



Commander's Fatal Incident Family Brief Smart Card



AR 638-34 (Army Fatal Incident Family Brief Program), 19 February 2015

Purpose (para 1-1, 1-5): To ensure the Primary Next of Kin (PNOK) understands the circumstances surrounding the incident. The Army presents fatal incident or suicide incident Family briefs to the Soldier's PNOK on findings from the investigation conducted by the unit under Army Regulation (AR) 15-6. An AR 15-6 investigation is required when a Soldier's death results from hostile, training, operational, and/or friendly fire accidents, or suicide.

Who Initiates (para 1-6e / AR 15-6 para 2-1c): Soldier's General Court Martial Convening Authority (GCMCA)

Required When (para 1-6a):

1. Military training and/or operational accidents resulting in the death of a Soldier*
2. Death of a Soldier where there is anticipated litigation for or against the Government or a Government contractor**
3. Death of a Soldier where there is probable high public interest**
4. All Soldier deaths where the Armed Forces Medical Examiner (AFME), or civilian equivalent, has determined the manner of death to be suicide

*Soldiers who die during or within 1 hour of PT are considered training deaths if the activity could be a contributing factor

**Casualty & Mortuary Affairs Operations Division (CMAOD) will notify the unit if 2. or 3. apply

GCMCAs may direct AR 15-6 investigations in other death cases, but those do not require a briefing.

Briefing Attendees (para 5-3):

1. Briefer – COL/O6 minimum and typically the Soldier's Brigade Commander (determined by who initiates)
2. Casualty Assistance Officer (CAO)
3. CMAOD Case Manager (Fatal Incident Briefs only)
4. Chaplain (unless PNOK declines)
5. SJA and/or PAO (recommended if PNOK invites media or legal representation)
6. Subject Matter Experts, as required

PROCESS (simplified, Table 2-1): Units identifying key players and ensuring communication between CMAOD and CAC is paramount for a successful brief.



Please contact CMAOD's Fatal Incident Section at usarmy.knox.hrc.mbx.tagd-cmaod-fis@army.mil with any questions.