



**SECRETARY OF THE ARMY
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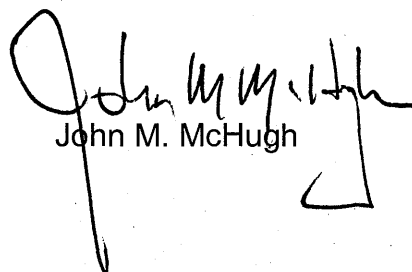
21 MAY 2012

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Army Directive 2012-13 (Policy and Implementing Guidance for Deployment Cycle Support)

1. The Army continues its strong dedication to the safety and well-being of its Soldiers, Department of the Army (DA) Civilians and their Families. Soldiers and DA Civilians have responded magnificently to the requirements of current overseas contingency operations. After years of deployments, these operations have taken a toll on our Army. In response, the Army has placed even greater emphasis on the reconstitution and resiliency of Soldiers, DA Civilians and their Families within the Army Force Generation (ARFORGEN) cycles of RESET, Train/Ready and Available. Importantly, we must provide all deploying Soldiers and DA Civilians with the opportunity and means for personal reconstitution, Family reunion and reintegration.
2. To fulfill this critical requirement, the Army will continue to conduct deployment cycle support (DCS) operations for all personnel deployed from home station for 90 days or more. The objective of DCS is to assist deploying Soldiers, DA Civilians and their Families with their reintegration to predeployment environments.
3. Senior mission commanders are responsible for executing the provisions of DCS policy within their units to ensure that DCS requirements are accomplished and documented. An overview of DCS and implementing guidance is at enclosures 1 and 2, respectively.
4. The Deputy Chief of Staff, G-1 is the proponent for DCS policy and is delegated the authority to approve future revisions to current DCS guidance and procedures. The Deputy Chief of Staff, G-1 will publish a major revision to Army Regulation 600-8-101 (Personnel Processing (In-, Out-, Soldier Readiness, Mobilization and Deployment Processing)) to implement the provisions of this directive.
5. This directive supersedes Army Directive 2007-02 (Deployment Cycle Support (DCS) Directive), dated 26 March 2007. It applies to all Active and Reserve Component personnel, DA Civilians and their Families, and its provisions are effective immediately.

Enclosures


John M. McHugh

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OVERVIEW OF DEPLOYMENT CYCLE SUPPORT

During 2002–03, the Deputy Chief of Staff, G-3 formed a tiger team to review the effects of stress caused by deployments with the goal to mitigate the adverse effects associated with extended deployments. This review was in direct response to incidents of domestic violence that occurred after Soldiers returned from extended deployments to Afghanistan. The tiger team identified a requirement to increase emphasis on the successful reintegration of Soldiers, DA Civilians and their Families into preconflict environments. In March 2003 the Deputy Chief of Staff, G-3 identified the emerging nature of deployment cycle support (DCS) as a personnel coordination requirement, and responsibility shifted from the G-3 to the Deputy Chief of Staff, G-1. In April 2003, the G-1 hosted a DCS conference with key staff agencies and Army command representatives at Fort Bragg, and on 2 May 2003, the Secretary of the Army approved the DCS concept plan, which was the genesis of the current DCS process.

A revision of Army Directive 2007-02 (Deployment Cycle Support (DCS) Directive) is necessary to separate the directive from DA Form 7631 (Deployment Cycle Support (DCS) Checklist) and the DCS task lists to update them, eliminate duplication with DA Form 7425 (Readiness and Deployment Checklist), and allow quicker revisions to the lists to incorporate changes in Army policies and regulations. This revision also enables the Army G-1 to make additional changes in DCS policy recommended by the Army Suicide Prevention Program Task Force. The Army will continue to review changes to military policy that may affect DCS policy in the future.

DCS continues to be a comprehensive process that helps make sure Soldiers, DA Civilians and their Families are better prepared and sustained throughout deployments. It provides a means to identify Soldiers, DA Civilians and Families who may need assistance with the challenges inherent to extended deployments. Personal reconstitution for Soldiers is the business of both commanders and sergeants, and the Army must provide the right tools and training to execute the mission. The goal of the DCS process is to facilitate Soldier, DA Civilian and Family well-being throughout the deployment cycle.

The Army will disseminate this directive to leaders at all levels, and all levels of command will be involved to ensure that DCS requirements are accomplished and documented. The DCS process supports the three force pools of ARFORGEN: RESET, Train/Ready and Available. The tasks required by DCS emphasize the human dimension of mobilization readiness. The linkage to the ARFORGEN process in DCS explains the human dimension of what must occur during DCS support of the ARFORGEN process, modeled off the force projection process.

The Deputy Chief of Staff, G-1 is the staff agent for DCS policy. All Soldiers and DA Civilians deployed from home station for 90 days or more will complete the DCS process. Families are authorized and strongly encouraged to take advantage of the

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Overview of Deployment Cycle Support

resources and services that are integrated into every stage of the DCS process at home station.

This directive is predicated upon several key assumptions:

- (1) The majority of deployments will exceed 90 days.
- (2) Reserve Component units and individual Soldiers will return to their predeployment Reserve status as effectively and efficiently as possible, consistent with mission accomplishment.
- (3) Soldiers may permanently change station or reach expiration term of service before completion of the DCS process with their deployed unit.
- (4) External demands (congressional, media, Department of Defense leadership, etc.) and internal demands (spouses, Family members, local commands, etc.) will place additional requirements on the DCS process.
- (5) Key transformation initiatives such as ARFORGEN and force stabilization will become operational, requiring further review of existing policies and processes governing the human dimension of readiness.

IMPLEMENTING GUIDANCE FOR DEPLOYMENT CYCLE SUPPORT

Implementation

The DCS process is a senior mission commander program. Each senior commander will ensure that U.S. Army Installation Management Command coordinates support requirements at the installation and garrison levels. Senior commanders will ensure that assets required to support DCS are emplaced appropriately in Continental United States (CONUS) and overseas Continental United States (OCONUS) units. The Army G-1 will continue to refine DCS policy, including a revised ARFORGEN DCS checklist and task list to execute DCS policy, and include the checklist and task list into the Army G-1's Personnel Policy Guidance.

All Soldiers will complete DCS tasks within the respective DCS phase and applicable ARFORGEN force pools. This provides greater flexibility in responding to changes in strategic policy and training requirements of the operational Army and ensures that readiness and training requirements have been completed.

Commanders at all levels are responsible for ensuring that Soldiers complete DCS tasks and document completion by overseeing DCS execution within their units.

- a. The Army continues conducting DCS operations for Soldiers and DA Civilians deployed for 90 days or more to mitigate the stressors associated with extended deployments. DCS operations also include Soldiers departing theater on emergency leave, rest and recuperation (R&R), and medical evacuation.
- b. During conduct of DCS requirements, Soldier Readiness Program sites in theater and CONUS will ensure that medical records are not combined with the DCS checklist. Army substance abuse, social work services and behavioral health medical professionals will make sure safeguards are in place to implement this requirement.
- c. For theater operations, senior commanders will ensure that DCS support assets are positioned at appropriate levels for theater aerial ports of debarkation (APODs). Supporting units, agencies and staffs must assist units and eligible individuals as necessary to complete DCS tasks during the appropriate periods of DCS and ARFORGEN.
- d. Commanders will coordinate suicide awareness and prevention training with the Suicide Prevention Program Manager to ensure that appropriate training is provided. Suicide Prevention Training for Soldiers (E-4 and below) should be completed at the squad level by first-line leaders. Suicide Prevention Training for Leaders may be done in larger groups by chaplains or other personnel from the chain of command. Chaplains are primary gatekeepers for suicide prevention and should be used for screening at-risk Soldiers and providing appropriate referrals. First-line leaders are secondary gatekeepers for suicide prevention and should complete an Applied Suicide Intervention

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Skills Training workshop before deployment. Each unit's master resilience trainers will be directly involved with the Comprehensive Soldier Fitness (CSF)-designated resiliency training requirements. Soldiers and deployed DA Civilians should complete these suicide prevention and all CSF critical resiliency training requirements before they travel from or return to theater on emergency, R&R or medical leaves. Senior commanders and deploying units must make sure to conduct suicide prevention and CSF training requirements during all ARFORGEN force pool periods for Soldiers, DA Civilians and their Families as required in Army G-1-directed tasks. Families of Soldiers are authorized to attend and are encouraged to participate in all suicide prevention training and meetings at home station, coordinated with unit and installation chaplains. These efforts must be seriously considered to reduce and eliminate suicidal and depression-related behaviors.

e. All levels of command must also be involved to ensure that DCS tasks are accomplished and documented for Army personnel deploying or deployed with other Services. The DCS process takes place concurrently for Soldiers at deployed locations, APODs, CONUS/OCONUS replacement centers, mobilization stations, and demobilization stations and for Families at home stations.

f. The gaining senior commander/unit commander is responsible for DCS tasks not completed for newly assigned and returning Soldiers, DA Civilians and their Families.

g. The gaining senior commander/unit commander is responsible for Soldiers and DA Civilians as soon as they leave the APOD of their home/mobilization station until they return to their APOD of origin.

h. In accordance with AR 600-20 (Army Command Policy), paragraph 5-10, Family members of Soldiers and DA Civilians are included in Army Family programs, enabling Soldier and DA Civilian Family members to attend briefings, training, counseling and other services identified by the DCS process at home station.

i. DA Civilians deployed overseas and their Family members may use Military OneSource services during the period of deployment and for up to 180 days after return to home station.

j. For DA Civilians, the losing and gaining commander, in coordination with the chaplain, the Office of The Surgeon General and CSF, should ensure that suicide prevention and resilience training is provided to DA Civilians during their deployment readiness processing and departure from theater (to include emergency, R&R or medical leaves). Families of redeployed DA Civilians should be encouraged and offered the opportunity to participate in any suicide prevention training, resilience training and meetings conducted at home station.

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Phases

DCS requirements by phase support the entire ARFORGEN process to ensure that resilience and the human dimension of what must occur modeled off the force projection process are accomplished. The DCS phases supporting ARFORGEN are:

Phase 1: RESET. This phase includes units or individuals reset in theater; transfer forces and materiel to support other operational requirements; or return personnel, equipment and materiel to the home station or demobilization station. RESET is the process of reintegrating Soldiers and DA Civilians into their predeployment environments. Tasks include administrative actions, briefings, training and counseling for Soldiers and DA Civilians departing theater and their Family members at home station. Tasks for Soldiers and DA Civilians should begin in theater. Commanders are responsible for ensuring that tasks not completed in theater are completed at the home or demobilization station. During RESET, the first O-5 in the chain of command will certify that the unit or eligible individuals have completed DCS tasks. The successful reunion of Families depends on proper preparation, including briefings, training and counseling for spouses and Family members. Reception activities (such as parades and picnics) should occur for redeploying Soldiers and DA Civilians. Family Readiness Groups, community agencies and employers should participate. The post-deployment RESET tasks consist of administrative actions, briefings, training, counseling and medical evaluations not accomplished in theater to facilitate the successful reintegration of Soldiers and DA Civilians into their Families and communities.

Phase 2: Train/Ready. Units complete reset actions and begin to enter the traditional training cycle. Individual and collective training and readiness activities drive this stage. DCS tasks consisting of personnel administrative actions, briefings, training, counseling and medical evaluations are completed to ensure that all Soldiers, DA Civilians and their Families are prepared for extended deployments. If Soldiers are identified with psychological problems not discovered during the immediate postmobilization period, refer to the Army G-1 Personnel Policy Guidance - (PPG), chapter 7-2 (Medical and Dental, General Guidance) for specific guidance and procedures. Units or individuals are alerted for possible deployment and undergo preparations and training.

Civilians do not fit neatly into the ARFORGEN phases. For example, DA Civilians generally deploy on a one-time basis and perform the same skills/duties required of their position at home station. Also, any training received is generally in connection with survival in a combat zone. Commanders at all levels must ensure that all DCS tasks are accomplished for all deploying and redeploying DA Civilians.

Phase 3: Available. Units or individuals are prepared to deploy or deploy from CONUS or OCONUS installations into the designated theater. Units or individuals perform their

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assigned mission in theater for a prescribed period of time. Tasks include recurring administrative actions and briefings, training and counseling for Soldiers and DA Civilians departing theater on emergency leave, R&R or medical evacuation.

Resources

Training tools are available on the DCS Web site at <http://www.armyg1.army.mil/DCS/default.asp>.

Applicable regulations and forms are available on the Army Publishing Directorate Web site at <http://www.apd.army.mil/>.

Authority

In accordance with AR 25–30 (The Army Publishing Program), paragraph 2–2, DA directives are policy and information memorandums the Secretary of the Army issues to impart immediate policy and changes to policy, guidance or procedures. DA directives apply Armywide and remain in effect until superseded or rescinded by the Secretary of the Army. If policy, guidance or procedures issued in a DA directive conflicts with policy or guidance in existing Departmental publications, the DA directive takes precedence, and the proponent is responsible for initiating a revision to the affected publication to ensure compliance with the directive.

Recommended Changes

Submit recommendations for DCS policy changes or corrections to the DCS Program Manager, Army G-1, Command Policy and Programs, or g1dcs@conus.army.mil. The mailing address is:

DCS Program Manager
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