



Fort Bliss

Mythbusters: Golden Triangle



Golden Triangle contacts include a parent and someone in a Soldier's squad.

Fact: Golden triangle contacts aren't so prescriptive. They need to be people with whom the Soldier has close personal ties. A family member could be a spouse if a Service member is married, or a parent, or any other family member the Soldier identifies. Similarly, battle buddies for the Golden Triangle aren't required to be in the same squad as the Soldier, they can be friends from outside of work or with whom the Soldier shares interest. The important thing about members of the Golden Triangle is that they are someone who knows the Soldier well, communicates regularly with the Soldier, and shares a commitment to provide a support system to the Soldier as part of the relationship.



Golden Triangle calls are a waste of time.

Fact: According to the results of the July 2021 Behavioral Health Assessment Tool survey, Soldiers whose Leader called a close relative were significantly more likely to believe their Leader has a good sense of the Soldier, feel comfortable reaching out to their Leader, and trust their supervisor. Further, Soldiers who reported low levels of trust in their leadership were twice as likely to screen positive for behavioral health concerns.



Golden Triangle calls are just a check-the-block measure in the event of a missing Soldier.

Fact: Soldier readiness is a function of the Golden Triangle: the Soldier's Leader, the Soldier's Family, and the Soldier's friends. In order to maximize lethality and accomplish our assigned missions, we need every Soldier on our team. Golden Triangle calls can provide an opportunity for Leaders to get ahead of potential problems to take care of Soldiers, so Soldiers can focus on winning with the team.



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MYTH Golden Triangle calls are only a requirement during People First Action Week.

Fact: Golden Triangle calls should be conducted as needed, but the minimum requirement, in accordance with III Corps Leader Standards, is within 30 days of a new Soldier joining the team, and every six months thereafter. The Golden Triangle is another tool to be used in conjunction with historic counseling documents

MYTH Golden Triangle calls are an invasion of privacy.

Fact: When Soldiers join the Army, they join the Army team. These calls are a way to proactively connect the Soldier's personal family and the Soldier's Army family. With this in mind, the Soldier plays a role in who leaders call. Golden Triangle is created by the Soldier; they define the roles of people in their lives.

MYTH Golden Triangle calls might be useful for Junior Enlisted Soldiers, but I supervise seniors. This isn't something that applies to me.

Fact: No one is immune to bad things happening in their life, even Leaders. Being a "Senior Leader" does not negate the need for engaged leadership. First-line leaders at every level up to and including General Officers are responsible for making Golden Triangle calls.

MYTH Golden Triangle calls take a long time.

Fact: Call lengths will vary, but remember that the initial calls are not about content and more about building and strengthening connections to care for Soldiers. Initial contact is the gateway to future conversations, building trust, and potentially helping a Soldier in need.