

national

ADF Investigation Service sent 'insulting and humiliating' emails

THE Defence internal investigation service probing the ADF email porn scandal was itself busted last month for inappropriate email use.

PATRICK LION

News Corp Australia Network JUNE 21, 2013 12:31 AM



?Guys, I need the above idiot?s paperwork for his appt tomorrow,? the staffer allegedly wrote. *Source: Supplied*

THE Defence internal investigation service probing the army email porn scandal was itself busted last month for inappropriate email use after "humiliating" a suicidal soldier scarred from recovering dead diggers' bodies in Afghanistan.

The Inspector-General overseeing military justice also described the offensive emails by Australian Defence Force Investigation Service staff as "insulting" after a complaint from the sick ADFIS investigator's wife.

The ill investigator, who was on sick leave after returning from the Middle East, had emailed his work office last year seeking approval for weekly travel to be treated for post traumatic stress disorder.

He was accidentally forwarded emails showing his office allegedly described him as an "idiot" to the Canberra ADFIS headquarters.

"Guys, I need the above idiot's paperwork for his appt tomorrow," the staffer allegedly wrote.

After another request for his travel was approved, a senior ADFIS investigator allegedly wrote: "!!!!!!".

Other allegations centred on a staffer writing on his file that he was attempting to manipulate the system and emails showing the comment "same ... different week".

The sick investigator's wife said the comments had devastated their family at an extremely sensitive time.

"They treat him with this disrespect ... this is the last thing my husband needed to see at this particular time in his treatment and, in fact, has set him back a few more steps," she said.

The revelations come amid an ADFIS probe into the "Jedi Counsel" email porn affair, which has embroiled more than 100 ADF members linked to an email ring circulating degrading films and photos taken of women while they had sex with some army members.

In a May 8 letter obtained by News Limited, Inspector-General Geoff Earley told the sick investigator's wife he was tasked with the probe because her bullying and harassment claims were "serious and indicative of systemic issues within ADFIS".

"The inquiry found evidence demonstrating that during your husband's management on sick leave he was subjected to comments by Defence personnel in emails that could reasonably be regarded as being insulting and humiliating and, therefore, to be likely in breach of Defence policy," he wrote.

"The inquiry did not, however, find evidence that this was the result of a premeditated or intentional or wilful attempt by the two Defence members to bully or harass your husband."

Defence has declined to say if the specific ADFIS office subject to the IG inquiry was the same one running the email porn probe.

But a spokeswoman said the ADFIS staff found to have humiliated the soldier were not involved in investigating the email porn probe.

"The Provost Marshal ADF, who commands ADFIS, is currently considering what action may be appropriate," she said.

The sick ADFIS investigator, who requested anonymity for privacy, has since been medically discharged from the ADF.

RSL spokesman Don Rowe said he was horrified by the episode.

"If this is an example of how they behave, it doesn't give a lot of confidence in how they are going to handle the issue of these other inappropriate emails," he said.

"I'm horrified this stuff got back to the officer. You'd think he'd be treated with respect by people who should know better given they are working around investigations themselves."

Follow Patrick Lion on Twitter [@patricklion](https://twitter.com/patricklion) or contact him at patrick.lion@news.com.au

News Limited Copyright © 2018. All times AEST (GMT +10)

Source: <http://www.news.com.au/national/adf-investigation-service-sent-8216insulting-and-humiliating8217-emails/news-story/c28fdce4d40bb66dc3a3d1287a5c34bf>