



4ID and Fort Carson INSPECTOR GENERAL



Suspension of Favorable Action (FLAGS)

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IG Information Bulletin

Background : The process for suspension of favorable actions, Flags, depends on timely and accurate reports from commanders to initiate, transfer, and remove suspension of favorable personnel actions. Commanders are responsible to ensure that a flag will be initiated immediately when a soldier's status changes from favorable to unfavorable and vice versa. Flagging actions will be maintained in a restricted access area. **Only those with a need to know of the suspension will be informed. Active flag cases will be reviewed monthly at a minimum. A flag will be removed immediately when a soldier's status changes from unfavorable to favorable (this is a common IG complaint from Soldiers).** Reference: AR 600-8-2 dated 23 October 2012

Categories of flags: Suspension of favorable personnel actions is mandatory when an investigation (formal or informal) is initiated on a Soldier by military or civilian authorities. Flags are classified into the two categories described below, depending upon the specific action or investigation.

- a. Non-transferable.** The flag may not be transferred to another unit (except where consistent with paragraph 1–15).
b. Transferable. The flag may be transferred to another unit.

Circumstances requiring a non-transferable flag: (Chapter 2-2, AR 600-8-2)

The specific actions and investigations listed below require a non-transferable flag.

- a. Adverse actions.
- b. Involuntary separation or discharge (field initiated).
- c. Removal from a selection list (field initiated).
- d. A referred officer evaluation report (OER) or Relief for Cause NCOER.
- e. A security violation.
- f. Removal from a selection list (HQDA initiated)
- g. Commander investigation
- h. Law enforcement investigation
- i. Not recommended for automatic promotion to PV2-SPC.
- j. Not recommended for automatic promotion to 1LT or CW2
- k. Drug abuse adverse action.
- l. Alcohol abuse adverse action.
- m. Involuntary separation or discharge (HQDA initiated)
- n. Other (Lautenberg Amendment, Family care plan, AMEDD failure to obtain or maintain a license, certification and/or registration, Noncompliance with 10 USC 10206, Members: physical examinations.

Circumstances requiring a transferable flag: (Chapter 2-3, AR 600-8-2)

The specific actions listed below require a transferable flag.

- a. Movement of an adverse action into the punishment phase. .
- b. Failure to pass the Army Physical Fitness test (APFT) or failure to take the APFT within the required period.
- c. Entry into the Weight Control Program.

Actions prohibited by a flag: (Chapter 3)

A flag properly imposed in accordance with this regulation prohibits the personnel actions listed below (see para 1–15 for exceptions). The S-1 in conjunction with the unit commander should closely monitor the monthly flag report in order to guard against accidental execution of the actions prohibited by a flag.

FCCO IG Comments: Commanders are responsible to remove Flags in a timely manner when the Soldiers' status changes (common IG complaint). Soldiers will not be retained past their ETS/ESA/MRD merely because they are flagged. Retirement awards and decorations for valor may be processed and presented to Soldiers flagged IAW AR 600-9. In all cases the Soldier should be counseled in writing. Leaders should be aware that a flag will not be used in order to disapprove leave (common IG complaint). AR 600-8-2, Appendix C assists commanders and S-1's to evaluate the key internal controls used for flags. Refer to AR 600-8-2 dated 23 October 2012 for detailed information.