

IG Bulletin



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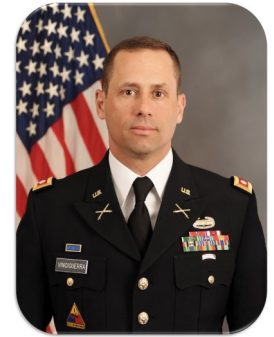
Inspector General Observations

By LTC Gregory S. Vinciguerra, Command Inspector General

With election activities in full swing, and we prepare to choose our next Commander in Chief, the question arises as to how, as military members, we can share our thoughts and participate in the political process. There are several sets of rules that assist to protect the integrity of the political process within the Armed Forces. DoD Directive 1344.10 applies to member of the Armed Forces, on active duty, as members of reserve components, National Guard members in a nonfederal status, and military retirees. These rules are designed to prevent military members or federal civilian employees' participation in political activities that imply or even appear to imply official sponsorship, approval or endorsement by DoD. Military members, for example, may attend political meetings or rallies only as spectators and not in uniform. Military members

are not permitted to make public political speeches, serve in any official capacity in partisan groups or participate in partisan political campaigns or conventions. Military members are also barred from engaging in any political activities while in uniform. That's not to imply that military members cannot participate in politics. In fact, military members are encouraged to carry out the obligations of citizenship. DoD encourages its military and civilian members to register to vote and vote as they choose. Both groups can sign nominating petitions for candidates and express their personal opinions about candidates and issues. However, they can do so only if they act as, and are not perceived as representatives of the armed forces in carrying out these activities.

The list of do's and don'ts differ depending on whether the employee is a member of the Armed Forces, a career civil service employee, a political appointee or a member of the career Senior Executive Service. AR 608-20, Army Voting Assistance Program was developed to actively assist Soldiers and other eligible individuals to register and vote without violating statute or regulation. Every battery/company level on up to the Dept. of the Army is required to have a Voting Assistance Officer to assist Soldiers and their family members and other eligible individuals with any questions they might have with regards to voting. Always remember, if you are unsure what you can and cannot do, consult with your Unit Voting Assistance Officer, your legal advisor or contact the IG Office.



Hunting Safety

By MSG Joshua Holthus



It's that time of year again. Time to break out the hunting gear and get back in to the woods to put some meat in the freezer. Before you head out to bag the big one this year, let's remind ourselves of a few things.

Hunting can be dangerous. Every year there are numerous accidents resulting in fatalities, accidents causing injury and many other injuries associated with hunting. How does this happen? A number of

factors can be involved but we will touch on a couple. Hunter Education and Training is a tool that is overlooked and in some cases avoided. Regardless of which state you are from, Fort Sill does not overlook hunter safety. In fact, according to Fort Sill Regulation 200-1, para 3-3a; "All recreational users of the range training areas, except guests accompanied by a sponsor permit holder, will possess a Fort Sill Range Safety Card indicating the individual has completed a specific Fort Sill Sportsman Safety Course prior to obtaining a range access pass."

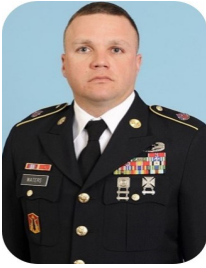
It's impossible to avoid all hunting accidents. The primary reason for this is because you cannot control the actions of oth-

er hunters. However, there are things you can do to lessen your chances of becoming a statistic. In most cases preparedness and common sense are your best defenses. For example, do not mix alcohol and weapons. Wear a fluorescent orange vest to increase your visibility and make it less likely that another hunter will mistake you for "the big one." Train on how to use weapons properly. Pack and wear the proper clothing, food, matches and medical necessities for your hunting trip. These can all help reduce the chances of your involvement in a hunting accident.

See Hunting Safety Page 2

Bar to Reenlistment

By SFC Jason D. Waters Assistant Inspector General



At the Inspector General Office, we routinely see clients who feel they are unfairly denied retention. This is usually a lack knowledge on the part of the Soldier and lack of communication with their immediate supervisor. The first question we ask is, if the Service Member is currently barred from reenlistment. Most of the time the answer is no, which tells us the Soldier has not truly been denied reenlistment. This is not always the case because occasionally they just do not meet retention eligibility criteria as outlined in Chapter 3 of AR 601-280 and do not need to have a Bar to Reenlistment. However, where the Inspector General is concerned is when someone does meet the criteria outlined in Chapter 3, but has not had a Bar to Reenlistment initiated. AR 601-280 para. 1-9 (e) (2) states, *“If a Soldier meets eligibility criteria outlined in Chapter 3, but the unit commander does not consider the Soldier to be a quality candidate for reenlistment or extension because the Soldier fits the criteria outlined in Chapter 8, then the commander will initiate a bar to reenlistment.”*

I say we are concerned because this is where we see Soldiers coming into our office with an issue. Soldiers believe they have been denied reenlistment, yet they have no Bar to Reenlistment and they meet all reenlistment criteria. This is usually just a communication issue between the

Soldier and their first line supervisor. When asked if they have initiated a reenlistment packet, they more often than not say “NO.” We will inform them to initiate the packet and go from there. Soldiers should still be prepared to be denied reenlistment; however, initiating the packet will ensure the Commander gets to evaluate each individual Soldier and pick only the best. We should not hear Soldiers are being denied reenlistment by their first line supervisor. They should be formally notified through counseling by the only individual authorized to deny them- the Commander. Commanders are responsible for evaluating the potential of reenlistees. They should use the “whole person” concept as outlined in para. 3-7 (b) of AR 601-280. Soldiers who are assessed as not quality may be denied retention under provisions of para. 1-9 of AR 601-280.

The Army continues to draw down and just recently updated Army Regulation 601-280, which became effective 01 May 2016. The changes include, adding responsibilities to Command Career Counselors, updated retention control points, and adds additional criteria for mandatory Bars to Reenlistment just to name a few. During the buildup of forces in Iraq and Afghanistan, the standards Soldiers had to meet to reenlist were slightly different. However, in today’s Army we must cut numbers and downsize the force. It is vital we only keep the most qualified. We see the changes in how the Army looks at retention from schools and promotions all the way to evaluations and daily performance. Com-

manders are necessary to ensure we keep only the best. The Bar to Reenlistment is an important tool that can help Commanders be successful with this task.



Hunting Safety cont.

For those of you interested in hunting on Fort Sill, there are some additional rules you must follow. Fort Sill Regulation 190-1, (Installation Physical Security and Crime Prevention) Appendix B, covers the registration, transportation of firearms and ammunitions, and securing of a Privately Owned Weapon (POW) on Fort Sill. Failure to follow this regulation will result in administrative, UCMJ, or other actions deemed appropriate by the Garrison Commander.

So before you get out in the woods, make sure you do your homework and make sure you are following regulation. Most of all stay safe, and good luck out there.

Upcoming Inspections

The Fort Sill Inspector General typically conducts at least one special inspection (directed by the CG) every quarter; and sometimes more when a special situation dictates the necessity. Other Inspectors General (e.g. DAIG, FORSCOM IG, TRADOC IG, SRMC IG) also conduct annual and quarterly inspections. Inspections do not always affect all units and coordination directly with the affected units will occur as soon as details are known. The following are the inspections that are currently on the calendar that will potentially affect Fort Sill units and directorates.

DATE	Inspecting Agency	Units Affected	Inspection Topic
26 SEP 16 - 07 OCT 16	FCoE IG	30th ADA, 31st ADA, 75th FA, 428th FA, 434th FA, USAG-FS, FCoE-HQs Det	Army Voting Assistance Program
31 OCT 16– 04 NOV16	FORSCOM IG	75th FA , 31st ADA, Select Installation Directorates	Deployment Readiness Exercise DRE
05 Dec 2016	TRADOC IG	30th ADA	Property Accountability Inspection

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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.

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“Droit-et-Avant”



“Right-then-Forward”

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