



Department of Defense INSTRUCTION

NUMBER 6490.07
February 5, 2010

USD(P&R)

SUBJECT: Deployment-Limiting Medical Conditions for Service Members and DoD Civilian Employees

References: See Enclosure 1

1. PURPOSE. In accordance with the authority in DoD Directive (DoDD) 5124.02 (Reference (a)) and the guidance in DoDDs 6200.04 and 1400.31 (References (b) and (c)), this Instruction establishes policy, assigns responsibilities, and provides procedures for ensuring that Service members and DoD civilian employees, including Coast Guard Service members and civilian employees at all times, including when the Coast Guard is a Service in the Department of Homeland Security by agreement with that Department, (hereafter referred to collectively as “DoD personnel”) deployed and deploying on contingency deployments are medically able to accomplish their duties in deployed environments.

2. APPLICABILITY. This Instruction:

a. Applies to:

(1) OSD, the Military Departments (including the Coast Guard at all times, including when it is a Service in the Department of Homeland Security by agreement with that Department), the Office of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Joint Staff, the Combatant Commands, the Office of the Inspector General of the Department of Defense, the Defense Agencies, the DoD Field Activities, and all other organizational entities within the Department of Defense (hereafter referred to collectively as the “DoD Components”).

(2) DoD personnel deployed and deploying on contingency deployments consistent with DoD and Service-specific guidance, including Reference (c) and DoD Instruction (DoDI) 1400.32 (Reference (d)).

b. Does not apply to contingency contractor personnel, who shall comply with the guidance in DoDI 3020.41 (Reference (e)), or to shipboard operations that are not anticipated to involve operations ashore, which shall follow Service-specific guidance.

c. Shall be used as a minimum medical standard for all deploying and deployed DoD personnel, BUT does not alter or replace:

(1) With respect to military personnel, the accession, retention, and general fitness for duty standards previously established by the Department of Defense, including those described in DoDI 6130.4, DoDD 6130.3, Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness (USD(P&R)) Memorandum, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs (ASD(HA)) Memorandum, and DoDI 6485.01 (References (f) through (j), respectively).

(2) With respect to civilian employees covered by sections 791 and 794a of title 29, United States Code (also known and hereafter referred to as “The Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended” (Reference (k))), the legal obligations of a DoD Component as an employer pursuant to that Act.

(3) More stringent individual Military Department policy guidance or Service-specific readiness requirements.

3. DEFINITIONS. These terms and their definitions are for the purpose of this Instruction.

a. contingency. A situation requiring military operations in response to natural disasters, terrorists, subversives, or as otherwise directed by appropriate authority to protect US interests.

b. contingency deployment. A deployment that is limited to outside the continental United States, over 30 days in duration, and in a location with medical support from only non-fixed (temporary) military medical treatment facilities. It is a deployment in which the relocation of forces and materiel is to an operational area in which a contingency is or may be occurring.

c. deployment. The relocation of forces and materiel to desired operational areas. Deployment encompasses all activities from origin or home station through destination, specifically including intra-continental United States, inter-theater, and intra-theater movement legs, staging, and holding areas.

d. medical assessment. The total of the pre-deployment activities described in section 1 of Enclosure 2 of this Instruction and those listed in paragraph E4.A1.1 of DoDI 6490.03 (Reference (l)).

e. trained DoD health-care provider. A physician, physician assistant, nurse practitioner, advanced practice nurse, independent duty corpsman, independent duty medical technician, or special forces medical sergeant.

4. POLICY. It is DoD policy that:

a. The medical standards in this Instruction are mandatory for contingency deployments, and permissible for any other deployment, based on the commander’s decision.

b. DoD personnel with existing medical conditions may deploy based upon a medical assessment as described in Enclosure 2 and subparagraph E4.A1.1.1. of Reference (l), which for civilian employees shall be consistent with subparagraph 4.g.(3)(c) of DoDD 1404.10 (Reference (m)), and the requirements of The Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, when such civilian employees are covered by that Act, if all of these conditions are met:

(1) The condition is not of such a nature or duration that an unexpected worsening or physical trauma is likely to have a grave medical outcome or negative impact on mission execution.

(2) The condition is stable and reasonably anticipated by the pre-deployment medical evaluator not to worsen during the deployment in light of physical, physiological, psychological, and nutritional effects of the duties and location.

(3) Any required, ongoing health care or medications anticipated to be needed for the duration of the deployment are available in theater within the Military Health System. Medication must have no special handling, storage, or other requirements (e.g., refrigeration, cold chain, or electrical power requirements). Medication must be well tolerated within harsh environmental conditions (e.g. heat or cold stress, sunlight) and should not cause significant side effects in the setting of moderate dehydration.

(4) There is no need for routine evacuation out of theater for continuing diagnostics or other evaluations. (All such evaluations should be accomplished before deployment.)

(5) In the case of civilian employees covered by The Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, it is determined, based upon an individualized assessment, that the employee can perform the essential functions of the position in the deployed environment, with or without a reasonable accommodation, without causing undue hardship. In evaluating undue hardship, the nature of the accommodation and the location of the deployment must be considered. Further, the employee's medical condition must not pose a significant risk of substantial harm to the employee or others taking into account the condition of the relevant deployed environment.

c. Individuals with the conditions in Enclosure 3, based on medical assessments in accordance with Enclosure 2 and Reference (l), shall not deploy unless a waiver can be granted according to the procedures in section 3 of Enclosure 2.

d. If a Service member is found qualified for retention with no limitations on assignments or deployments following evaluation of a medical condition by competent medical and personnel authority of his or her respective Service, and if the condition remains stable, a deployment waiver of that same condition is not required by this Instruction.

e. Deploying commanders may add additional medical requirements to the standards in this Instruction based upon the demands of a specific deployment. Commanders may apply these medical standards to other deployments based on the health risk, physical demands, and medical

capabilities of the deployment. These additional standards must be consistent with The Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, when applied to civilian employees covered by that Act.

f. Protected health information collected, used, and released in the execution of this Instruction shall be protected as required by DoD 6025.18-R (Reference (n)) and DoD 8580.02-R (Reference (o)).

5. RESPONSIBILITIES. See Enclosure 4.

6. PROCEDURES. See Enclosure 2.

7. RELEASABILITY. UNLIMITED. This Instruction is approved for public release and is available on the Internet from the DoD Issuances Web Site at <http://www.dtic.mil/whs/directives>.

8. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Instruction is effective immediately.



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Performing the Duties of the
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ENCLOSURE 1

REFERENCES

- (a) DoD Directive 5124.02, "Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness (USD(P&R))," June 23, 2008
- (b) DoD Directive 6200.04, "Force Health Protection (FHP)," October 9, 2004
- (c) DoD Directive 1400.31, "DoD Civilian Work Force Contingency and Emergency Planning and Execution," April 28, 1995
- (d) DoD Instruction 1400.32, "DoD Civilian Work Force Contingency and Emergency Planning Guidelines and Procedures," April 24, 1995
- (e) DoD Instruction 3020.41, "Contractor Personnel Authorized to Accompany the U.S. Armed Forces," October 3, 2005
- (f) DoD Instruction 6130.4, "Medical Standards for Appointment, Enlistment, or Induction in the Armed Forces," January 18, 2005
- (g) DoD Directive 6130.3, "Physical Standards for Appointment, Enlistment, and Induction," December 15, 2000
- (h) Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness Memorandum, "Policy Guidance for Medical Deferral," February 9, 2006
- (i) Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs Memorandum, "Policy Guidance for Deployment-Limiting Psychiatric Conditions and Medications," November 7, 2006
- (j) DoD Instruction 6485.01, "Human Immunodeficiency Virus," October 17, 2006
- (k) Sections 791 and 794a of title 29, United States Code (also known as "The Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended")
- (l) DoD Instruction 6490.03, "Deployment Health," August 11, 2006
- (m) DoD Directive 1404.10, "DoD Civilian Expeditionary Workforce," January 23, 2009
- (n) DoD 6025.18-R, "DoD Health Information Privacy Regulation," January 24, 2003
- (o) DoD 8580.02-R, "DoD Health Information Security Regulation," July 12, 2007

ENCLOSURE 2

PROCEDURES

1. PERFORMANCE OF MEDICAL ASSESSMENTS. All DoD personnel serving in a contingency deployment as defined in section 3 of the front matter of this Instruction must undergo a medical assessment prior to deployment in accordance with subparagraph E4.A1.1.1. of Reference (1). The mandatory portions of the assessment are:

a. Completion of DD Forms 2795, "Pre-Deployment Health Assessment," and 2766, "Adult Preventive and Chronic Care Flowsheet" (available on the Internet at <http://www.dtic.mil/whs/directives/infomgt/forms/formsprogram.htm>). Except for Coast Guard personnel, completed copies of both of these forms must be submitted to the Defense Medical Surveillance System and included in DoD personnel deployment paperwork, and shall serve as the deployment medical record. For Coast Guard personnel, the DD Form 2766 shall be placed in the member's health record, but all other procedures for Coast Guard personnel shall be as described in this Instruction for DoD personnel.

b. Medical record review.

c. Current periodic health assessment (Service members only).

d. Physical exam within 1 year of deployment (DoD civilian employees only).

2. DETERMINATIONS OF DEPLOYABILITY. A trained DoD health-care provider must make a provisional determination on DD Form 2795 as to the deployability of DoD personnel. This decision should be based on all of the information obtained in the medical assessment described in section 1 of this enclosure.

a. In general, DoD personnel with any of the medical conditions in Enclosure 3, and based on a medical assessment, shall not deploy unless a waiver is granted. Consideration should be made for the nature of the disability and if it would put the individual at increased risk of injury or illness, or if the condition is likely to significantly worsen in the deployed environment.

(1) For civilian employees covered by The Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, it must be determined, before deployment and based upon an individualized assessment, that the employee can perform the essential functions of the position in the deployed environment, with or without a reasonable accommodation, without causing undue hardship. In evaluating undue hardship, the nature of the accommodation and the location of the deployment must be considered. Further, the employee's medical condition must not pose a significant risk of substantial harm to the employee or others taking into account the condition of the relevant deployed environment.

(2) The requirement to provide reasonable accommodations for disabilities does not apply to deployment of military members, nor to civilian employees not covered by The Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.

b. All individuals deemed not deployable at the deployment processing center shall be returned to their originating unit with a DD Form 2795 and a summary of their non-deployable medical condition to provide to the unit medical personnel. The civilian supervisor shall also be notified if the individual is deemed not deployable.

3. WAIVERS. If a commander or supervisor of DoD personnel (except for SOF personnel) wishes to deploy an individual with a medical condition that could be disqualifying (see Enclosure 3, the commander or supervisor must request a waiver. The waiver request shall be submitted to the applicable Combatant Commander through the individual's servicing military medical unit in the case of a Service member, or through the individual's personnel office in the case of a civilian employee, with medical input provided by the individual's medical provider.

a. Requests for a waiver shall include a summary of a detailed medical evaluation or consultation concerning the medical condition(s). Maximization of mission accomplishment and the protection of the health of personnel are the ultimate goals. Justification shall include statements indicating service experience, position to be placed in, any known specific hazards of the position, anticipated availability and need for care while deployed, the benefit expected to accrue from the waiver, the recommendation of the commander or supervisor, and the reasonable accommodations that can be provided for civilian employees covered by The Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended. For all DoD personnel, the factors listed in subparagraphs 4.b.(1) through 4.b.(4), (and subparagraph 4.b.(5) for civilian employees only) of the front matter shall be discussed.

b. For SOF personnel with any of the conditions listed in Enclosure 3, medical clearance may be granted by the CDRUSSOCOM, subject to the approval of the Combatant Commander under which the Service member is deployed or will deploy.

c. In the case of civilian employees covered by The Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, a waiver must be granted if it is determined, based upon an individualized assessment, that the employee can perform the essential functions of the position in the deployed environment, with or without a reasonable accommodation, without causing undue hardship. In evaluating undue hardship, the nature of the accommodation and the location of the deployment must be considered. Further, the employee's medical condition must not pose a significant risk of substantial harm to the employee or others taking into account the condition of the relevant deployed environment.

4. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

a. Commanders and Supervisors. Commanders and supervisors shall:

(1) Ensure deploying DoD personnel are appropriately assessed by competent medical authority before deployment, in accordance with Reference (1).

(2) Request waivers for DoD personnel they wish to deploy who have the medical conditions described in Enclosure 3.

(3) Ensure that DoD personnel under their command meet the medical standards of the gaining commander when individuals and their leaders deploy in support of other DoD Components. As these standards may differ by assignment, they must be coordinated separately for each deployment.

b. Supervisors. Supervisors shall additionally:

(1) Identify medical and physical requirements for deployable positions designated for fill by DoD civilian employees.

(2) Ensure that such requirements are documented in position descriptions, vacancy announcements, and other appropriate sources.

(3) Ensure that DoD civilian employees meet such requirements; take appropriate action when employees no longer meet identified requirements.

c. DoD Personnel

(1) DoD personnel in deployable positions shall be responsible for meeting the medical and physical requirements of their deployment-specific tasks.

(2) DoD personnel who are civilian employees selected for deployment opportunities outside their chain of supervision shall be responsible for meeting and maintaining the medical standards identified for the deployment by the responsible commanding officer.

ENCLOSURE 3

MEDICAL CONDITIONS USUALLY PRECLUDING CONTINGENCY DEPLOYMENT

This list of conditions is not intended to be all-inclusive. A list of all possible diagnoses and their severity that may cause an individual to be potentially non-deployable, pending further evaluation, would be too extensive. Medical evaluators must consider climate, altitude, rations, housing, duty assignment, and medical services available in theater when deciding whether an individual with a specific medical condition is deployable. In general, individuals with the conditions in paragraphs a. through h. of this enclosure, based upon a medical assessment as described in Enclosure 2 and Reference (1), shall not deploy unless a waiver is granted.

a. Conditions Affecting Force Health Protection

(1) Physical or psychological conditions resulting in the inability to effectively wear personal protective equipment, including protective mask, ballistic helmet, body armor, and chemical and/or biological protective garments, regardless of the nature of the condition that causes the inability to wear the equipment if wearing such equipment may be reasonably anticipated or required in the deployed location.

(2) Conditions that prohibit immunizations or the use of force health protection prescription products (FHPPPs) required for the specific deployment. Depending on the applicable threat assessment, required FHPPPs may include atropine, epinephrine, and/or pralidoxime chloride (2-PAM chloride) auto-injectors; certain antimicrobials and antimalarials; and pyridostigmine bromide.

b. Unresolved Health Conditions Requiring Care or Affecting Performance

(1) Any chronic medical condition that requires frequent clinical visits, fails to respond to adequate conservative treatment, or necessitates significant limitation of physical activity.

(2) Absence of a dental exam within the last 12 months or presence of the likelihood that dental treatment or reevaluation for oral conditions will result in dental emergencies within 12 months. Individuals being evaluated by a non-DoD civilian dentist should use DD Form 2813, "DoD Active Duty/Reserve Forces Dental Examination," as proof of dental examination (available on the Internet at <http://www.dtic.mil/whs/directives/infomgt/forms/formsprogram.htm>).

(3) Pregnancy.

(4) Any medical condition that requires either durable medical equipment or appliances, or periodic evaluation or treatment by medical specialists that is not readily available in theater.

(5) Any unresolved acute or chronic illness or injury that would impair duty performance in a deployed environment during the duration of the deployment.

(6) Cancer that requires continuing treatment or specialty medical evaluations during the anticipated duration of the deployment.

(7) Precancerous lesions that have not been treated and/or evaluated and that require treatment and/or evaluation during the anticipated duration of the deployment.

(8) Any medical condition that requires surgery or for which surgery has been performed that requires rehabilitation or additional surgery to remove devices.

(9) Any musculoskeletal condition that significantly impairs performance of duties in a deployed environment.

(10) An acute exacerbation of a physical or mental health condition that could significantly affect duty performance.

c. Conditions That Could Cause Sudden Incapacitation

(1) Recurrent loss of consciousness for any reason.

(2) Any medical condition that could result in sudden incapacitation including a history of stroke within the last 24 months, seizure disorders, and diabetes mellitus type I or II treated with insulin or oral hypoglycemic agents.

d. Pulmonary Disorders. Asthma that has a forced expiratory volume-1 (FEV-1) of less than or equal to 60 percent of predicted FEV-1 despite appropriate therapy and that has required hospitalization at least 2 times in the last 12 months, or that requires daily systemic (not inhalational) steroids.

e. Infectious Disease

(1) Active tuberculosis or known blood-borne diseases that may be transmitted to others in a deployed environment.

(2) A diagnosis of human immunodeficiency (HIV) antibody positive with the presence of progressive clinical illness or immunological deficiency. The cognizant Combatant Command surgeon shall be consulted in all instances of HIV seropositivity before medical clearance for deployment.

f. Sensory Disorders

(1) Hearing Loss. The requirement for use of a hearing aid does not necessarily preclude deployment. However, the individual must have sufficient unaided hearing to perform duties safely.

(2) Vision Loss. Best corrected visual acuity must meet job requirements to perform duties safely.

g. Cardiac and Vascular Disorders

- (1) Hypertension not controlled with medication or that requires frequent monitoring.
- (2) Symptomatic coronary artery disease.
- (3) History of myocardial infarction within 1 year of deployment.
- (4) History of coronary artery bypass graft, coronary artery angioplasty, carotid endarterectomy, other arterial stenting, or aneurysm repair within 1 year of deployment.
- (5) Cardiac dysrhythmias or arrhythmias, either symptomatic or requiring medical or electrophysiologic control (presence of an implanted defibrillator and/or pacemaker).
- (6) Heart failure.

h. Mental Health Disorders

- (1) Psychotic and/or bipolar disorders. (See Reference (i) for detailed guidance on deployment-limiting psychiatric conditions or psychotropic medications.)
- (2) Psychiatric disorders under treatment with fewer than 3 months of demonstrated stability.
- (3) Clinical psychiatric disorders with residual symptoms that impair duty performance.
- (4) Mental health conditions that pose a substantial risk for deterioration and/or recurrence of impairing symptoms in the deployed environment.
- (5) Chronic medical conditions that require ongoing treatment with antipsychotics, lithium, or anticonvulsants.

ENCLOSURE 4

RESPONSIBILITIES

1. ASD(HA). The ASD(HA), under the authority, direction, and control of the USD(P&R), shall review and issue to the Secretaries of the Military Departments and the Directors of the Defense Agencies and the DoD Field Activities technical adjustments to the deployment standards in Enclosure 3 as needed, based on changing conditions or additional unanticipated difficulties encountered in the in-theater management of medical conditions.

2. SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS, COMMANDANT OF THE COAST GUARD, AND DIRECTORS OF THE DEFENSE AGENCIES AND THE DoD FIELD ACTIVITIES. The Secretaries of the Military Departments, the Commandant of the Coast Guard, and the Directors of the Defense Agencies and the DoD Field Activities shall:

a. Direct their respective Components to apply and uniformly implement the standards in this Instruction.

b. Ensure that:

(1) All deploying DoD personnel assigned to their respective Service, Defense Agency, or DoD Field Activity have a medical assessment in accordance with Reference (1), including a medical record review, to evaluate their medical status before contingency deployments and other deployments pursuant to paragraph 4.a. of the front matter of this Instruction.

(2) Pre-deployment processes are in place to identify individuals with deployment-limiting medical conditions.

(3) DoD personnel who occupy deployable positions maintain a high state of pre-deployment health and medical readiness.

3. CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF. The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff shall ensure that the Combatant Commanders:

a. Establish a minimum standard when developing medical requirements for entering the theater of operations that factors in the medical conditions described in Enclosure 3 of this Instruction.

b. Implement a medical requirements waiver process that includes waiver computerization and archival storage.

4. COMBATANT COMMANDERS. For all DoD personnel deployed or deploying to a theater within their respective Combatant Commands, the Combatant Commanders shall:

a. Establish a process for reviewing recommendations from the Services regarding the granting of exceptions to medical standards (waivers) for the conditions in Enclosure 3, including a mechanism to track and archive all approved or denied waivers and the medical conditions requiring the waivers.

b. Serve as the final approval authority for exceptions to the medical standards (waivers) made pursuant to the procedures in this Instruction.

5. COMMANDER, UNITED STATES SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND (CDRUSSOCOM). The CDRUSSOCOM shall perform the responsibilities in section 2 of this enclosure for SOF personnel.