

ENCLOSURE A16

FW: Phone incident today.

From: Forbes, Michael J SFC USARMY USSOCOM USASOC (USA) (michael.j.forbes.mil@socom.mil)

To: paxmas2007@yahoo.com

Date: Tuesday, April 18, 2023 at 08:53 AM EDT

Cordially,

Michael J. Forbes

528th Sustainment Brigade (SO) (A),

S2, NCOIC

SMO: W0GKAA6

☎ NIPR: (910) 908-8788

☎ BB: (910) 929-7078

☎ Staff Office: (910) 908-8787

☎ SIPR: 239-3425

NIPR: michael.j.forbes.mil@socom.mil

SIPR: michael.j.forbes.mil@socom.smil.mil

From: Forbes, Michael J SFC USARMY USSOCOM USASOC (USA)

Sent: Wednesday, December 7, 2022 10:41 AM

To: Howsden, Christopher L LTC USSOCOM USASOC (USA) <Christopher.Howsden@socom.mil>; Hylton, Jesse R SFC USSOCOM USASOC (USA) <jesse.r.hylton@socom.mil>

Subject: Phone incident today.

Thank you Sir.

SFC Hilton:

I was just approached in a closed door meeting with my new OIC that someone felt my professionally and factually asking them to take their phone to their car when they were using it in our USASOC building, that I was "dominant."

The facts are this:

I was reposting signage of the USASOC Policy 18-19, Personal Cell Phone Policy on all exterior doors and other interior doors, given the guidance that was put out to SMs here (that I personally witnessed).

I was answering LTC Furlow's questions about ETPs when I witnessed a SM in our building with her phone.

I approached her and said, "Please take your phone to your car."

She asked, "My phone?"

I said, "Yes Ma'am, your phone, they cannot be in this facility."

She said, "But I am using the Bridge app."

I said, "I understand but it's a USASOC Policy... oh here you can have your own copy. Please remove it and thank you very much."

I proceeded to hang more signs in and on our facility.

My OIC just left my office in which she stated that someone complained to BN Leadership that I was perceived to be dominant in my communication. This is not true.

I will likely need that appointment because I was told that anytime I witness a cell phone infraction going forward I must contact the OIC first.

I guess I am not allowed to professionally give on-the-spot-corrections anymore.

When can I meet with whomever. I don't want to loose a job I love and am passionate about because I am being wrongly perceived.

My OIC stated that "any further behavior like this will be dealt with."

Later, upon clarification, she stated that I am allowed to do my job just not in a dominant way.

I fear this is the beginning of a perception onslaught because I am professionally and confidently reminding SMs of what they agreed to being informed of in USASOC 18-19 upon in-processing here. I was polite and confident. The SM did not leave the facility with her phone until I went the entire perimeter of the building and LTC Furlow was in the same area and witnessed this request to remove the phone.

There is more background on this. When can I meet with you?

Cordially,

Michael J. Forbes

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Recommended reading from LTC Hamman's farewell email to 528th staff:

<https://fromthegreennotebook.com/2019/08/23/the-map-on-the-wall/>

From: Howsden, Christopher L LTC USSOCOM USASOC (USA) <Christopher.Howsden@socom.mil>

Sent: Wednesday, December 7, 2022 10:38 AM

To: Forbes, Michael J SFC USARMY USSOCOM USASOC (USA) <michael.j.forbes.mil@socom.mil>; Hylton, Jesse R SFC

USSOCOM USASOC (USA) <jesse.r.hylton@socom.mil>

Subject: RE: HPW program pending orders

SFC Forbes,

Please contact SFC Jesse Hilton to begin an IG case. He is in the cc line.

V/R,
Chris

From: Forbes, Michael J SFC USARMY USSOCOM USASOC (USA) <michael.j.forbes.mil@socom.mil>

Sent: Tuesday, December 6, 2022 4:49 PM

To: Howsden, Christopher L LTC USSOCOM USASOC (USA) <Christopher.Howsden@socom.mil>

Subject: RE: HPW program pending orders

Sir

Thank you. And I was clear about that. I am notifying you there is another mandatory one coming in right after that one (with cognitive, spiritual and behavioral surveys with outside 3rd parties) and the SMs are being reported for not participating in this "privilege." Phones are being encouraged and IPADs are in use, in PED-forbidden buildings by civilian contractors, etc.

Let me know who I should speak with to do what must be done. Thank you.

Cordially,

Michael J. Forbes

528th Sustainment Brigade (SO) (A),

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From: Howsden, Christopher L LTC USSOCOM USASOC (USA) <Christopher.Howsden@socom.mil>

Sent: Tuesday, December 6, 2022 4:44 PM

To: Forbes, Michael J SFC USARMY USSOCOM USASOC (USA) <michael.j.forbes.mil@socom.mil>

Cc: Hylton, Jesse R SFC USSOCOM USASOC (USA) <jesse.r.hylton@socom.mil>

Subject: RE: HPW program pending orders

SFC Forbes,

Thank you for this. I first want to be clear that our initial discussion was about the SDI self-assessment tool last week and not the Bridge Athletic fitness tool. I also said that it is not an 'Army' requirement. That is not to say that it isn't your commander's requirement. In your case, your commander exempted you from the SDI assessment.

In order to move forward with any additional assistance with the HPW program / assessment at 528th or any other issue, I will need to link you up with an IG who will do a more formal intake with you. We do this to ensure proper protections are in place for you and anyone involved in the complaint. This process will also allow you to clearly describe what you want the IG to do for you. Please let me know if you want to proceed with IG assistance and I'll get the ball rolling for you.

V/R,
Chris

LTC Christopher Howsden
Command Inspector General
1st Special Forces Command (Airborne)
OFFICE: 910-806-3317
MOBILE: 910-494-6768
SVOIP: 239-7928
christopher.howsden@socom.mil / christopher.howsden@usasoc.socom.smil.mil
Room 202, Building H-3743, Gruber Road, Fort Bragg, NC 28310-8500

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From: Forbes, Michael J SFC USARMY USSOCOM USASOC (USA) <michael.j.forbes.mil@socom.mil>
Sent: Monday, December 5, 2022 10:34 AM
To: Howsden, Christopher L LTC USSOCOM USASOC (USA) <Christopher.Howsden@socom.mil>
Subject: FW: HPW program pending orders

Sir

This is very similar to what I addressed with you last week and you commented via our tele convo that was not mandatory and my BDE CDR exempted me (via email) from attending due to the privacy concerns it mandatorily invites into SM lives.

That said, I am attempting to get more information for you, but having a little difficulty. Please see the attachments, which include the unsigned OPOD that is currently in implementation as seen by the attached email from our BDE Staff PSG and the cell phone policy which most, if not all have signed.

I know there is another forced survey (consisting of using IPADs with APS on them that ask, "spiritual, cognitive" and behavioral questions online from come ATL company per the POTFF website and a SM who took it. The Order states

SMs have to provide a civilian email account, must participate using at least one outside provider app on there personal phone and use a QR Code (on a personal phone with a third party corporation called Bridge[unk]...). Also, I attended the MI BN Physical Pillar of in-brief this morning and the "Coach" had commented that there is "no problem in using the app offline while you are at work." I spoke up and commented that, "Ma'am, these are actually intel Soldiers and they work in a building in which they cannot take personal electronic devices in." she commented, "Well, that sucks." Mind you she is in a building in which she has her phone and it is forbidden and I know of no ETP for this HPW program. We may need to request a sweep here soon.

I will read more this weekend. I printed DODD 6490.03 and .04 and attempt to get more information Monday. I am heading to LDS at some point to see what they think.

I have contacted LDS and they are expecting me any day. i have begun a congressional draft complaint but only just begun.

Attached the OPORD ← DO NOT KNOW IF THIS IS A FINAL but they are administering the program as seen by the email also attached.

Cordially,

Michael J. Forbes

528th Sustainment Brigade (SO) (A),

S2, NCOIC

SMO: W0GKAA6

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From: Howsden, Christopher L LTC USSOCOM USASOC (USA) <Christopher.Howsden@socom.mil>

Sent: Friday, December 2, 2022 2:41 PM

To: Forbes, Michael J SFC USARMY USSOCOM USASOC (USA) <michael.j.forbes.mil@socom.mil>

Subject: RE: HPW program pending orders

SFC Forbes, I would need more details of the program to provide any kind of an answer. I recommend reaching out to your HPW team with your questions. They can probably answer your questions faster than I could. We are happy to help, however, so If you have a complaint or concern, we will send you an IG Action Request and I'll link you up with an IG to assist you.

V/R,
Chris

LTC Christopher Howsden

Command Inspector General
1st Special Forces Command (Airborne)
OFFICE: 910-806-3317
MOBILE: 910-494-6768
SVOIP: 239-7928

christopher.howsden@socom.mil / christopher.howsden@usasoc.socom.smil.mil
Room 202, Building H-3743, Gruber Road, Fort Bragg, NC 28310-8500

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From: Forbes, Michael J SFC USARMY USSOCOM USASOC (USA) <michael.j.forbes.mil@socom.mil>
Sent: Friday, December 2, 2022 1:40 PM
To: Howsden, Christopher LTC USSOCOM USASOC (USA) <Christopher.Howsden@socom.mil>
Subject: HPW program pending orders

Sir:

I have heard of a program that is going to require a civilian email account to be provided and also mandatory use of a QR code (which would require a camera; likely on a phone) to be used to track your activities at home maybe. What regulation drives this program? Having a hard time finding it.

Cordially,

Michael J. Forbes
528th Sustainment Brigade (SO) (A),
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