



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
BUREAU OF MEDICINE AND SURGERY
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6000
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MAR 11 2007

MEMORANDUM FOR COMMANDER, NAVY MEDICINE EAST
COMMANDER, NAVY MEDICINE WEST
COMMANDER, NATIONAL CAPITAL AREA
COMMANDER, NAVY MEDICINE SUPPORT COMMAND

SUBJECT: Guidance for Deployment-Limiting Psychiatric Conditions and Medications

Ref: (a) ASD (HA) Memorandum of 7 Nov 06
(b) OPNAVINST 3591.1E
(c) BUMEDINST 1300.2A
(d) ASD (HA) Policy 06-006

Encl: (1) Medical Waiver Template

This memorandum provides updated guidance on psychiatric conditions and factors, psychotropic medications, and other factors to be considered when rendering medical recommendations on the readiness status and/or deployment of service members until a NAVADMIN and MARADMIN is released.

Reference (a) provides guidance on deployment and continued service in a deployed environment for military personnel who experience psychiatric conditions and/or are prescribed psychotropic medication. Diagnoses such as psychotic and bipolar disorders are disqualifying for deployment. Psychotropic medications such as antipsychotics used to control psychotic, bipolar, and chronic insomnia are disqualifying. Reference (b), concerns small arms qualification and addresses the waiver process for an individual diagnosed with a psychiatric illness requiring medication, including the requirement for the waiver to be submitted via the chain of command to the first Flag officer in the chain of command. Enclosure (1) is provided as a template for this waiver process.

Reference (c) outlines the process for suitability screening. Reference (d) outlines the process for implementation of the Periodic Health Assessment (PHA) which requires an annual health assessment of all Active Duty and Selected Reserves. The PHA includes a review and update of Individual Medical Readiness elements, including deployment limiting conditions.

When there is a question about whether or not a service member is suitable for deployment due to psychiatric conditions and/or psychotropic medications, the service member's primary care provider, in consultation with a mental health provider, will

review the medical record and interview the service member. Factors that need to be taken into account include diagnosis, symptoms, level of functional impairment, motivation of the service member, and medical assets of the operational command and the operational environment to which the member is deploying. The condition should be unlikely to lead to medical board, and the service member must not be at imminent risk to harm self or others. Based on this evaluation, and per policy outlined in reference (d) a determination of suitability for deployment will be rendered. If suitability for the orders is unclear, the gaining command should be contacted for further guidance.

Point of contact for this issue is Captain Robert Koffman at (202) 762-3072 or rlkoffman@us.med.navy.mil.



J. M. MATECZUN
Vice Chief

Attachments:
As stated

Date

From: Medical Officer's Name
To: Appropriate Flag Officer
Via: Commanding Officer, (name of facility)

Subj: MEDICAL WAIVER FOR SMALL ARMS TRAINING AND QUALIFICATION ICO
(SERVICE MEMBER'S NAME)

Ref (a): OPNAVINST 3591.1E

1. Per reference (a), and upon review of available medical information, (subject's name) does not meet medical standards for small arms training and qualification.
2. Based on review of the medical record and evaluation of (subject's name) a waiver of the standard is recommended based on my judgment that (1) the disorder is not incompatible with military service; (2) the service member is in a stable maintenance phase of treatment; and, (3) the medication does not significantly interfere with motor behavior or the exercise of sound judgment.
3. If approved, this waiver would be valid for a period of 12 months. (Subject's name) has been informed that he/she is responsible for reporting any changes in his/her medical condition to his/her physician during the period of this waiver.
4. Per the reference, commands requesting Flag waivers/exceptions shall retain all relevant documents to include approved waivers/exceptions. If approved, waivers/exceptions will be provided to the senior medical department representative for inclusion in the medical record.

I. M. GUTIERZA

Forwarded, recommending
Approve / Disapprove Waiver

(Commanding Officer's
Printed name, signature and date)

Waiver Approved / Disapproved
Expiration Date: _____

(Flag Officer's printed name,
signature and date)

Encl (1)