



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY TRAINING CENTER AND FORT JACKSON  
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FORT JACKSON, SC 29207

04 APR 2025

ATZJ-CG (ARIMS 1oo)

**MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD**

**SUBJECT: Fort Jackson Policy Memorandum #38 – Suspension of Drill Sergeants for Preliminary Inquiries of Trainee Abuse**

**1. References:**

- a. Army Regulation (AR) 15-6, Procedures for Administrative Investigations and Boards of Officers, 1 April 2016.
- b. AR 600-52, Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention Program, 11 February 2025.
- c. AR 600-78, Army Suitability, Fitness, and Credentialing Program, 8 March 2024.
- d. AR 614-200, Enlisted Assignments and Utilization Management, 25 January 2019.
- e. Training and Doctrine Command Regulation (TR) 350-6, Enlisted Initial Entry Training Policies and Administration, 8 December 2022.
- f. Fort Jackson Policy Memorandum #12 – Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ) Withholding and Notification Policy.

**2. Background:**

- a. AR 600-78, paragraph 3-9 requires removal authorities to immediately suspend and temporarily reassign a Soldier upon notification that the Soldier is under investigation for an offense or upon notification there is adverse information that the Soldier has committed one of the offenses listed in this regulation. Adverse information is defined as any substantiated adverse finding or conclusion from an officially documented investigation or inquiry or any other credible information of an adverse nature. Notably absent from the list of Type I, II, or III offenses in the regulation is trainee abuse.

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b. TR 350-6, paragraph 2-5a defines trainee abuse as an improper or unlawful physical, verbal, or sexual act committed by an Army trainer against a trainee. Examples include: extreme exercise-based corrective action not in accordance with Physical Readiness Training (PRT) standards; demeaning or derogatory language; extreme profanity; sexual misconduct; extortion; soliciting donations; and prohibited relations. Some prohibited activities that TR 350-6 lists as examples of trainee abuse involve allegations that require mandatory law enforcement investigations or administrative investigations conducted under AR 15-6 (e.g., sexual harassment). See AR 600-52, paragraph 2-12.

c. In accordance with AR 614-200, TR 350-6, paragraph M-3d requires that Drill Sergeants be suspended when law enforcement and/or AR 15-6 administrative investigations are mandated for the trainee abuse allegation. Such cases are serious incidents involving allegation(s) of trainee abuse. See AR 614-200, paragraph 8-25e.

d. For cases where administrative or law enforcement investigations are not required, TR 350-6, paragraphs 2-6b, M-3c direct that commanders must, at a minimum, promptly conduct a preliminary inquiry into every trainee abuse allegation, regardless of the nature, magnitude, or source of the complaint. For minor allegations, this inquiry may be as simple as an interview of the complainant and any witnesses to the incident. Extreme profanity, minor assaults, and improper PRT are examples of cases that could be properly investigated through a preliminary inquiry. Complex cases involving multiple witnesses, victims, allegations, or suspects are more properly investigated through AR 15-6 administrative investigations.

e. For these cases where a preliminary inquiry is ongoing, TR 350-6, paragraph 2-6d provides commanders discretion on whether to suspend the drill sergeant(s) involved. Rather than automatically suspending a drill sergeant simply because they are pending a preliminary inquiry into a trainee abuse allegation, the responsible commander should: (1) weigh the facts of the case; (2) consider the severity of the underlying incident; and (3) determine whether a suspension will aid the inquiry, benefit the training environment, or support other valid command reasons.

f. Commanders are required by the regulation to consult with their legal advisor when conducting an inquiry or evaluating evidence concerning all allegations of trainee abuse. See also AR 15-6, paragraph 4-4. Commanders will also document all preliminary inquiries into trainee abuse cases, including those the commander determines are not credible.

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**3. Policy:**

a. In accordance with TR 350-6, commanders are permitted to conduct preliminary inquiries into allegations of trainee abuse if no administrative or law enforcement investigations are required and the situation is one that can be resolved through a preliminary inquiry (e.g., involving simple fact patterns, limited witnesses, and/or minor allegations).

b. The commanders must consult with their legal advisor before deciding to conduct a preliminary inquiry into an allegation of trainee abuse, and a legal advisor must support the preliminary inquiry until its completion.

c. The commander must document the results of the preliminary inquiry into trainee abuse allegations even if the commander determines the allegations were not credible.

d. During such preliminary inquiries, commanders will use their best discretion on whether to suspend the drill sergeant(s) involved, as discussed in TR 350-6 and paragraph 2.e. of this policy.

e. If the inquiry establishes by a preponderance of the evidence that there is adverse information of a drill sergeant committing an offense listed in AR 600-78, paragraph 3-5, then the drill sergeant must go through the removal process discussed in AR 600-78, paragraph 3-10.

f. Nothing in the policy removes, reduces, or adjusts the reporting requirements in Fort Jackson Policy Memorandum #12. Special Court-Martial Convening Authorities will continue to notify me by email of all allegations of drill sergeant misconduct, to include trainee abuse, and the results of any investigation or inquiry into those allegations.

**4. The point of contact for this policy is the Chief of Military Justice at (803) 751-5835.**

  
**DARYL O. HOOD**  
Major General, U.S. Army  
Commanding