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ASD(M&RA)

Department of Defense Directive

SUBJECT Service Academy Separations

- Refs: (a) DepSecDef Memo to Secs to Mil Depts, "Service Academy Separations," January 27, 1968 (hereby cancelled)
- (b) 10 U. S. C. 651
- (c) 10 U. S. C. 4348b, 6959b, 9348b
- (d) 10 U. S. C. 516
- (e) DoD Instruction 1336.1, "Standardization of Forms for Report of Transfer or Discharge of Members of the Armed Forces of the United States," September 1, 1966
- (f) DoD Directive 1332.14, "Administrative Discharge," December 20, 1965
- (g) DoD Instruction 5000.12, "Data Elements and Data Codes Standardization Procedures," April 27, 1965

I. PURPOSE

This Directive establishes uniform policies governing the separation of United States Military, Naval and Air Force Academy cadets and midshipmen either prior to completion of the course of instruction, or subsequent to graduation on refusal to accept an appointment as a commissioned officer, and procedures for reporting such separations.

II. APPLICABILITY AND SCOPE

The provisions of this Directive apply to the Military Departments and cover cadets and midshipmen attending the U. S. Military Academy, West Point, New York; the U. S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, Maryland; and the U. S. Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, Colorado (hereafter referred to as "service academies").

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III. CANCELLATION

Reference (a) is hereby superseded and cancelled.

IV. DEFINITIONS

As used in this Directive, the following definitions will apply:

- A. Cadets and Midshipmen. Those U. S. citizens who have been appointed to one of the service academies as cadets or midshipmen.
- B. Separation refers to the voluntary or involuntary disenrollment of a cadet or midshipman from one of the service academies.
- C. Agreement signifies both the successful completion of the course of instruction at one of the service academies and the acceptance of a commission in one of the military services.
- D. Academic Year is considered to commence on the first day of the fall semester when classes formally convene.

V. POLICY

The Secretaries of the Military Departments will develop procedures covering the separation of cadets or midshipmen or graduates of the service academies consistent with the following:

- A. General.
 - 1. A cadet or midshipman who enters a service academy directly from a civilian status assumes a military service obligation for six (6) years under the provisions of reference (b). A cadet or midshipman who fails to fulfill his agreement (which includes completing the course of instruction and accepting a commission) may be transferred to the respective Reserve component in an appropriate enlisted status and may be ordered to active duty for a period of time not to exceed four (4) years, as provided in reference (c).
 - 2. A cadet or midshipman who enters a service academy from the Regular or Reserve component of any military service who fails to fulfill his agreement will revert to his former status for the completion of any prior service obligation

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upon separation from cadet or midshipman status, in accordance with reference (d). However, completion or partial completion of service obligation acquired by prior enlistment in no way exempts a separated cadet or midshipman from being transferred to a Reserve component and ordered to active duty under the provisions of reference (c).

3. A cadet or midshipman who is separated from a service academy because of demonstrated unsuitability, unfitness, or physical disqualification for military service will be discharged in accordance with the current regulations of the appropriate military service which implement reference (f).
4. A cadet or midshipman who tenders a resignation will be required to state a specific reason for his action. However, prior to final determination, each case will be considered under the criteria established by the service to determine if the circumstances fall within "demonstrated unfitness or unsuitability for military service."

B. Criteria.

The following specific policies are applicable except in cases of cadets or midshipmen reverted to former enlisted status:

1. Fourth and Third Classmen (1st and 2nd Years). Any Fourth or Third Classman who is separated, or whose resignation is accepted will be discharged in accordance with current regulations of the appropriate service. (A resignation tendered by a Fourth or Third Classman will be accepted when found to be in the best interests of the service.)
2. Second and First Classmen (3rd and 4th Years).
 - a. A Second Classman who is separated prior to the commencement of the Second Class Academic Year will be discharged as provided in V. B. 1., above.
 - b. With the commencement of the Second Class Academic Year, a Second or First Classman who is separated prior to completing the course of instruction, except for physical disqualifications, unfitness, or unsuitability,

will normally be transferred to the Reserve component in an enlisted status and be ordered to active duty for not less than two (2) years under the provisions of reference (c).

- c. When separation occurs as a result of deficiencies which are not considered willful, the active duty provision may be waived.
- d. Any First Classman who completes the course of instruction and declines to accept an appointment as a commissioned officer will be transferred to the Reserve component in an enlisted status and ordered to active duty for four (4) years.

C. Agreements.

The agreement statements signed by all entering Fourth Classmen will contain the active duty and discharge provisions contained in this Directive.

D. Change in Status Notification.

In each case where a cadet or midshipman is separated from a service academy, the Selective Service System will be notified of the individual's change in status in accordance with the procedures delineated in reference (e).

VI. REPORTING REQUIREMENT

- A. An annual report indicating the following information for each class in attendance during the preceding Academic Year will be submitted to the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Manpower and Reserve Affairs) not later than August 30 of each year.
 - 1. Number discharged for unsuitability, unfitness, or physical disqualification; _____
 - 2. Number discharged for all other reasons; _____
 - 3. Number transferred to the Reserve component and ordered to active duty in accordance with reference (c); _____

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4. Number transferred to the Reserve component and not ordered to active duty; _____
5. Number separated and reverted to former Reserve or Regular status exclusive of those included in item 3, above; _____
6. Total number separated during the year. _____

B. If automatic data processing equipment is used to prepare this report, standard data elements and codes will be used to the extent applicable and available. All other data elements and codes are interim (non-standard) and subject to change after undergoing standardization under the provisions of reference (g).

VII. REPORT CONTROL SYMBOL

This reporting requirement has been assigned Report Control Symbol DD-M(A)851.

VIII. EFFECTIVE DATE AND IMPLEMENTATION

This Directive is effective immediately. Two (2) copies of each implementing document shall be forwarded to the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Manpower and Reserve Affairs) within ninety (90) days.


Deputy Secretary of Defense