



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY
MANPOWER AND RESERVE AFFAIRS
111 ARMY PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20310-0111

SEP 06 2024

The Honorable Jim Banks
Chairman
Subcommittee on Military Personnel
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Banks:

This is a follow-up response to Secretary Christine E. Wormuth's letter dated July 16, 2024, regarding terror awareness training recently conducted at Fort Liberty, North Carolina. I want to reiterate the Secretary's statement that non-profit groups such as National Right to Life and PETA are not terrorist groups, and her assurance that the training slides will no longer be used. The Army is undertaking an Army-wide review to ensure that these or similar materials are not being disseminated elsewhere and that locally developed threat awareness and Army-wide antiterrorism training aligns with DoD antiterrorism standards, guidance, and training.

Please find below a brief synopsis of key findings of the Army Regulation 15-6 investigation into this matter completed July 29, 2024, and the Army's responses to the questions included in your letter (enclosed):

- In accordance with the 2011 Army Installation Management Command guidance outlining training requirements for personnel manning installation access control points, the Directorate of Emergency Services (DES) at Fort Liberty locally developed the terror awareness presentation.
- The terror awareness training presented to Soldiers at Fort Liberty on July 10, 2024, inaccurately referenced non-profit public advocacy organizations National Right to Life, Operation Rescue, Earth First, Earth Liberation Front, Animal Liberation Front, and PETA as terrorist groups, which is inconsistent with the Army's Antiterrorism policy and training.
- There is no evidence indicating the individual who developed and presented the training attempted to deliberately subvert DoD or Army policy, nor any evidence to suggest the individual attempted to further a personal viewpoint through the presentation.
- The slides have been used for training Soldiers augmenting installation access control points since 2017. The instructor added references to the displayed non-profit groups in 2017 based on the instructor's open-source research, inaccurately describing these groups and hence implying they were terrorist groups.

- The slides were not reviewed or approved at any level of Fort Liberty DES leadership.
- Internal DES policy and standard operating procedure directing reviews or approval processes for this, or similar terror awareness presentations, were lacking.
- In 2022, IMCOM issued a policy memorandum setting minimum training requirements for Soldiers assigned to gate guard duty. This memo removed terror awareness training as a requirement; however, Fort Liberty DES continued to conduct terror awareness training.
- Approximately 9,100 Soldiers augmenting installation access control points were trained using the presentation between 2017 and July 10, 2024. As part of the 15-6 investigation, samples of Soldiers were queried on training content, and customer feedback cards were sampled. The majority of Soldiers trained either provided no feedback or did not recall the specifics of the terror awareness presentation.
- No similar training discussing non-profit advocacy groups, pro-life beliefs, or animal rights organizations was found on Fort Liberty. No evidence indicated that the slides were acquired, shared, or presented outside of Fort Liberty. Going forward, the Army-wide review will ensure locally developed threat awareness and Army-wide antiterrorism training aligns with DoD antiterrorism standards, guidance, and training.
- Immediately following the release of the information on social media, the Director of the Fort Liberty DES directed a series of corrective actions, including: cessation of the terror awareness training previously given; a review of training to ensure compliance with Army regulatory requirements and guidance; legal reviews of training content; revalidation of instructors; DES leadership attendance of training; periodic checks of training courses and tracking of those checks.
- Immediately following the completion of the investigation and in accordance with its findings and recommendations, the XVIII Airborne Corps Commander directed the following:
 - Development of policy for periodic reviews of locally-developed training for consistency with Army and DoD policy, to include approval levels and frequency;
 - Comprehensive review of antiterrorism training materials used by tenant units on Fort Liberty to ensure compliance with Army and DoD policy;
 - Updates to Department of the Army Security Guard and augmenting Soldier threat briefs to reflect the most current and emergent threats to Fort Liberty;
 - Authorization of disposition of any disciplinary concerns involving DES civilian employees as appropriate and necessary;

- Forwarding the completed investigation to the FORSCOM Inspector General with recommendation for forwarding to the Department of the Army Inspector General;
- Release of the investigation to any DoD entity with appropriate need to know, or as otherwise authorized by law, regulation, and policy.

If you have any further questions or concerns regarding this matter, my staff and I are available to brief you. Thank you for your continued support of our Soldiers and the U.S. Army.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Agnes Gereben Schaefer". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Agnes Gereben Schaefer

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