



# **Continuation On Active Duty (COAD) Continuation On Active Reserve (COAR)**

## **(AR 635-40)**

**Medical Policy Officer, HQDA G-1**  
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(as of 20090409)



# Purpose

- The primary objective of COAD/COAR programs are to conserve manpower by effective use of needed skills or experience. A Soldier who is physically unqualified for further military service has no inherent or vested right to continuation
- The Secretary of the Army (SA), or their designee, may involuntarily continue Soldiers determined unfit by the PDES in consideration of their service obligation or special skill and experience
- COAD/COAR is an Exception to Policy program



# Eligibility

To be considered for COAD/COAR

- A Soldier must be determined unfit by the Physical Disability Evaluation System (PDES) for a disability that is not due to misconduct, willful negligence, or incurred during an unauthorized absence
- The disability must be basically stable or of a slow progression
- The Soldier must be able to work in a military environment without adversely affecting their health, posing a risk to other Soldiers, or requiring undue loss of time from duty for medical treatment



# Eligibility (cont)

- IAW AR 635-40, the Soldier should meet **one** of the criteria below
  - The Soldier has 15 but less than 20 years of active or Reserve Component qualifying service, as applicable
  - The Soldier is qualified in a critical skill or shortage MOS
  - The Soldier's unfitting disability resulted from combat or an act of terrorism
- Current practice: No Soldier will be told he/she cannot submit request for COAD/COAR (Policy Pending RAR)
- Mobilized TPU/IRR RC are limited to applying for COAR only



# Application Process

- The Soldier is counseled on COAD/COAR during the PDES process *before fitness determination is made*
- If the Soldier receives an unfit finding, the application is submitted to Physical Disability Agency (PDA)
- Each Soldier's packet is distributed by PDA to the respective Army component approval authority once the PEB is completed
- Disability adjudication must be completed before packet is forwarded because "Rating" must be a part of the Soldier's decision making process



# Board Considerations

- COAD/COAR Board reviews requests will consider the following:
  - Current physical limitations
  - Ability to function within the Army
  - Ability to function within current MOS
  - Army requirements
- Combat Wounded and Combat Related Soldier (AW2) applications are approved for COAD/COAR if they meet the medical requirements
- Non-Combat Related applications are considered on the basis of individual merit and criteria outlined above



# Length of Continuation

- Soldiers approved for COAD may remain on active duty (provided otherwise qualified) until their retention control point, MRD or retirement date, age 62 (AC) or age 60 (AGR) whichever comes first
- Soldiers approved for COAR may serve up to their maximum years of service, MRD or age 60, whichever comes first



# Re-Enlistment

- Enlisted Soldiers are required to reenlist if their approved continuation period extends beyond their contractual enlistment
- Soldiers are not required to meet medical retention standards for the disabilities for which they were approved for continuation
- Soldier may be denied re-enlistment if their disabilities have deteriorated or they have new medical impairments
- Physical required no less than every 2 years





# Final Disability Evaluation

- Soldiers can choose to ‘opt out’ of the program within the first 6 months of enrollment and will not be required to undergo disability re-evaluation (assumes no change health)
- Soldier’s approved for continuation of greater than 6 months are referred for disability evaluation
- Final rating may increase or decrease depending upon progression or improvement of the disability
- Soldier may be found fit (The rule, “Presumption of Fitness” is not applied.)



# Policy Pending Rapid Action Revision

- All Soldiers found unfit (other than due to misconduct) by PDES may request COAD/COAR
- Those not meeting one of the 3 “or” criteria must fully justify request
- AGRs cannot request COAR directly to TPU, they must COAR to IRR
- Guidance added for Soldier-request for revocation of COAD/COAR



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