

CNG auditing 10 years of Army incentives

Army staff is seeking equitable resolution for each Soldier affected by audit

Fellow Soldiers,

As most of you know, the California Army National Guard has launched an investigation into discrepancies regarding the payment of recruiting and retention incentives. We have also implemented a series of controls to ensure the types of problems being investigated will not happen again.

Searching 10 years into California Army National Guard records, our new Incentives Task Force (ITF) has found this organization failed to distribute some incentive payments that should have been made. In many other cases, payments were made that should not have been authorized or that were improperly executed. All incentive files are now being reviewed to determine what action, if any, is needed to reach an appropriate resolution in each case.

My staff and I are committed to helping each Soldier who is subject to the auditing process. My intent is to ensure that every Soldier is given the maximum opportunity to obtain or retain their well-deserved incentives. We are also strongly focused on taking appropriate action against any Soldier who is found to have willingly taken advantage of their position or authority to issue or receive an improper payment.

Soldiers who are contacted by the Incentives Task Force can look to the analysts at the Task Force and the CNG Legal Assistance Office, which will ensure you receive every consideration and opportuni-

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Commander, California Army National Guard***

ty available to you. The Legal Assistance Office can be contacted at 310-478-5798 or legalassistance@us.army.mil. The ITF will begin contacting Soldiers in January concerning incentive payments that appear to have been improperly made or regarding payments that appear to have been improperly denied.

In all cases, open communication is key to a favorable outcome. Soldiers should engage the Incentives Task Force in dialogue early upon notification and respond promptly to requests for information. It is also important to retain your records and keep them accessible. In many cases a Soldier may have personal records that could quickly remedy the identified problem or

assist in processing an exception to policy, waiver or appeal to avoid recoupment of the incentive.

The Incentives Task Force will use several methods to resolve issues at the lowest possible level. These include seeking exceptions to policy for issues that can be handled at the National Guard Bureau level; pursuing appeals to the Army Board for the Correction of Military Records for violations that were due to a lack of documentation or a violation of law, statute or Department of Defense Instruction; and seeking a waiver of debt for Soldiers who are found to owe money.

The Incentives Task Force and your com-



manders understand that many Soldiers may have unwittingly received improper payments, though they had no intent or desire to receive more than they were entitled. Please work with us to quickly and openly to resolve these issues so resources can be refocused on the selfless service that makes this organization great. If you are notified by the ITF concerning a problem with an incentive you received (or were denied), please contact the ITF and/or the Legal Assistance Office as directed in the letter quickly and respond to their requests for information.

Brig. Gen. Donald J. Currier
Commander,
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