



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY
MANPOWER AND RESERVE AFFAIRS
111 ARMY PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20310-0111

10 FEB 2009

MEMORANDUM FOR Deputy Chief of Staff, G-1

SUBJECT: Enlisted Separations on the Basis of Personality Disorder POLICY
MEMORANDUM

1. Department of Defense Instruction (DODI) 1332.14, Enclosure 3, Paragraph 3a(8), Enlisted Administrative Separations, prescribes the following requirements on separations on the basis of personality disorder for enlisted Soldiers who have served or are currently serving in imminent danger pay areas: (i) a psychiatrist or PhD-level psychologist must diagnose the personality disorder, (ii) the diagnosis must be corroborated by a peer or higher-level mental health professional, (iii) the diagnosis must be endorsed by The Surgeon General of the Army, and (iv) the diagnosis must address post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) or other comorbid mental illness, if present.
2. The following separation policy changes, applicable to enlisted Soldiers serving on active duty to include mobilized members of the Reserve Components, are approved for implementation effective immediately. These changes supplement the existing provisions of AR 635-200.
 - a. Administrative separation under AR 635-200, paragraph 5-13, is limited to enlisted Soldiers who have less than 24 months of active duty service as of the date separation proceedings are initiated. AR 635-200, paragraph 5-17, may now be used to separate enlisted Soldiers because of personality disorder when they have 24 months or more of active duty service.
 - b. In the case of Soldiers who have served or are currently serving in an imminent danger pay area and are within the first 24 months of active duty service, the diagnosis of personality disorder for separation under AR 635-200, paragraph 5-13, must be corroborated by the Medical Treatment Facility (MTF) Chief of Behavioral Health (or an equivalent official). The corroborated diagnosis will be forwarded for final review and confirmation by the Director, Proponency of Behavioral Health, Office of The Surgeon General (DASG-HSZ). Medical review of the personality disorder diagnosis will consider whether PTSD, Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI,) and/or other comorbid mental illness may be significant contributing factors to the diagnosis. A Soldier will not be processed for administrative separation under AR 635-200, paragraph 5-13, if PTSD, TBI, and/or other comorbid mental illness are significant contributing factors to a diagnosis of personality disorder, but will be evaluated under the physical disability system in accordance with AR 635-40.

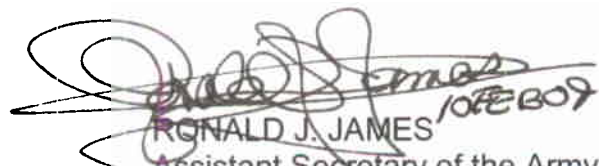
c. In the case of Soldiers who are currently serving in an imminent danger pay area or have served in an imminent danger pay area and who have 24 months or more of active duty service, the diagnosis of personality disorder for separation under AR 635-200, paragraph 5-17, must be corroborated by the MTF Chief of Behavioral Health (or an equivalent official). The corroborated diagnosis will be forwarded for final review and confirmation by the Director, Proponency of Behavioral Health, Office of The Surgeon General (DASG-HSZ). Medical review of the personality disorder diagnosis will consider whether PTSD, TBI, and/or other comorbid mental illness may be contributing factors to the diagnosis. A Soldier will not be processed for administrative separation under AR 635-200, paragraph 5-17, if PTSD, TBI, and/or other comorbid mental illness are significant contributing factors to a diagnosis of personality disorder, but will be evaluated under the physical disability system in accordance with AR 635-40.

d. The separation authority for Soldiers identified in paragraphs 2b and 2c, above, is the General Court-Martial Convening Authority. This authority may not be delegated. In all other separations under AR 635-200, paragraphs 5-13 and 5-17, the separation authority remains the Special Court-Martial Convening Authority.

3. The foregoing policy modifications will be incorporated into the next scheduled revision of AR 635-200.

4. Separation actions under existing provisions of AR 635-200, paragraph 5-13, may continue if the Soldier has not served in an imminent danger pay area and has less than 24 months of active duty service.

5. POC for this action is LTC Thomas L. Erickson, telephone (703) 695-7991.


RONALD J. JAMES
Assistant Secretary of the Army
(Manpower and Reserve Affairs)