

Friday, May 22, 2015

How What We Do Connects to Why We Do It

As the Army's internal audit organization, we have a very broad responsibility for providing oversight to the Army's budget, currently about \$130 billion, and all its force generation and business operations responsibilities. We audit acquisition, logistics and technology; financial management and comptroller functions; manpower, reserve affairs, and training; and installations, energy and environment issues. In all those areas, we audit the Army's organizations, functions, programs, systems, and funds. We evaluate oversight and controls and proactively seek out fraud and abuse.

Whether it's our auditors doing the audit work, or the professional support staff who make the audits possible, it is important that we collectively understand not only what we do, but why we do it, ***and also how what we do connects to that higher purpose.***

We do what we do for the 6,000 Soldiers who died for us over the last decade in Iraq and Afghanistan, the 52,000 who returned to us physically and mentally injured, the civilians who deployed with them risking their lives, and the families who lost loved ones or sacrificed in countless other ways while their loved ones (fathers, mothers, sisters, brothers, sons and daughters) were deployed in far off lands.

We also do it for all who went before them, for the Army, for America's citizens and for our nation. And we won't forget we also do it for our families and for ourselves because supporting the national defense protects all our lives and preserves all our freedoms.

We don't engage in combat, but we deploy with Soldiers in a supporting role when needed. Our audits help ensure our Soldiers are well trained and equipped for the job and have the technological edge on the battlefield. We don't fire weapons, but our audits help make sure the weapons developed for our Soldiers are bought efficiently, properly tested, logistically supported, and work when needed. We are not engineers, but our audits help ensure Army acquires effective protective equipment and clothing to keep our Soldiers safe on the battlefield. Most of us are not members of Soldiers' families, but audits help ensure their families receive the housing and other benefits to which they are entitled. We aren't doctors, but our audits help ensure our war fighters and families receive effective and efficient medical care. Most of us are not Soldiers, but our audits help Army save billions of dollars each year that can be used for Soldiers' needs. We help ensure integrity and efficiency in contracting, recommend strong controls in information systems to protect data, protect prevent and identify hundreds of millions in fraud, and help put the criminals who take funds intended for our Soldiers in jail. We help Army save energy and protect the environment, and properly account for its financial resources. And we protect the Army's reputation enabling it to fight for the resources it needs to protect us and our nation's citizens.

Our mission is a both a blessing and a sacred duty. Our service is not a sacrifice - it is a debt we owe to those who have truly sacrificed for all of us.