



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, JOINT READINESS TRAINING CENTER AND FORT POLK
6661 WARRIOR TRAIL, BUILDING 350
FORT POLK, LOUISIANA 71459-5339

AFZX-CG

03 JUN 2021

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Joint Readiness Training Center (JRTC) and Fort Polk Policy 16 - Relief for Cause of Commissioned and Noncommissioned Officers and Limitation of Exercise of Disciplinary Authority by Subordinates

1. Relief for cause of commissioned officers:
 - a. Army Regulation 600-20, paragraph 2-18, requires that action to relieve an officer from any command position will not be taken without first obtaining written approval of the first general officer in the chain of command.
 - b. The requirements of AR 600-20, paragraph 2-18, concerning relief for cause are hereby extended to all captains and above and to all warrant officers in the rank of CW2 and above, whether or not in command positions.
2. Relief for cause of noncommissioned officers:
 - a. Action to relieve a command sergeant major, sergeant major, first sergeant, or master sergeant will not be taken without the Commanding General's prior written approval.
 - b. Action to relieve a sergeant first class, staff sergeant, or sergeant must be approved in writing by the first O-6 commander or above in the chain of command.
3. While pending investigation or decision to relieve, any commander may temporarily suspend their subordinate commissioned, warrant, or noncommissioned officers from assigned duties. When a commissioned officer, warrant officer, or noncommissioned officer in the grade of E-8 or higher is suspended, the commander must provide notice to the Commanding General and the Staff Judge Advocate. During periods of suspension, officers will be reassigned appropriate duties commensurate with their rank. Suspensions and reassignments will be in writing.
4. The provisions of AR 623-3, paragraphs 2-28 and 3-20, concerning relief reports remain applicable. United States Army Reserve and Active Guard/Reserve (AGR) personnel are governed by AR 135-18, the Active Guard Reserve (AGR Program).

AFZX-CG

SUBJECT: Joint Readiness Training Center (JRTC) and Fort Polk Policy 16 - Relief for Cause of Commissioned and Noncommissioned Officers and Limitation of Exercise of Disciplinary Authority by Subordinates

5. Limitation of exercise of disciplinary authority by subordinates:

a. The exercise of administrative or military justice disciplinary authority over commissioned officers, warrant officers, and noncommissioned officers in the grade of E-8 or higher is specifically reserved to the Commanding General for all units at Fort Polk. All instances of suspected misconduct involving commissioned officers, warrant officers, or noncommissioned officers in the grade of E-8 or higher must be promptly reported to the Commanding General and the Staff Judge Advocate.

b. Except for Formal Equal Opportunity and Formal Sharp complaints, the Commanding General is the primary appointing authority for any investigation into suspected misconduct involving commissioned officers, warrant officers, or noncommissioned officers in the grade of E-8 or higher. Commanders will not initiate an investigation into suspected misconduct involving commissioned officers, warrant officers, or noncommissioned officers in the grade of E-8 or higher until they have advised the Commanding General in writing of the suspected misconduct, the type of investigation to be conducted, and the intended investigating officer, and have obtained his approval. Approval authority for Formal Equal Opportunity and Formal Sharp complaints is withheld to the Commanding General.

c. Informal SHARP complaints by more than one individual against the same respondent, or a second or subsequent investigation for SHARP allegations against the same respondent (either same or different complainants) require notification to the Commanding General and are withheld to the O-6 level for initial disposition. Informal SHARP complaints against a senior leader are withheld to the Commanding General.

d. Offenses involving wrongful use, possession, or distribution of controlled substances will be disposed of at the O-5 or higher command level.

e. The exercise of authority under the Uniform Code of Military Justice, to include nonjudicial punishment, over cases disposed of or pending in civilian or federal magistrate court is specifically reserved by the Commanding General for all units at JRTC and Fort Polk. This includes all collateral offenses related to the pending case. Release of jurisdiction will be considered on a case-by-case basis. This paragraph does not preclude a unit from taking administrative action, to include separation under AR 635-200.

f. All offenses involving rape, sexual harassment, sexual assault, aggravated sexual contact, abusive sexual contact, sodomy, or attempts or conspiracies to commit these offenses will be disposed of at the O-6 or higher command level. Additionally, other collateral misconduct arising from the incident, whether committed by the alleged perpetrator or the alleged victim, will be disposed of at the O-6 or higher command level.

AFZX-CG

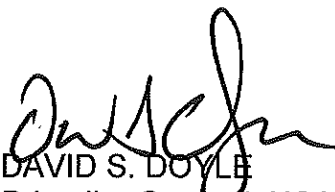
SUBJECT: Joint Readiness Training Center (JRTC) and Fort Polk Policy 16 - Relief for Cause of Commissioned and Noncommissioned Officers and Limitation of Exercise of Disciplinary Authority by Subordinates

g. All offenses involving domestic violence in violation of Article 128b, UCMJ, or attempts or conspiracies to commit the same will be disposed of at the O-6 or higher command level. Additionally, other collateral misconduct arising from the incident, whether committed by the alleged perpetrator of the alleged victim, will be disposed of at the O-6 or higher command level. This authority is delegable to the O-5 command level on a case by case basis. Any such delegation must be documented in writing individually for each case that is delegated. No further delegation below the O-5 command level is authorized.

h. All weapons related offenses occurring on Fort Polk in violation of Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Polk Regulation 190-3, will be disposed of at the O-6 or higher command level and are non-delegable below the O-6 command level.

6. This policy will remain in effect until superseded or rescinded.

7. Proponent: Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, Chief, Military Justice, at (337) 531-8906.


DAVID S. DOYLE
Brigadier General, USA
Commanding

DISTRIBUTION:

A+