

Command Inspector General Quarterly Newsletter

For the Soldiers, Airmen, and Civilians of the Virginia National Guard 4th Quarter – September 2024



MISSION: Serve as an extension of the eyes, ears, voice, and conscience of the commander, and to determine for the commander the state of economy, efficiency, discipline, morale, esprit de corps, and readiness throughout the Virginia National Guard.



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Whistleblower Reprisal

Reference:
10 USC 1034

Title 10 USC 1034 defines WBR as the act of taking (or threatening to take) an unfavorable personnel action, or withholding (or threatening to withhold) a favorable personnel action because a Service member made, prepared to make, or was thought to have made or prepared to make, a protected communication (PC) (e.g., lawful communication reasonably believed to be true by the complainant) to: Members of Congress (MOCs); Inspectors general (IGs); DOD audit, inspection, investigation, or law enforcement organizations; Any person or organization in the chain of command; Any other person designated pursuant regulations or established administrative procedures to receive such communications (e.g., Equal Opportunity, Safety Office, etc.); or As part of a court-martial proceeding, specifically, complaints of sexual assault or sexual harassment.

Key to this definition is the term PC. A PC in terms of whistleblower reprisal is any lawful communication to an IG or MOC, no matter the topic. Communication with the other referenced individuals or agencies, is only protected when presenting information regarding what the complainant reasonably believes to be a violation of statute, regulation, fraud, waste, abuse, dangers, threats, etc.

Political Activities

Reference:
DOD Directive 1344.10, "Political Activities by Members of the Armed Forces"
AR 600-20 (Army Command Policy)
Hatch Act of 1939
Information Paper (Political Activities of Soldiers and Civilian Employees), 12
April 2022.

While the Department of Defense encourages Soldiers and DA Civilians to carry out their obligations of citizenship, there are several policies that provide left and right limits on participation in political activities, including DOD Directive 1344.10, AR 600-20, and the Hatch Act.

Soldiers may engage in the following activities: Register, vote, and express opinions on political candidates and issues, but not while on duty, in uniform, or by speaking on behalf of the armed forces; Write letters to the editor of a newspaper expressing personal views on political issues/concerns; Display a political bumper sticker on his/her private vehicle; Make monetary contributions to a political campaign or organization; and Attend political meetings, rallies, debates, conventions, or activities (only as a spectator, and never in uniform). Letters cannot be part of an organized letter-writing campaign or solicitation of votes for or against a political party, partisan cause, or candidate. Letters must clearly state that the views are those of the individual and not DOD/U.S. Army. Soldiers shall not speak before a partisan political gathering or serve in any official capacity with a partisan political club.

Army National Guard (ARNG) Soldiers (not on active duty) may run for political office and include or permit the inclusion of their current or former specific duty, title, or position, or photographs in uniform, when displayed with other non-military biographical details. Any information about their military affiliation must also include a disclaimer that the information/photographs do not imply DOD/Army endorsement.

Voluntary IDT/AT Participation for ADOS-RC Soldiers

Reference:
32 U.S.C. § 325
DoD Instruction 1215.06 "Uniform Reserve, Training and Retirement Categories
for the Reserve Components"
(PPOM 24-005) Policy for Army National Guard Soldiers Performing ADOS-RC

PPOM 24-005, paragraph 10 states "Pursuant to 32 U.S.C. § 325, Service Members are relieved from duty in the National Guard of their State when ordered to active duty. Thus, there is no authority to order an individual on a Title 10 tour of duty to attend IDT or AT as described in 32 U.S.C. § 502(a)." PPOM 24-005 allows Soldiers to participate in their State unit's IDT/AT periods if:

- (1) The Soldier volunteers;
- (2) The Soldier does not exercise command authority over Soldiers in a Title 32 status;
- (3) The first O-6 in the Soldier's active-duty chain of command approves participation; and
- (4) The Title 10 and Title 32 locations are within local commuting distance.

Additional guidance and information on exceptions can be found at [PPOM 24-005](#)