



REGIONAL HEALTH COMMAND ATLANTIC

OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL



RHCA IG TEAM



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REGIONAL HEALTH COMMAND– ATLANTIC COMMAND INSPECTOR GENERAL

Happy New Year to all and for the Inspectors General, we received a new identification badge to kick off 2022! The badge was introduced in December 2021 and MILPER 22-035 issued 21 January 2022 announced its establishment. The purpose of the badge is to aid in the visibility of Inspectors General who are the eyes, ears, voice, and conscience of the Army. This is not the first time Army inspectors general have worn such identification devices as IGs have historically worn identification badges until recent years. The subdued version of the badge will be worn on the utility uniform for all active and non-active IGs. Non-active IGs (IGs that served prior) are authorized to wear the non-subdued badge on the service and dress uniforms; however, current IGs will continue to wear IG Branch Insignia on the collar of the uniform coat while in service and dress uniforms. In addition, our civilian counterparts can wear the IG lapel pin. If you want to learn more about the Inspector General Identification Badge, please see the short video at: <http://www.dvidshub.net/video/825793/introduction-inspector-general-identification-badge-igib>

COVID-19: How Military Doctrine is Applied

SSG Trust: I submitted a request for Religious Accommodations (RA) exemption for COVID-19 vaccination. Since I do not have to get the vaccination until a decision is made on my request, why do I have to be tested weekly?

IG Response: FRAGO 5 to HQDA EXORD 225-21 subsection 3.D.8.B.7 states Commanders will ensure Soldiers comply with existing DOD and Army guidance for Force Health Protection measures applicable to unvaccinated personnel.

SSG Trust: Got it but how does Command justify mandating COVID-19 testing if I don't have to take the vaccination at this point. The EXORD does not mention anything about testing, just the vaccination.

IG Response: ADP 3-37 Protection is the Army doctrine that gives Commanders at all levels the right to action in what seems like absence of orders as it pertains to COVID-19 testing. Under subtitle *Provide Force Health Protection*, paragraph 2-7: Force health protection is defined as the measures to promote, improve, or conserve the behavioral and physical well-being of Soldiers. Its mission is under the protection warfighting function. Force health protection measures enable a healthy and fit force, prevent injury and illness, and protect the force from health hazards. Descriptions of protection measures are laid out in paragraph 2.8:

-Preventing and controlling disease (COVID-19)

-Assessing occupational and environment health (COVID-19 testing, wearing masks and quarantine)

-Determining force health protection activities (COVID-19 testing, wearing masks and quarantine)

SSG, until you receive a reply about your RA exemption request for COVID-19 vaccination and testing you will be testing as preventative measure in protecting the force.

Reference: FRAGO 5 to HQDA EXORD 225-21 COVID-19 Steady State Operation and ADP 3-37.



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**SFC TAMARA
BRACEY**

Reference :

AR 600-9

AR 20-1

The Assistance and
Investigation Guide

An Anonymous Complaint

PVT Anyway participated in an Army semi-annual height and weight. According to AR 600-9 - The Army Body Composition Program (ABCP), the Soldier did not meet their height/weight requirement, was therefore taped, and it was determined they also exceeded their maximum allowable body fat standard (failed tape). The Soldier was counseled by the unit commander, flagged, and placed in the ABCP per regulation. PVT Anyway was casually walking through the aisles of the Post Exchange when the SM hears the voices of Soldiers SM recognizes from the same unit coming from the next aisle over. PVT Anyway overhears their conversation clearly and was about to announce their presence when one of the Soldiers spoke up about failing their previous semi-annual height/weight and tape. That Soldier stated he was allowed 48 hours in order to re-take his height and weight which allowed him to then meet his height/weight standards. Angry, PVT Anyway calls their team leader and explains what they just heard. The team leader said, "you don't know what the circumstance was so don't make big deal of it." This made PVT Anyway even more upset and they asked to speak with the Commander through the Commander's Open Door Policy. PVT Anyway explains to the Commander what was overheard. The Commander replied, "I find it hard to believe that leaders in my unit would commit such heinous act. I will address it." The following month, PVT Anyway participated in a height and weight measurement as prescribed by the ABCP and as the SM walked out of the unit area, PVT Anyway heard the Platoon SGT tell a Soldier that they will not count this height/weight and tape. The Platoon SGT instructs the Soldier to come back in 24hrs to be re-weighed and taped. Frustrated, PVT Anyway submits a complaint via email to the IG. The complaint includes: the unit, the issue, names of the personnel involved, and when the issue occurred; however, PVT Anyway asked to remain anonymous.

IG Actions

IG will process the complaint. IG will not identify the complainant. The IG primary concern is to determine the facts and circumstances related to the complaint per AR 20-1.

IG will conduct an inquiry with the commander about the unit policy on height and weight, then a series of questions will be asked such as "has anyone complained of issues with the unit height and weight procedures? Are the persons conducting the height/weight and tape certified to do so? What does certification look like?" Then the IG will inform the commander of the issues anonymously presented to the IG office and suggest the commander conduct a command inquiry as necessary. The IG will review the results of the commander's inquiry.

IG will annotate the facts in the case notes, write a synopsis and close the case in a digital database known as the Inspection General Action Request System (IGARS). Since the complainant requested anonymity, there is no need for the IG to reply to the complainant. When requesting anonymity, IG will take additional measures to protect the complainant's identity. However, serious allegations that are referred to the commander for investigation, a request for anonymity may not be possible.



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The Army's retirement planning newsletter

"Change of Mission"

Service Members! Did you know Soldiers with 17 plus years of service are receiving a newsletter from Defense Finance Accounting service (DFAS)? Topics include: mandatory retirement planning courses, Army Career Skills Program, the Uniformed Services Former Spouse Protection Act, guidance with your TSP account, and help with deciding on a Survivor Benefit Plan. These topics and more provided in the newsletter are great tips to a smooth transition. As Soldiers in Arms, you have used military doctrine to guide you throughout your career. Use the Change of Mission newsletter to guide you with your transition to civilian life. The links below will guide you to the website.

<https://soldierforlife.army.mil/Retirement/change-of-mission>

<https://www.milsuite.mil/book/docs/DOC-1099268>

Voting News

Upcoming Primaries

01 March- Texas, Primary Election
05 April- California Special Election

Voting provides a chance for the citizens of the United States to have a say in the people who represent them or issues that impact their community.

You are encouraged to seek out your Voting Assistance Officer (VAO). Each level of command has appointed a VAO in support of the Army Voting Assistance Program (AVAP).

The Army Voting Assistance program has two objectives:

- A. Make registration and voting information, materials, and assistance readily available to all Army Voters.
- B. Educate eligible Army voters about the importance of voting and provide them every opportunity to register and cast a ballot.

All citizens can visit the Federal Voting Assistance Program website at FVAP.gov. This website will allow you access to the same to assistance and education as the AVAP, to include voter registration and request for absentee ballot.

AR 608-20

<https://www.fvap.gov/eo/overview/materials/forms>