, the witnessing official is present at that moment. There's no time like the present to get that signature so you can get your money. Lastly, the DA 4836 must match the bonus addendum. If they do not match, that will immediately stop the incentive contract process. That is why it is imperative to have the most recent addendums available in order to expedite the process.

The next area of concern is when the Soldier has been moved to a different position such as an MOS change (not as in career progression, etc.) and that MOS change violates his/her incentive contract according to AR 135-7, Chapter 1, Policy, Section 1-4. When you change to another MOS, you may lose that incentive bonus and may be subject to recoupment. Therefore, you will need to think about how all things are impacted before you decide to change your MOS or unit. Another problem receiving attention are Soldiers sitting as excess in certain position. Soldiers sitting in an excess 'slot' are not authorized incentive. This is based on AR 135-7 Chapter 1, Section 1-15 **Suspension of SRIP incentives**. It is highly recommended that you read AR 135-7 Chapters 1 and 2 and AR 601-210 and become familiar with

what things can impact your bonus. According to AR 135-7, Chapter 1, Section 1-18, **Recoupment**, the condition under which recoupment action is warranted and the computation for the amount of such recoupment is outlined for each incentive within the appropriate chapters of AR 135-7. The Office of the Comptroller of the Army will issue specific collection procedures for the recoupment of incentive payments. This effort takes the collection action out of the hands of the TN ARNG and puts it at the federal level. Reversing this will require documented proof that the collection is improper. That is why Commanders are responsible for initiating recoupment procedures whenever a soldier's entitlement to an incentive is terminated and recoupment is indicated in this regulation. If you do not have any documentation proving otherwise, the collection will proceed as required by law and regulation.

The final problem most prevalent is the Soldier who has lost their contract. Your incentive contract is one of the most valuable pieces of information you could ever possess. It is recommended that you have a copy of it in a secure location, an electronic copy, and a copy of it in your personnel file. One way you can ensure that it will be available in your permanent records is to have your contract placed electronically in IPERMS. Although your unit should have a copy of your incentive contract available, that is not always the case. You are responsible for your own records and you should take the initiative to protect and preserve that important information. That is why it cannot be stressed enough that every Soldier should keep a copy of all documentation for personal records. This will become invaluable when the unit cannot

find your contract or there is a dispute over the payable amount and terms of your incentive contract.

In conclusion, issues regarding the inaccuracy of documented information in incentive contract, the use of out of date bonus addendums when filling out an incentive contract, and not having the proper signature of the witnessing official are all avoidable problems and require attention to detail. Remember, an incentive contract is a legal document and should be handled with the proper level of care it deserves. The incentive addendum is not valid if signed after the execution date of Department of Defense Enlistment/Reenlistment document Armed Forces of the United Reenlistment (DA Form 4), Department of the Army Oath of Extension of Extension or reenlistment (DA Form 4836), or Oath of Office (NGB Form 337) and/or if not signed and dated by an enlisting/ witnessing official and a service representative at the time the document is executed. Doing this will help you dodge the IG Bullet and instill confidence and peace of mind.

REFERENCES:

AR 601-210, Active & Reserve Component Enlistment Program

AR 135-7, Army National Guard & Army Reserve Incentive Programs

AR 600-7, Selective Reserve Incentive Programs

Lt Col Ben Welch

Temporary Profile and the APFT

It is almost that time of year again where most units administer their annual APFT. Although the three-event APFT will soon change, as it stands, the three-event PT test is still in effect. Although commanders may administer the APFT as often as they wish, Reserve Component Soldiers are required to take the APFT as least once each calendar year, while Active Guard Reserve (AGR) Soldiers are required to take the APFT at least twice each calendar year.

Although the majority of our Soldiers are able to participate in all three events of the APFT, some Soldiers have a permanent profile that prohibits them from participating in a specific event and/or that allows them to participate in an alternate aerobic event. Conversely, other Soldiers have a temporary profile that prohibits them from participating in a specific event. Temporary profiles are intended for Soldiers recovering from disease, illness or injury. A temporary profile is given if the condition is considered temporary, or if the correction or treatment of the condition is medically advisable and the correction will result in a higher physical capacity.

Violation of AR 40-501 occurs when Soldiers fail to follow up with their profiling officer for extension of their temporary medical profile, as needed; or Soldiers intentionally renew their temporary profiles to avoid having a permanent profile on their record; or they deliberately use successive temporary profiles to avoid taking the APFT.

How often can I renew a temporary profile? An initial temporary profile may be given up to 90 days. If the Soldier's medical condition has not improved after 90 days, the Soldier must be medically reevaluated for an extension of the temporary profile. A temporary profile may be extended for a maximum of 6 months from the initial start date by the profiling officer. Temporary profiles exceeding 6 months duration for the same medical condition must be referred to a specialist for that medical condition.

What happens after the twelfth month on a temporary profile? If continuation of a temporary medical profile is necessary after a 12 month period, the Soldier must be evaluated for a permanent profile. In no case will Soldiers carry a temporary profile that has been extended for more than 12 months. Exceptions to this restriction can only be granted by a medical treatment facility (MTF) commander or the designated senior physician approval authority.

Can a Soldier on a temporary profile take the APFT? It depends on your medical condition and the restrictions listed on your DA Form 3349. According to AR 350-1, I-24e (4), Soldiers on a permanent profile or extended temporary profile (greater than 90 days) must take a record test that includes an aerobic event.

NOTE: Soldiers must be medically cleared by their physician.

Are Soldiers over 55 required to take the APFT? Soldiers 55 and older have the option of taking the three event APFT or the alternate APFT. An alternate APFT is currently defined as pushups, sit-ups, and an alternate aerobic even. Soldiers 60 and older have the option of not taking the APFT; however, they must maintain a personal physical fitness program approved by a physician and remain within Army height and weight standards.

What happens if I fail the APFT? In accordance with AR 600-8-2, Soldiers who fail a record APFT for the first time or fail to take a record APFT within the required period will be flagged. Units are not authorized to delay initiating flagging actions for Soldiers who fail the APFT, even if the commander authorizes the Soldier to retake the APFT the following month. When initiating or removing a flag, these actions must be completed in a timely manner. Although commanders may allow Soldiers to retake the APFT as soon as the Soldier and the commander feel the Soldier is ready, Reserve Component

Soldiers will be tested no later than 180 days following the initial failure. Whereas, AGR Soldiers will be tested no later than 90 days following the APFT failure. Consecutive APFT failures can jeopardize your military career.



INTERESTING FACTS Did you know that - - -

1. Items such as nasal strips, weight lifting gloves, back braces, and elastic bandages are only authorized if they have been prescribed as part of the Soldier's medical profile.
2. A minimum of four Soldiers are required to administer an APFT: OIC or NCOIC, an event supervisor, an event scorer, and support personnel.
3. If a Soldier is ill or becomes injured during the APFT and fails to achieve the minimum passing score, he or she is considered a test failure, and should therefore be flagged.
4. Commanders may administer the APFT as often as they wish.
5. Postpartum Soldiers are exempt from the APFT and from record weigh-in for 180 days following termination of pregnancy.
6. Soldiers will be administered a record APFT no earlier than six months upon returning from deployment.

REFERENCES:
AR 40-501 Standards of Medical Fitness
AR 350-1 Army Training And Leader Development
TC 3-22.20 Army Physical Readiness Training

MSG Sophia Kitchen

Standards

The foundation of all military branches in the United States is the firm adherence to standards. Standards are the prescribed method of doing things and are the basis of all that we do while in the uniformed service.

Whether it's the proper wearing of the uniform, as set forth in AR 670-1 or APFT guidelines of TC 3-22.20, standards provide each Soldier and leader a common base upon which to support their actions. Standards are enforced to ensure a sense of uniformity and commonality among all Soldiers. Without standards there could be no basis upon which to judge merit, or by which to discipline. Without standards the military would essentially lose its functionality.

It is well known that the Tennessee National Guard, whether it is Army or Air, is a different organization than it was several years ago. High OP-TEMPO's and short dwell times between deployments tend to overshadow practices we once saw as the norm. In times of mobilizations, standards are often amended to suit the fast pace of being deployed. While this may seem to go against the very nature of the standard it is a fact that must be accepted at all levels. It is the duty of leaders to stay current in their knowledge-set, to adapt, and to enforce a new standard with the same insistence with which they enforced the old.

Regardless of rank or position it is our responsibility as Soldiers to make sure that the standards are upheld. As Officers and NCOs, we are entrusted to keep the National Guard on point and to make sure the bar is set both high and level for each and every Soldier. As junior enlisted Soldiers, it is your responsibility to demand that the standard be applied evenly across the board and to not accept the "it's always been that way" response. It is important for leaders to

exemplify the standard to their subordinates, and show your peers and subordinates what right looks like.

As an NCO, I am a firm believer that the NCO should be the constant example of the standard in action. As a Noncommissioned Officer in the Inspectors General Office, I have the unique opportunity to visit units and armories across the great state of Tennessee and take note of things that work well and things that do not. I tend to focus on the job of "fixing things" because we don't need to "change" a whole lot, just simply fix what has been broken or forgotten. As leaders enforcing standards, our Soldiers should know that we don't just make this stuff up. Soldiers should know that we do not just blindly order them around. Decisions, and on the spot corrections, should be based on something higher. Soldiers and Airmen should have no doubt that their squad leaders, platoon sergeants, ISGs, or Commanders meet and uphold the standard. I hold Soldiers to the standard because, once upon a time, I was a member of the junior enlisted ranks, and I was held to the same standard.

I find myself forgetting the standard on occasion or being asked "why" when I make a correction. I hate to admit this, but many times the first response that enters my mind is "because I said so, just do it". Luckily that response doesn't normally exit my mouth, as it is also our job to educate our peers and subordinates. To help the readers of this article with the "why", I have included some common standards violations I have seen on more than one occasion in the not too distant past. I've also included a shortened standard used for enforcement.

Hands in pockets while in uniform: AR 670-1, Chp 1, Section 1-9a(3), While in uniform, personnel will not place their

hands in their pockets, except momentarily to place or retrieve objects.

Fingernail polish and lipstick for females in uniform: AR 670-1, Chp 1, Section 1-8, b(1)(b), Females will not wear shades of lipstick and nail polish that distinctly contrast with their complexion, that distract from the uniform, or are extreme. Some examples of extreme colors include, but are not limited to, purple, gold, blue, black, white, bright (fire-engine) red, khaki, camouflage colors, and fluorescent colors. Soldiers will not apply designs to nails or apply two-tone or multi-tone colors to nails.

Carrying or wearing civilian gym bags or civilian rucksacks while in uniform: ALARACT 140/2007, amended AR 670-1, 1-10e, to authorize wear of black, ACU universal patterns and foliage green bags while in uniform. The bags can't have any logos and the contents cannot be visible. Soldiers may carry these bags by hand, on one shoulder using a shoulder strap, or over both shoulders using both shoulder straps. If the Soldier opts to carry a bag over one shoulder, the bag must be carried on the same side of the body as the shoulder strap; therefore, Soldiers may not carry the bag slung across the body with the strap over the opposite shoulder.

Wear of identification tags and security badges: AR 670-1, 1-16b. Personnel will not wear security identification badges outside the area for which they are required. As important as standards are to our organization, leaders must realize that not every Soldier or Airmen will attach the same importance to the standards. The standard will probably be questioned when enforced, and limits will be pushed. Soldiers and Airmen will not always accept the explanation of why things are the way

"Not Just Because I Said So"

they are. This is why the standard is one of the most important tools any Officer, NCO, or junior enlisted can use. The standard is not subjective and is black and white, spelled out in manuals any soldier may access.

As I stated earlier, I get the unique opportunity to visit different armories across the state. I try and make on the spot corrections whether I am visiting a unit or walking down the hall at JFHQ in Nashville. I feel it's my duty as a Non-Commissioned Officer in the United States Army and Tennessee Army National Guard to uphold and enforce the standard prescribed in numerous regulations and policies.

The Army standard was put in place to level the playing field and to give each and every Soldier a common goal to strive toward. We must ensure that every Soldier appreciates the fact that they belong to a values-based organization with rules, protocol, and standards to be met and surpassed. Each Soldier must realize that, while we are all unique individuals, we must each comply with a standard which makes us all, in essence, the same. These ideals which make the Army the organization it is may seem out of place, in our nation's modern "me-first society", but they are the backbone of the most successful organized military history has ever known.

MSG David Malone

Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory Participation

Our office has fielded several calls recently dealing with satisfactory versus unsatisfactory participation and how to reduce unsat participation. Basically it boils down to three issues, Soldier not knowing or understanding the Command policy on unsatisfactory performance, Soldiers/Units not updating personal information, and Commands not effectively applying the policy.

Let's begin with a few definitions to all get on the same page.

1. Satisfactory Participation (AR 135-91, 3-1, a. and b.):

3-1. Satisfactory participation in troop program units(TPU)

TPU Soldiers are required to participate in at least 48 scheduled inactive duty training (IDT)s, and not less than 14 days, exclusive of travel time, of annual training.

a. Attending all scheduled inactive duty training (IDT)s unless excused by the unit commander or granted a leave of absence. Soldiers present at a scheduled inactive duty training (IDT) will not receive credit for attendance unless they are wearing the prescribed uniform. They must also present a neat and Soldierly appearance and perform assigned duties in a satisfactory manner as determined by the unit commander. Soldiers who do not receive credit for attendance for any of the reasons noted above will be charged with an unexcused absence (chap 4, sec III).

b. Attending and satisfactorily completing the entire period of AT(Annual Training) unless excused by proper authority

2. Unsatisfactory Participation (AR 135-91, 4-12 b. (1)-(3) :

4-12. Conditions of unexcused absence

b. Soldiers will be charged with unsatisfactory participation when without proper authority they—

- (1) Accrue in any one-year period a total of nine or more unexcused absences from scheduled inactive duty training (IDT)s.*
- (2) Fail to obtain a unit of assignment during a leave of absence granted per section IV.*
- (3) Fail to attend or complete AT.*

3. Excused Absence (AR 135-91 Section II paragraphs 4-8 through 4-11 and Section IV, Leave of Absence):

4-8. Conditions of excused absence

All situations not specifically identified in this paragraph or section V are considered unexcused absences. Absence from scheduled inactive duty training (IDT)s, training, or AT may be excused. Such absences may be excused when sickness, injury, or some other circumstance beyond the Soldier's control caused the absence. At the discretion of the appropriate commander (para 4-2)

4. Unexcused Absence (AR 135-91, Section III 4-12 through 4-17):

4-12. Conditions of unexcused absence

a. An unexcused absence is any absence not covered in sections II and IV.

5. Authority to Excuse Absences (AR 135-91 Chapter 4, Section I, Para 4-2):

4-2. Authority

a. The unit commander or acting commander is authorized to excuse absences and authorize equivalent training (ET). This authority will not be further delegated.

These definitions require that commanders at all levels read the regulation and understand the full range of possible interpretation. This is a good point for establishing a unit level policy covering excused/unexcused absences and participation.

Besides developing a Policy for absences/participation that fall within the regulations, there are a number of further actions the unit can take to ensure that Soldiers understand the requirements.

Few Soldiers receive a formal class on Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory performance until they are in violation of the policy. It is imperative that Commanders conduct such briefing at least on an annual basis if not more frequently depending on size of unit and turn over. New Soldiers should have a class or counseling session within 60 days of coming into the unit from their NCO support chain.

After the first violation, it is incumbent upon the unit to contact the Soldier as soon as possible. In some cases the unit cannot contact the Soldier because the telephone number and or address are not current. Most units only update alert rosters annually or if the Soldier initiates a change. This problem can be addressed by having Soldier review personnel information at least quarterly, if not monthly. Ensure the Soldiers know they have the responsibility to update their personal information to the unit. This can be accomplished easily without distracting from training.

Most Soldiers, particularly young Soldiers, utilize social networking sites, texting and email for correspondence. These types of lines of communication offer commanders and unit additional avenues to stay in contact with Soldiers. Be sure to follow guidelines established by J6 concerning proper use of social networking and other internet options.

Conversely, ensure Soldiers have good contact numbers for the unit. Post on unit bulletin boards and on drill cards. This should include unit phone, fax and webpage if applicable as well as chain of command contact points. Explain to Soldiers the appropriate circumstances in which they can call chain of command personal numbers.

Non Prior Service (NPS) Soldiers coming into the TNARNG go through the Recruit Sustainment Program (RSP). Units are notified of new Soldiers by the RSP Teams and are asked to send a representative to receive the new Soldier once IET and AIT are completed. If unit cannot send a rep then a unit specific packet should be put together to give to the new Soldier by RSP personnel. This packet, whether delivered by unit rep or by RSP personnel, should include all pertinent information about the unit. Drill calendar, contact numbers, location map, unit policy letters, required documents, and any other information deemed necessary.

Occasionally all the best preparation is for naught and Soldiers fail to notify units when they miss drill or Annual Training. When this occurs, commanders have the responsibility to counsel Soldiers prior to requesting separation. AR 135-178, Ch 2, paragraph 2-4 covers this requirement:

2-4. Counseling and rehabilitation

a. General. Commanders must make reasonable efforts to identify Soldiers who are likely candidates for early separation and to improve their chances for retention through counseling, retraining, and rehabilitation before starting separation action. These actions are prerequisite for initiating action to separate a Soldier.

b. Counseling. When a Soldier's conduct or performance approaches the point where a continuation of such conduct or performance would warrant initiating separation action for one of the reasons in a above, the Soldier will be counseled by a responsible person about his or her deficiencies at least once before initiating separation action.

(2) Each counseling session will be recorded in writing (to include date and by whom counseled).

Most units comply with this requirement but disregard the intent which is to try and bring the Soldier back into compliance. Often it is easier for a unit to discharge a Soldier than to try to rehabilitate that Soldier. This is a disservice to the Soldier and the TNARNG that spent the time, effort, and money (particularly in today's budget constraints) to train the Soldier.

REFERENCES:

- AR 135-91, Service Obligations, Fulfillment, Participation Requirements and Enforcement Procedures, 1 February 2005, Chapter 4.
- AR 630-10, Absence Without Leave, Desertion, and Administration of Personnel Involved in Civilian Court Proceedings, 13 January 2006, Chapter 5.
- NGR 350-1, Army National Guard Training, 4 August 2009, Chapter 3, Table 3-3, Paragraphs 3-9, 3-14 through 3-18

MAJ Doug Gale

Family Support

Most of us are familiar with the phrase “Show Me The Money!” uttered by Cuba Gooding, Jr.’s character in the popular 1996 film *Jerry Maguire*. Similar phrases are heard all too often in your friendly neighborhood Inspectors General Office. Unfortunately, in the context of the IG office, this phrase does not result in a multi-million dollar sporting contract as it did in the movie. When the IG office receives this call, it is because a spouse is alleging that their service member is not fulfilling his or her financial obligations to their family. Luckily, with proper planning and education, this call doesn’t have to be made.

Today’s Soldiers have challenging family support situations. Fortunately, there is a regulation to help. AR 608-99, Family Support, Child Custody, and Paternity, sets forth DA policy, responsibilities, and procedures on financial support of family members, as well as other similar matters. As far as the Army National Guard is concerned, this regulation applies to traditional Guardsmen on active duty (Title 10) for 30 days or more and Guardsmen on active duty for 30 days or more pursuant to orders under Title 32 (AGR). However, the punitive provisions of this regulation apply to the former category of members but do not apply to the latter category.



In a nutshell, Soldiers are **REQUIRED** to provide financial support to family members. Note the word used is ‘required’ not ‘encouraged.’ A Soldier’s failure to provide financial support to family members on a monthly or otherwise continuing basis is a violation of this lawful general regulation and is punishable under the UCMJ even if the lack of support has occurred prior to an inquiry or before the Soldier has been individually counseled. AR 608-99 gives battalion commanders the authority to relieve a Soldier of the responsibilities under specific conditions; however, marital infidelity is not one of those instances. In addition to mandating proper support, the regulation also outlines that Soldiers are expected to keep reasonable contact with family members and others who have a legitimate need of communication with the Soldier in order to ensure proper coordination of

support and to minimize the total number of inquiries to unit commanders and other Army officials (such as the IG).

Not only does this regulation give support guidelines for Soldiers, it specifically lays out requirements for commanders when presented with a complaint of non-support. There are many guidelines for commanders in the regulation, but one that is most often violated is the 14 day rule. This rule states that the company or battalion commander of the Soldier against whom family non-support is being alleged will reply with complete and accurate information in a timely manner to all inquiries within 14 days of the commander’s receipt of the inquiry.

There is no easy answer to all family support situations. Each case has its own complications. AR 608-99 can be helpful, but like many regulations, it can often be difficult to decipher if an individual’s case leans toward the more complicated side of the family support aisle. Therefore, whenever dealing with such an issue, commanders and Soldiers are encouraged to seek guidance from their assigned Staff Judge Advocate.

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Inspector General

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About The Inspector General:

- Acts as impartial fact-finder and honest broker
- Is a problem solver; recommending solutions to Commanders
- Maintains open communication through non-attribution, but cannot guarantee absolute confidentiality
- Participates in regular staff planning and functions
- Shall not recommend adverse or punitive action
- Does not compare units for favorable or unfavorable recognition (inspections)

IG Mission:

Extend the Eyes, Ears, Voice and Conscience of The Adjutant General. Identify problems or Issues; determine their Root Causes; teach systems, processes and procedures; identify responsibility for corrective action and promote and spread innovative ideas.

IG Vision:

Professional, competent special staff element that lives by the Army Values, has fun and gets the job done while demonstrating caring and concern in every action.

Before You Contact the Inspector General:

- Be sure you have a problem, not just a peeve (are the cooks turning out lousy chow or was it just one bad meal?)
- Give your chain of command a chance to solve the problem (many problems must be addressed to the chain of command for resolution anyway)
- If IG assistance is needed, contact your local IG first. (IG's at higher commands will normally refer the case to the local IG for action)
- Be honest and don't provide misleading information (IGs will discover the truth quickly in most cases and there are penalties for knowingly providing false information)
- Keep in mind that IGs are not policy makers (if a policy is flawed, you can submit proposed changes on a DA Form 2028)

We're on the Web
<https://tn.ngb.army.mil/tnmilitary/IG/Default.htm>

