

Very Seriously Injured (VSI) or Seriously Injured (SI) Status FAQs:

Q1: Who determines a Soldier's injuries are VSI or SI?

A1: The Doctor.

Q2: How does the family find out about this?

A2: SI/VSI notifications are conducted telephonically in order to expedite the passing of information that may lead to travel orders for Primary Next of Kin(PNOK) and up to three additional people whom the Soldier selects, to travel to the Soldier.

Q3: Who makes the telephonic notification?

A3: Usually the Rear Detachment Command. If circumstances dictate, the BCT or BN RDC and SGM/1SG may choose to follow up with a personal visit to the home if NOK is local (within 100 mile radius). The uniform for this visit is OCPs. In extenuating circumstances, the family may receive a phone call from Department of the Army Casualty Notification.

Q4: How does the Rear Detachment get the PNOK's phone number?

A4: From the Soldier's DD93 form and the FRG rosters so it's critical the family ensures their contact information is correct. Check with your FRG to confirm they have a good contact number for you on their roster and ask your Soldier to bring home a copy of their DD93.

Q5: What are ITOs and who decides if they will be issued to the family?

A5: They are Invitational Travel Orders authorizing the military to pay

for transportation, food and hotel arrangements for family members to travel to their injured Soldier. If the Soldier's attending Physician feels the presence of the Primary Next Of Kin (PNOK) will be "of significant contribution to the Soldier's recovery", Invitational Travel Orders (ITO) are issued.

Q6: Why does the family need Invitational Travel Orders?

A6: This authorizes transportation, lodging and meals for up to three Family Members of a Soldier categorized as VSI. DA Casualty Command must approve the authorization PRIOR to the family members travel. Travel conducted before approval will not be reimbursed. A family will never be issued ITOs to travel to a combat zone.

Q7: Where does the family usually go to visit their VSI Soldier?

A7: In most cases, the injured Soldier is moved back to a medical treatment facility in the United States and the family is then sent to that location to see their Soldier.

Q8: What if a wounded Soldier is still overseas, for example in Germany? How does that work?

A8: In some cases, if a service members is wounded while deployed OCONUS (Outside the Continental United States), and, due to the severity of the injury, medical personnel are unable to arrange for that service member to be moved for treatment to the United States, arrangements may be made for up to three people of the Soldier's choice to be flown overseas to see their service member, though never to a combat zone.

Q9: Who decides if this is necessary?

A9: The medical team and only then will the rear detachment be authorized to begin coordination for the family to visit their Soldier.

Q10: Will the family need passports to go overseas?

A10: Yes

Q11: Who should Rear D contact if a family needs an expedited passport?

A11: **DA CMAOD travel sections 1- 800-626-3317 **DA CMAOC= Department of the Army Casualty and Mortuary Affairs Operations Center

Q12: Are there any ways around having to have a passport if the family needs to leave for overseas quickly due to the medical status of their Soldier?

A12: No, but DA CMOAD travel sections will make all the coordination necessary for the family if it is authorized travel.

Q13: Who pays for this passport if the PNOK does not have one?

A13: The Government and for only up to three Family members. This should be reflected in block 9 on DA Form 2984.

Q14: What is a reasonable timeline that a family can expect to be on their way to see their Soldier?

A14: Each case is different, but the entire team will be working together to expedite the orders and arrangements. It could take up to a week. You can help the process by ensuring you can quickly locate the important paperwork your Rear Detachment will need from you.

Q15: What paperwork should the family be able to quickly locate if they do need a passport because they are on orders to go overseas to see their Soldier?

A15: If authorized, DA CMAOD travel sections will cut the order. Ensure each family member to be on the ITO has marriage certificates, valid picture ID, Birth Certificate and any old passports as applicable.

Below is the contact info for the Casualty Assistance Office for Fort Carson. While the CAO/CNO deals with KIA they are also a great source of information for the Rear Detachment in dealing with families during the difficult time of death or serious injury.

**Carlito Page, Chief, Casualty Assistance Center
Installation Management Command
Directorate of Human Resources / Military Personnel Division
Building 1218, Room 308
1625 Ellis Street
USAG-Fort Carson, CO, Desk: 719-526-8339**

Updated 4 Nov 2017