



IG Newsletter

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When can a Commander award the Physical Fitness Badge?

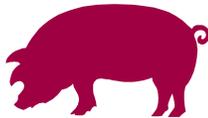
By MRS NANCY MANTOOTH

DA message 241807Z Mar 99, subject: Implementation of New APFT Standards states, "Soldiers that 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." The badge can only be awarded after a "for record" test, not a diagnostic, competitive, or course requirement test.

Does paying a spouse's car payment count as support?

By SFC WARD MILLER

Maybe. IAW AR 608-99, para 2.7 (e) "financial support in kind, such as payments made relating to non-government housing expenses such as automobile loans requires the written approval of the supported family member."



A Special Note to LTC Commanders

By LTC JAMES KANZENBACH

Each month, the FPIG conducts monthly Quick-Look Inspections (QLIs) of various quality of life and soldier issues. The past quarter we covered unit OIPs, Driver's Training, and JODSFs. Each identified significant problems in the inspected area. That's not to say all units are failing to meet established standards, but the fact is, many are. In each area, standards varied widely, often within the same command.

Our inspection program was never designed or intended to be a "Gotcha". Our final reports, briefed to the CG and distributed to Commanders, have always compiled data and identified trends instead of specific units. We send our reports to you for the express purpose of informing you of systemic or recurring problems we find in units like yours. It's a classic example of "if the shoe fits....."

Every inspection team conducts an outbrief with the inspected unit. Usually this is with the staff member who is responsible for the particular item inspected. Once we complete the final report of inspection, we send it via e-mail to all MSC and BN/SQDN Commanders. We ask you to review these reports with your staff and use them to help you identify problems within your unit. As always, the FPIG is willing to assist you in your efforts. Our common goal is to improve the morale and efficiency of your unit.

If for some reason you have not received the latest QLI reports, contact the FPIG at 531-2100/7878 and we'll be happy to forward a copy to you via e-mail or hard copy distribution.

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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.

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I was told that I'm pulling CQ duty tonight, can my 1SG run this type of "hey you" duty roster?

By SFC WARD MILLER

No. IAW AR 220-45 para 1-1 (b) "duty rosters [DA 6] are kept for recording the duty performed by each person in an organization in order to make an equitable determination of duty assignments. A separate roster generally will be maintained for each duty requiring the detail of individuals. All assignments to detail, except authorized special duty details, normally will be made in accordance with applicable rosters." What this means is that if the duty is recurring (SDO, CQ, guard duty, headcount, etc.) then a DA Form 6 should be used, however, if it is an unexpected requirement then the commander can "hey you" to complete the mission.

The Commander authorized a single soldier to live off post. Does he have to maintain a room in the barracks?

By MRS NANCY MANTOOTH

No. Command Policy Memorandum #S-3 - Single Enlisted Soldiers' Living Standards in the Barracks, dated 31 August 2000 states, "Single soldiers, staff sergeant and below, are not entitled to basic allowance for quarters (BAQ), but may live off post at the commander's discretion and are not required to maintain a place in the barracks."

However, should a single soldier desire to return to the barracks, the Commander must provide him with living space according to his rank.

Can I use my HMMWV to transport my soldiers to the mini-mall for lunch after we complete command maintenance?

By MAJ MICHAEL SIMPSON

No. IAW Policy Memorandum L-12, "Tactical motor vehicles will not be used for transportation to civilian establishments, any AAFES function, or the commissary unless it is required for official business." Going to the mini-mall for lunch is not "official business".

A soldier is doing an intra-post move. Can he be forced to pay for an AAFES cleaning team to clear his quarters?

By SFC JAMES JACKS

The answer is YES. The Fort Polk Housing Office will give you 15 days to prepare for your final inspection, at your current house. If you fail to clear they will charge you for an AAFES cleaning team. Army Regulation 210-50 states that you cannot be signed for two quarters at one time. This is why the Housing Office will charge you; they cannot have another family waiting on you.

A 1st-term single soldier gave up custody of her child to enlist. Her mother can't take care of the child now. Can she get quarters?

By SFC MATT WEEGENS

Probably not. First there is an issue of fraudulent enlistment that must be addressed by the commander. IAW AR 635-200 para 7.17b(8), the commander has the authority to chapter for fraudulent enlistment if the soldier regains custody of the children. AR 601-210 para 2.9d(3) says, "They will (unless they can show cause, such as death or incapacity of the person who has custody) be processed for separation (involuntary) for fraudulent enlistment." The soldier must prove it was not their intent to regain custody.

Soldier received 14 days extra duty. Before soldier completed extra duty, he received quarters. Does he have to make up the days he missed due to quarters?

By SFC MARTHA McCLELAND

IAW AR 27-10, para, 3.21.b, in those cases where the execution of the punishment legitimately must be delayed, the execution of punishment should begin immediately thereafter. Except as provided in paragraph 3-21c, the delay in execution of punishment should not exceed 30 days. Interruptions during punishment need to be dealt with creatively to comply with both the doctor's orders and the need to enforce UCMJ punishment but will not exceed the stated term of punishment.

Can a Commander stop a fully qualified (but marginal) soldier from reenlisting?

By SFC MATT WEEGENS

Yes. IAW AR 601-280 (para 8.1a), a commander who wishes to disapprove a request for reenlistment or extension for a soldier who is fully qualified, must concurrently submit a bar to reenlistment. The soldier must be counseled as to why the bar is imposed. The soldier will also be advised exactly what is expected in order to overcome the bar and be given explicit timetables to overcome the reasons for the bar (AR 601-280 para 8.2b(2)).

Can a soldier receive separation pay after being barred from reenlistment for no Family Care Plan?

By SFC RICHARD GREGG

It depends. If a soldier has the equivalent of between 6 and 20 years active service, he should receive some separation pay. If the soldier is separated under Honorable conditions, he receives full separation pay. If the separation is a General under Honorable conditions, the soldier is authorized to receive half separation pay. DA Instruction 1332.29, dtd 20 Jun 91, provides instructions on separation pay. Further assistance can be obtained by contacting the Director for Military Pay Separation/Reenlistment Division at DSN 699-2159 or (317) 510-2159.

A soldier received automatic promotion to E4. Soldier is overweight, but not flagged. Command decided to submit a flag to revoke his promotion. Can the commander backdate this flag and revoke the promotion?

By SFC MARTHA McCLELAND

Yes, AR 600-8-19, Enlisted Promotions and Reductions, dated 1 May 2000, para 2.5, a., states that promotion to PFC and SPC is **NOT AUTOMATIC** and requires the unit commander's recommendation.

Although the soldier was not flagged, his overweight status made him ineligible for promotion. Given the soldier's ineligibility, the command must correct the error.

A Pay Raise - for Dependents as Well

By LTC JAMES KANZENBACH

As you probably already know, soldiers receive a 3.7% pay raise effective 1 Jan 01. This raise affected all portions of a soldier's entitlements, including the BAH. A good deal right? We all get a raise, including dependants receiving support IAW AR 608-99. Soldiers in your command who are providing this support are obligated to pass this pay raise to their family members.

Remember, a soldier's obligation is to provide support according to the BAH Table II rates, not local rates. For example, a SFC/E7 who recently arrived at Fort Polk receives \$535 monthly for BAH. His obligation for support of dependants in 2000 was \$619 monthly. With the increase in BAH rates the amount for 2001 is \$641, an increase of \$22. It may not seem like much, but the fact is, the raise goes to support of dependents. Not into the pocket of the soldier.

If you've worked a non-support issue before, you realize that each has its' own set of circumstances and anomalies. Strongly recommend you "CYA", or consult your attorney to determine proper payment amounts. The FPIG office has compiled an easy to read chart comparing Fort Polk BAH with the Army 2001 BAH Table II rates. Call 531-2100 or e-mail us and we'll be happy to send you a copy.

Will a dependent spouse be reimbursed for expenses when accompanying a soldier to a medical TDY destination?

By SFC RICHARD GREGG

When an active duty soldier travels to another hospital on medical TDY orders for care and is unable to travel by themselves, a non-medical attendant is authorized to assist the soldier. A dependent spouse can be the non-medical attendant for the soldier. BJACH will fund the travel and the attendant will be reimbursed for transportation, meals, and lodging while in the attendant mode for inpatient care. The unit will fund travel and per diem for outpatient care. There is no reimbursement for referral to a civilian facility within the local community.

Further information may be obtained from MAJ Cade, Chief, Clinical Care Branch at 531-3244 or refer to the JFTR for further guidance.