



CLIENT SERVICES & POLICY DIVISION Legal Assistance Office



Armed Forces Disciplinary Control Board (AFDCB)

The Armed Forces Disciplinary Control Board (AFDCB) is an investigative committee composed of installation officials and civilian advisers who seek to protect the interests and welfare of Servicemembers when off post.

The AFDCB, working in close cooperation with local law enforcement agencies, civic organizations, and legitimate business establishments, tries to prevent unfair and criminal practices against military personnel by disreputable businesses.

When an individual reports a place of business to the AFDCB for unethical or unsatisfactory practices, it is inspected and, if considered substandard by the AFDCB, it receives a warning advising of the unsatisfactory conditions or practices. The business manager is asked to answer the complaint or to notify the AFDCB of efforts taken to correct the conditions. If the business manager fails to respond in writing, the AFDCB may request personal appearance at a formal hearing to determine whether the AFDCB will recommend the establishment be declared *off limits*. A list of *off limits* establishments is placed on unit bulletin boards.

You may complain of unfair business practices and of any other conditions detrimental to your health, safety, or morale to the AFDCB. Examples of appropriate complaints are unsafe or unsanitary conditions in your apartment complex and of drug trafficking in an off-post bar. The AFDCB will investigate these and try to remedy them. If the AFDCB verifies a complaint and cannot rectify the situations, the business may be placed off-limits to protect you and other military members.

AFDCBs assist commanders eliminate conditions inimical to the health, welfare, morals, and discipline of military personnel. They ensure the establishment and maintenance of the highest degree of liaison between military and civil law enforcement authorities. These boards receive information on undesirable conditions affecting military personnel, at establishments or areas within civilian communities which harbor such conditions; report the existence of such conditions to commanders, together with recommended action; cooperate with civil authorities regarding these problems; and recommend to commanders the designation of certain areas and establishments as *off-limits* to military personnel, and the removal of such designations, when appropriate. "Undesirable conditions" include conditions relating to drug abuse, liquor violations, improper discipline, illegal gambling and unfair commercial practices. Joint service policies and procedures regarding such boards are set forth in Army Regulation (AR) 190-24 and AER 190-24.

Legal Assistance Attorneys often learn of alleged wrongdoing and unfair practices. They may assist military personnel in submitting appropriate complaints, particularly

those indicating a pattern of unethical or illegal business practices by a particular merchant, to the AFDCB. Legal Assistance Attorneys often advise clients to communicate with the AFDCB through the sponsoring commander. Legal Assistance Attorneys will explain the functions and procedures of the AFDCB to clients, and assist a client prepare a complaint.

Commanders may designate establishments and areas harboring conditions adversely affecting the health, morals, and welfare of military personnel may be designated "off-limits". This is generally the result of a recommendation by an AFDCB. Military members are, of course, prohibited from entering *off-limits* places. In the United States, *off-limits* signs are not posted. Commanders, however, do publish lists of off-limit establishments or areas and military police check *off-limits* areas. Check with your chain of command or area legal assistance office if you want to submit a complaint to the AFDCB.

If you have further questions, please make an appointment with the legal assistance office by emailing us at: USARMY.WIESBADEN.USAREUR.MBX.OJA-WLC-LEGAL-ASSISTANCE-CALENDAR@ARMY.MIL