**Summary:** A number of regulatory requirements and polices changed based on friendly fire incidents that occurred during the 2004-2006 timeframe. The Army shares in the sorrow of families who have lost loved ones during Operation Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. We extend the deepest gratitude and condolences on behalf of our nation. The loss of any Soldier due to fratricide or friendly fire incidents is investigated to the fullest capabilities of our U.S. Army. An investigation in no way diminishes the bravery and sacrifice displayed by our fallen heroes.

**Initiatives Taken by The Army:**

- Review of all Army accident investigations, policies, regulations and training to include suspected friendly fire incidents.
- Review all Army casualty reporting policies regulations and training focusing on casualties resulting from friendly fire and an assessment of effectiveness of the updated regulatory changes recently implemented.
- Review all Army awards policies, regulations and training.

**Goals and objective of Casualty Reporting:**

- The Army is committed to providing complete and accurate information surrounding the circumstances of a Soldier’s death as quickly as possible.
- Every Soldier’s death is a great loss to the army. The army takes casualty reporting very seriously and is committed to doing it correctly as our Soldiers and families deserve our best.
- The Army is committed to providing families with accurate and timely information as soon as it is known and verified. Our goal is to have the system as close to 100 percent correct as possible out of respect for the memory of our fallen comrades and to provide solace to their families.
- Army Leadership is accountable for its decisions and actions.
Fratricide or Friendly Fire Incidents (continued)

AR 600-8-1 Army Casualty Program
GTA 12-01-002 Reporting Suspected Friendly Fire
AR 600-8-22, Military Awards

Changes to Casualty Notification Policies:

• AR 600-8-1, Casualty Operations was revised to require 15-6 investigations into all hostile deaths. The intent is to apply a more thorough investigating technique to initial casualty circumstances to ensure families receive accurate information.
• The Secretary of the Army directed a field grade officer review initial casualty information to verify it was accurate and based on all of the information known at the time.
• Army Criminal Investigation Command and unit commanders are required to notify the Casualty and Mortuary Affairs Operations Center of on-going death investigations and provide copies upon completion. The Center then cross references these investigations with the initial casualty circumstances to ensure they match.
• GTA 12-01-002, Reporting Suspected friendly fire must be adhered to starting with providing immediate telephonic heads up through combatant Casualty Assistance Center to the Army Casualty and Mortuary Affairs Operations Center Notification Cell.
• The Army believes these changes will ensure the families of our fallen Soldiers will receive the most accurate information possible in a timely manner.

Changes to Approval of Posthumous Valor Award:

• AR 600-8-22, Military Awards was revised to reflect prior to taking any action on a posthumous-valor award recommendation, the designated approval authority must review the completed AR 15-6 collateral investigation prior to considering the recommendation.
• The narrative presented in the award must not materially conflict with the findings of the investigation. The approval authority must indicate on the DA Form 638, "Recommendation for Award," that the completed AR 15-6 investigation was reviewed.
• The purpose of this policy is to ensure all facts are reviewed when considering recommendations for posthumous- valor awards.