



THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301-1200

APR 10 2002

HEALTH AFFAIRS

MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY (M&RA)
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE NAVY (M&RA)
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE (SAF/MR)
ASSISTANT COMMANDANT OF THE COAST GUARD
FOR HUMAN RESOURCES

SUBJECT: Medical Screening for Applicants for Entrance into the Armed Forces

- References:
- (a) DoD Directive 5154.25, "DoD Medical Examination Review Board," June 11, 1981
 - (b) DoD Directive 6130.3, "Physical Standards for Appointment, Enlistment, or Induction," December 15, 2000
 - (c) DoD Instruction 6130.4, "Criteria and Procedure Requirements for Physical Standards for Appointment, Enlistment, or Induction in the Armed Forces," dated December 14, 2000
 - (d) Armed Forces Epidemiological Board Memorandum, "Medical Screening for Accession Programs- Electrocardiogram (ECG)," January 22, 2002
 - (e) Armed Forces Epidemiological Board Memorandum, "Medical Screening for Accession Programs- Hemoglobin Screening," January 22, 2002
 - (f) Armed Forces Epidemiological Board Memorandum, "Medical Screening for Accession Programs- Panoramic Radiographs," January 22, 2002
 - (g) Armed Forces Epidemiological Board Memorandum, "Medical Screening for Accession Programs- Physical Examination," January 22, 2002

This Policy Memorandum is issued under the authority of references (a), (b), and (c). In August 2001, the Acting Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs requested a review of several longstanding practices utilized in the process of assessing accession candidates for entrance into the United States Armed Forces. The Armed Forces Epidemiological Board (AFEB), which conducted the review, published their findings in January 2002 (ref (d)-(g)).

This assessment determined that routine screening of applicants for Military Service using an electrocardiogram (ECG), hemoglobin or hematocrit (H/H), and panoramic and bitewing radiographs should be discontinued. Additionally, as current disqualification criteria (ref (b)) are based on physician medical exam and history, dental professional exam should be required only upon referral by the examining medical clinician. I concur with these recommendations and therefore direct that the practice of using routine screening ECGs, H/Hs, and panoramic radiographs in determining qualification for entrance into the Armed Forces shall cease immediately. Also, a routine dental professional exam will not be required to qualify an applicant for service in the United States Armed Forces. The discontinuation of these routine

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screening practices does not preclude their use when indicated by history and/or physical examination suggesting to the medical professional they are needed to qualify the applicant for service in the Armed Forces.

The AFEB also reviewed the validity period of the initial qualification physical exam (ref (g)) and determined that the current two year interval can be extended for accession and commissioning purposes and an interval assessment used to detect disqualifying medical conditions that may have developed since the last physical exam. There is no DoD Directive or Instruction that dictates the validity period of the initial qualification physical exam.

Please modify existing policies within 30 days to reflect the provisions of these changes. 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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