U.S. ARMY Commander's Line of Duty Smart Card

AR 600-8-4 (Line of Duty Policy, Procedures, and Investigations), 12 November 2020

Required when: A Soldier's service is interrupted by death, or by injury, illness, or disease that results in a loss of more than 24 hours of duty, is of lasting significance, results in permanent disability, or (RC only) requires follow-on care (para 2-1, 2-2). *_Note_ – Commands must initiate an LOD investigation within 5 calendar days of the incident (para 3-2, 3-10).

Delays in completing non-fatal and fatal Line of Duty investigations may impact benefits affected by the line of duty investigation, including financial benefits for eligible Survivors (para 2-3).

Who initiates (para 1-15):

1. RA – Soldier's special court-martial convening authority (SPCMCA).
2. USAR TPU/ARNG M-Day – First Colonel/O-6 exercising UCMJ.
3. Individual mobilized USAR Soldier – Current unit of assignment during mobilization.
4. Soldiers away from unit (leave, AWOL, etc.) – SPCMCA aligned with the Incident Casualty Assistance Center (CAC).
   *_Note_ – a Soldier's unit can assume responsibility of LODs for Soldiers away from home station (para 1-15a(3)(a)).

Units must complete informal/formal LODs within 60/180 days, respectively, from date of incident and provide 30-day updates to their Casualty Assistance Center (CAC) and ACOM/ASCC (Army Directive 2022-04, para 5b(3)(d)).

Investigation type (para 2-2c, 2-2d):

1. Informal – no intentional misconduct or gross negligence is suspected
2. Formal (abridged)
   a. Drug or alcohol involvement
   b. Strange or doubtful circumstances
   c. Intentional misconduct or gross negligence is suspected
   d. Self-inflicted injuries or death
   e. Incurred while AWOL
   f. (USAR/ARNG only) Incurred while participating or traveling to or from authorized training/duty (IDT/AT/etc.)
3. Not required – HRC is the only approving authority for Presumptive In Line of Duty (PILD) finding for enemy action or terrorism, natural causes, or a passenger in a common commercial carrier, or military aircraft or vehicle.

The Adjutant General takes final action on all fatal investigations and on all non-fatal investigations with a "Not-in-line-of duty" (NLD) determination from the approving authority. Delegated from DCS, G1 (Para 1-7d(3) and 1-7d(4)).

Contact the HRC LOD Section at usarmy.knox.hrc.mbx.tagd-cmaod-lod@army.mil or CMAOD 24/7 line at 1-800-626-3317 with questions.

U.S. ARMY Commander's Fatal Incident Family Brief Smart Card

AR 638-34 (Army Fatal Incident Family Brief Program), 26 April 2023

Purpose (para 1-1, 1-6): 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.

Who initiates? (para 3-2 / AR 15-6 para 2-1c): Soldier's General Court Martial Convening Authority (GCMCA)

Required when (para 1-7a):

1. Military training or operational accidents resulting in the death of a Soldier.*
2. A death associated with a noncombat military exercise.
3. A training-related death during or within 1 hour after any training activity due to an accident or natural cause, where the exercise or activity could be a contributing factor to the cause of death.
4. Deaths resulting from any hostile incidents.*
5. A death resulting from friendly fire.**
6. Death of a Soldier where there is anticipated litigation for or against the Government or a Government contractor.**
7. Death of a Soldier where there is probable high public interest.
8. All Soldier deaths where the Armed Forces Medical Examiner (AFME), or civilian equivalent, determined the manner of death to be suicide.

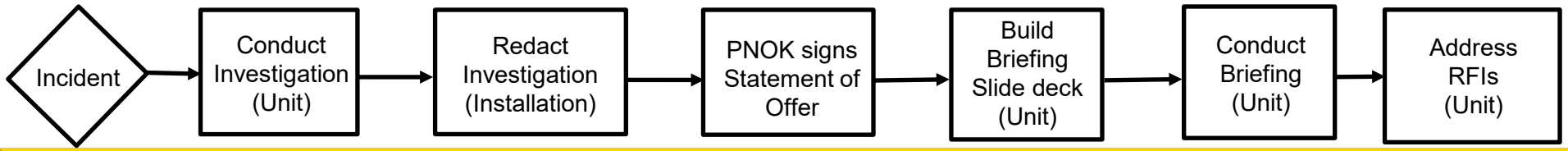
* See list of para 1-7(4) ** See regulation para 1-7(5)

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

Briefing attendees (para 5-3, 6-3):

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 (behavioral health professional, medical examiner)

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



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