



Personnel Accountability



One of the most basic leader responsibilities is maintaining the accountability of their personnel and equipment. From the early morning PT formations to the collection of the daily PERSTAT to the conducting of final PCC's and PCI's before a unit boards planes for a deployment, personnel accountability helps build trust within an organization, improves performance, promotes ownership and inspires confidence. This ownership is reinforced in the 2nd paragraph of the NCO Creed which states that, "My two basic responsibilities will always be uppermost in my mind—accomplishment of my mission and the welfare of my Soldiers."

First line leaders are the most important link in the personnel accountability chain. First line leaders are charged with ensuring that Soldiers under their charge are alive and properly accounted for thereby ensuring the welfare of their Soldiers. Whether they use conventional methods like knocking on barracks doors, having formations or they leverage technology like the use of text messages, the overall goal is the same---positive acknowledgement of their status.

This human interaction is important because they have been Soldiers here in USARCENT who were supposedly accounted for by their leaders that were later found deceased in their living quarters.

Proper personnel accountability is a matter of integrity and personal courage. Command Teams and S1s establish accountability procedures and enforce unit policies and regulatory guidance to include the use of accountability documentation like the DA 647 Personnel Register, DA 31 Leave/Pass Forms, appointment slips, etc. to ensure that personnel are placed in the correct duty status.

Proper personnel accountability is important because personnel transactions trigger pay actions which could lead to fraudulent pay if a Soldier isn't properly accounted for in the correct duty status. Additionally, other unfavorable actions could result as well including UCMJ and Line of Duty Investigations which could ultimately lead to the loss of benefits for family members.

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References

- AR 600-20 Army Command Policy
- AR 600-8-6 Personnel Accounting and Strength Reporting.
- AR 600-8-10 Leaves and Passes
- AR 690-11 Use and Management of Civilian Personnel In Support of Military Contingency Operations.
- AR 630-10 Absence Without Leave, Desertion, and Administration of Personnel Involved in Civilian Court proceedings.
- USARCENT Standards Book 2016, Chapter 3

