



THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301-1200

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HEALTH AFFAIRS

MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY (M&RA)
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE NAVY (M&RA)
ASISTANT SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE (SAF/MI)

SUBJECT: Policy Memorandum – Physical Examinations for Officer Applicants

References: (a) DoD Directive 6130.3, "Physical Standards for Appointment, Enlistment, or Induction," December 15, 2000
(b) DoD Instruction 6130.4, "Criteria and Procedure Requirements for Physical Standards for Appointment, Enlistment, or Induction," December 14, 2000
(c) Health Affairs Policy Memorandum, "Physical Examinations for ROTC Applicants," December 18, 1998
(d) Health Affairs Policy Memorandum, "Policy Memorandum to Refine Policy for Priority Use of Medical Treatment Facilities by TRICARE Prime Enrollees," March 18, 1997

This Policy Memorandum is issued under the authority of references (a) and (b). Health Affairs Policy Memorandum dated December 18, 1998 (ref (c)) authorized Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) applicants and applicants to the Service Academies, Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USUHS), and Officer Training School priority group 1 (as defined in ref (d)) access to Military Treatment Facilities (MTFs). Although this policy has resulted in improved access for officer applicants to MTFs, several problems still exist that impede officer recruiting and contribute to ROTC deficits. Delays in obtaining physical exams and subsequent consultations have continued to compromise our ability to deliver the best qualified men and women to serve as officers in our Armed Forces. Equally problematic are inequities that may discourage economically disadvantaged applicants from pursuing the application process when they must pay out-of-pocket expenses for consultative follow-up (remedials).

Through the joint efforts of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Force Management Policy) and the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Health Affairs) and with the approval of the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), additional one-time funding for FY 02 has been obtained for the Department of Defense Medical Examination Review Board (DoDMERB) to permit its contract service to provide physical examinations for officer applicants for the following programs: non-scholarship and scholarship ROTC, USUHS, and Service Academies. Additionally, funding is now available to cover follow-up medical examinations (remedials) on those applicants who obtain physicals through DoDMERB's contractor. Accordingly, the DoDMERB mission will be expanded to provide the capability of performing physical examinations on these officer accessions and to cover follow-up medical

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examinations. MTFs may continue to perform accession physicals and remedial examinations on non-beneficiary applicants in order to meet mission requirements or when requested by the Service if such examinations are performed by assigned (non-contract) providers. Officer applicants who are TRICARE beneficiaries and wish to use existing MTFs (especially critical for overseas locations) may continue to do so. For these applicants, TRICARE standards for access to care will continue to apply. Inability to meet such standards (for CONUS applicants) should result in referral of the applicant to the DoDMERB contract service. Continued funding of this expanded mission will be through off-sets from the elimination of non-indicated accession procedures as well as adjustment of MTF and US Military Entrance Processing Command funding for reduced volume resulting from the expanded DoDMERB mission.

This policy is effective 60 days from the date of this memorandum. Implementation will be coordinated between DoDMERB and the Surgeons General and program managers. My point of contact for this issue is Lieutenant Colonel Timothy S. Corcoran at 703-681-1703 or e-mail at Timothy.Corcoran@ha.osd.mil.



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cc:

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