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See Distribution

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ADMINISTRATIVE INSTRUCTION 2/2024
REGULATION ON DETENTION AND TREATMENT OF PERSONNEL OF
INFERIOR RANK

INTRODUCTION

1. *Discipline is the bedrock of military profession. A fighting force devoid of discipline will certainly loss its cohesion and synergy to operate as a unified force. It is against this backdrop that certain rules and guidelines are often promulgated to regulate the conduct and behaviours of members of armed forces. Suffice to observe that in recent times some of these regulations have been skewed by individuals in the NAF who do not understand the essence of rules thereby misinterpreting them to suit their personal interests. This sometimes result in the ill treatment of subordinates leading to miscarriage of justice. Cases abound where detention facilities which are established for corrective measures are turned to punitive centres for the slightest misdemeanour. Discipline is necessary to correct and prevent misconduct, however, using it as a tool for oppression negates the essence of extant rules. Allowing this situation to persist unchecked would not only undermines morale and tarnish the reputation of the NAF but also capable of increasing the rate of personnel proceeding on AWOL and desertion. It behoves Commanders and superiors therefore to ensure personnel are not dehumanized, abused or arbitrarily detained thereby creating unnecessary friction in NAF units.*

2. *In view of the foregoing, it has become expedient to provide a set of guidelines for all personnel to imbibe a culture of respect and fairness in handling disciplinary*

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issues in a manner that would foster unity and esprit – de – corps in the Service. These guidelines are not meant to undermine the powers of Armed Forces Act Cap A20 LFN 2004 as amended, to foster obedience to Sects 8A and 92 9(a) and (b) of the Act and ensure a positive and productive working relationships among personnel.

GUIDELINES FOR MAINTAINING DISCIPLINE AND PROFESSIONALISM IN THE NAF

3. The following guidelines shall apply for the maintenance of discipline and professionalism in the NAF.

- a. All personnel must adhere strictly to military ethics and traditions as well as exhibit the highest a high levels of discipline required by the military profession.
- b. All serious disciplinary cases must be reported and thoroughly investigated in line with the laid down procedures for Air Police Investigation reports.
- c. Personnel are to desist from dehumanising subordinates while executing disciplinary measures bearing in mind that a person is presumed innocent until proven guilty.
- d. Arbitrary detention should be avoided in cases that permit on-the-spot correction.
- e. Detention beyond 24hrs other than IHL is prohibited, however, where necessary for safety or investigation, mandatory 8 days reports must be consistently forwarded to ASA as provided for by sect 122 (2) a and b of the AFA CAP A20 LFN 2004..
- f. All disciplinary cases must be expeditiously disposed with commensurate punishment in line with the powers of the trial officer.


g. It is the responsibility of the Commander administering the detention facility i.e BSG or BSW to feed the detainees, however, in co-located units, respective Commanders are to cater for their personnel in the BSG/BSW facility.

h. Trial officers are to ensure charges are properly verified and trial procedures strictly adhered to avoid nullification by the HQ NAF.

4. This instruction has been created with due regard to the interest of the Service and serves as a guidelines for maintaining discipline and professionalism in the NAF.

EFFECTIVE DATE

5. This Administrative Instruction takes immediate effect and is to be listed as Administrative Instruction 02/2024.


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List B & C

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List A - 1

Information:

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