



IG Newsletter

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From the IG:

By LTC JAMES KANZENBACH

This is the second issue of the IG newsletter with the modified format. We now use an info paper style based more on specific scenarios. The intent is to provide you with items of relevance to your daily activities and be more useful to you. We have based these articles on actual cases we've worked here at Fort Polk.

A note of caution however. In the last quarter, we've worked well over 450 cases, and no 2 were the same. Each has its own unique twist and special circumstances. The issues we provide for you here should not be used as a "cookie-cutter" answer to a specific question or issue. If you have any doubts or questions, please do not hesitate to call for advice or guidance.

Bottom Line: If you're doing the "Right" thing, at the "Right" time, and for the "Right" reasons, you'll never go wrong. Use your extended staff as a Command tool (SJA, IG, EO, G-Staff, Directorates, etc).

As always, we openly solicit input from you, the commander. Let us know if there is a topic or subject you'd like us to cover in future issues. We have designed this newsletter primarily for the Company/Troop/Battery command team, but please distribute freely to subordinate leaders and soldiers.

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What is the policy about stabilization between no-notice deployments?

By SFC WARD MILLER

AR 614-30 references DA message, 231006Z Feb 98. The purpose for the policy is to ensure a level of fairness in the treatment of soldiers placed on TDY/TCS for lengthy periods of time: to allow soldiers time to reacquaint themselves with their families; provide time to readjust to home station living and their working environment, and reward soldiers for arduous periods of duty separated from family members. Soldiers placed on TDY/TCS as individuals or in unit set, for a period of at least 30 consecutive days, participating in the type of "No-Notice Deployments" are guaranteed a period of stabilization equal to one month of stabilization for each month of TDY/TCS. The first general officer in the soldier's chain of command may terminate the stabilization based on immediate and critical operational needs.

What is the requirement for awarding and wearing the APFT badge?

By SFC MATT WEEGENS

IAW Message, HQDA, DAMTO-TR, 072024z Dec 98, soldiers who score 270 or above, with a minimum of 90 points per event on the APFT, and meet body fat standards will be awarded the Physical Fitness Badge for physical fitness excellence. Soldiers are required to meet the above criteria each record test to continue to wear the badge.

DISCLAIMER:

The Secretary of the Army has determined that the publication of this periodical is necessary in the transaction of the public business as required by law of the Department. The views and opinions expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the Department of the Army or of the command, but wherever possible, are supported by referenced Army regulations, policies, or procedures.

This is my first duty station, I moved here from my home of record, am I entitled to a dislocation allowance?

By MAJ MICHAEL SIMPSON

No, IAW the Joint Federal Travel Regulation (JFTR) paragraph U5630-C1, there is no DLA entitlement when it's your first move coming on active duty from your home (or the place where you entered active duty) to your first permanent duty station. Here are some other interesting notes concerning DLA:

-DLA is only intended to partially reimburse relocation expenses not otherwise reimbursed and probably will not reimburse all of your relocation expenses.

-Ordinarily members are entitled to only one DLA payment per fiscal year.

-There is no DLA entitlement when the leaving active duty.

-DLA is based on your grade and dependency status on the effective date of your PCS.

If you still have questions, please contact your local finance office.

How many days am I authorized to out-process this installation?

By SFC RICHARD GREGG

It depends. AR 600-8 101, paragraph 3.3c (9), states "soldiers will be given a minimum of 3 working days to out-process unless it is locally determined that soldiers can out-process sooner". Currently, most units on Fort Polk allow 10 working days to clear post. Other factors, however, may affect the number of days that a soldier is authorized. Depending on the type of out-processing, a soldier may be authorized permissive TDY. For example, when it comes to retirement, soldiers are authorized 20 days PTDY to facilitate transitioning into civilian life for house and job hunting. In addition, there may be other issues that could affect the number of PTDY days granted to out-process the installation. Seek assistance from the local out-processing center for eligibility requirements.

What is the policy concerning the wearing of BDUs off post?

By MRS NANCY MANTOOTH

Command Policy Memorandum #S-6, JRTC and Fort Polk Uniform Standards and Dress Code authorizes wear of the BDU off post with the following clarifications:

- Uniforms will be complete, clean, neat, and presentable (no muddy boots, no camouflage).

- Soldiers will not consume alcoholic beverages in off-post restaurants or patronize bars while in the BDU.

- BDUs are inappropriate for official social functions off post.

- BDUs are not authorized for travel via commercial airlines or other commercial means.

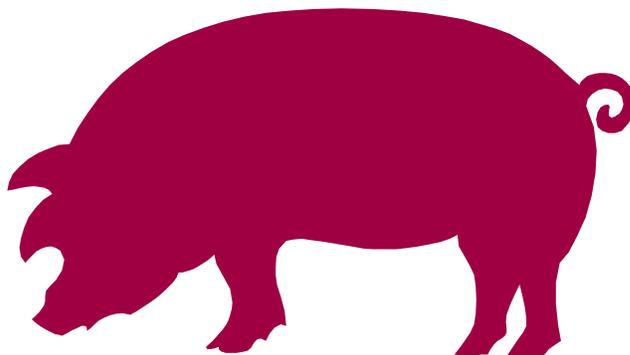
- Soldiers will not wear facial camouflage into any on- or off-post establishment.

I failed my PT Test; do I have to be removed from promotable status?

By SFC TOMMY EDWARDS

IAW MILPER Message 00-70, the following reasons, among others, require immediate removal of a soldier's promotable status if they meet the cutoff score but have not been promoted: Overweight, Court Martial, local or DA imposed Bar to Reenlistment, failure to maintain promotion points, refuse to attend or fails NCOES, fails a record PT Test, erroneous selection, or reduction in grade.

Soldiers must be informed of the removal action in writing. To remove a soldier who has not met the cutoff score from a local promotion standing list, a removal board must be conducted IAW AR 600-8-19, paragraph 3.30.



Am I exempt from duties that interfere with my off-duty courses, since my commander signed my request for tuition assistance?

By SFC MARTHA McCLELAND

No, the only program that exempts soldiers from assigned duties while they pursue their civilian education, is the Education Reenlistment Option.

When the commander signs the tuition assistance form, he/she is certifying that the soldier is NOT FLAGGED and that the anticipated duties will permit class attendance.

Provided a valid requirement exists, commanders are not obligated to allow soldiers attend after-duty courses based on having signed the tuition assistance form. However, whenever possible, commanders are encouraged to make every effort to ensure soldiers attend classes. Commanders should also ensure soldiers are cognizant of their academic and professional responsibilities involving tuition assistance funded courses. For more information on tuition assistance, contact your education center.

Why can the Magnolia House kick me out after 6 weeks?

By SFC JAMES JACKS

The Magnolia house must comply with AR 210-50, paragraph 3-44, which states, "For personnel neither on TDY nor traveling as guests of the Armed Forces, the limit for Unaccompanied Personnel Housing (TDY) and Guest House occupancy is 30 days, except in cases of personal hardship or military necessity. Under circumstances of personal hardship or military necessity, the installation commander may grant extensions on a case-by-case basis".

A soldier in my command received a DWI and had his driving privileges revoked. How can I get an exception to policy to allow him to drive a military vehicle for training?

By LTC JAMES KANZENBACH

Sounds easy, but it's a complicated issue. First, the Installation Commander (CG), has the discretionary authority to administratively suspend or revoke driving privileges on the installation (AR 190-5). The intent in most cases is to restrict POV driving privileges only, and has delegated the suspension/revocation authority of military driving privileges to the Company Commander. Bottom Line: the commander does not need an exception to policy, but he should seriously consider additional measures, to include counseling, remedial driving training, and rehabilitation programs, as appropriate.

However, if the soldier's State has suspended or revoked his license, he cannot be issued a military license during the suspension period (AR 385-55). This includes military as well as POV driving. The Department of Transportation (DOT) maintains the National Drivers Register (NDR) at a central driver records facility that contains information on drivers whose civilian licenses have been denied, suspended, or revoked (AR 600-55). A licensing official should have ready access to this database to determine the validity of a soldier's license.