



Department of Defense
DIRECTIVE
AD-A269 506



ASD(RA)
614-0470

March 17, 1986
NUMBER 1304.25

ASD(RA)

SUBJECT: Fulfilling the Military Service Obligation

- References:
- (a) DoD Directive 1304.25, subject as above, November 6, 1984 (hereby canceled)
 - (b) Title 10, United States Code
 - (c) DoD Directive 1200.15, "Assignment to and Transfer Between Reserve Categories, Discharge from Reserve Status, Transfer to the Retired Reserve and Notification of Eligibility for Retired Pay," February 16, 1973
 - (d) DoD Directive 1215.5, "Participation in Reserve Training Programs," May 25, 1979
 - (e) through (l), see enclosure 1

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A. REISSUANCE AND PURPOSE

This Directive reissues reference (a) and implements sections 269, 511, and 651 of reference (b) by prescribing policy, procedures, and responsibilities with respect to fulfillment of the statutory military service obligation (MSO).

B. APPLICABILITY

This Directive applies to the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD), the Military Departments (including their National Guard and Reserve components), the Organization of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (OJCS), and the Defense Agencies (hereafter referred to collectively as "DoD Components"). The term "Military Services," as used herein, refers to the Army, the Navy, the Air Force, and the Marine Corps.

C. DEFINITIONS

1. Discharge. Complete severance from all military status gained by an enlistment, appointment, or induction.
2. Enlistment and Appointment. The voluntary initial entry of a person into any of the Military Services.
3. Induction. When authorized by law, the involuntary (or voluntary) assignment of eligible citizens to a Military Service.
4. Military Service Obligation. The total required service that each person who becomes a member of an armed force shall serve in an armed force unless discharged under regulations prescribed by the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of the Military Department concerned.

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5. Separation. A general term that includes discharge, release from active duty, release from custody and control of the Military Services, transfer to the Individual Ready Reserve (IRR), and similar changes in active or reserve status.

D. POLICY

It is DoD policy that every person, upon initial entry into a Military Service, shall serve a total of 8 years, to be fulfilled in accordance with this Directive. The military service obligation is established as 8 years.

E. PROCEDURES

1. The MSO

a. Any person whose initial entry into a Military Service is on or after June 1, 1984, shall serve a period of 8 years from the date of enlistment, appointment, or, when authorized by law, induction. The accomplishment of the obligated period of service shall be determined in regulations established by the Secretary of the Military Department concerned.

b. Any portion of the MSO that is not active duty or active duty for training shall be performed in a Reserve component as defined in 10 U.S.C. 261 and 268 (reference (b)); any combination of active duty or Ready Reserve service as prescribed in applicable DoD and Military Department regulations may be used to fulfill the MSO.

c. The fulfillment of the MSO shall be accomplished without interrupting the continuity of the member's total military service, except as noted in subsection E.5., below.

2. Discharge or Separation

a. The MSO is considered terminated when a member is discharged, except as indicated in paragraph E.2.b., below.

b. The MSO is not terminated upon discharge or other type of separation for the purpose of immediate entry or reentry in the same or any other component of the Military Services, or for the purpose of entry into an officer's training program in which the person remains a member of a Military Service. Service performed before and after such a discharge or other type of separation shall be counted toward fulfillment of such obligation.

3. Discharge Prior to Completion of MSO. Generally, discharge of a member prior to fulfilling an MSO shall be permitted only when the Military Department concerned has determined that the member has no potential for service under conditions of full mobilization, except as noted in subsections E.4., E.5., and E.9., below.

a. Obligated Enlisted Service Members. Policy for the early discharge of enlisted service members is contained in DoD Directives 1200.15, 1215.5, 1215.13, and 1332.14 (references (c), (d), (e), and (f)).

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b. Obligated Officers. Policy for the early discharge of officers is contained in DoD Directive 1200.15, DoD Directive 1215.5, DoD Directive 1215.13 references (c), (d), and (e).

4. Delayed Entry. Delayed entry is the military status gained by an enlistment in which a service member's entry on active duty or initial active duty for training (IADT) is postponed in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Secretary of the Military Department concerned. Members in a delayed entry status incur an MSO.

a. Active Component Delayed Enlistment Program (DEP). Persons who enlist in the Ready Reserve under 10 U.S.C. 511 (reference (b)) for the express purpose of agreeing to a subsequent enlistment in a regular component of the Military Services are in the DEP. DEP members who fail to enlist in a regular component of the armed forces may be ordered to involuntary IADT and to complete the remainder of the MSO in a Reserve component.

b. Reserve Component Delayed Entry into Training (DET). Persons who enlist in the Ready Reserve under 10 U.S.C. 511(d) (reference (b)) for service in a Reserve component and whose IADT is postponed are in the DET. DET members who fail to report for IADT may be ordered to involuntary IADT and complete the remainder of the MSO in a Reserve component.

c. Discharge from DEP/DET. DEP/DET members may also be discharged for any of the reasons specified in DoD Directive 1332.14 (reference (f)). Individuals discharged from the DEP/DET will not be credited for service in fulfillment of the MSO incurred, and any future enlistment or appointment of such persons shall be treated as an original entry into military service.

5. Underage Entry. A service member whose enlistment or appointment is declared void because the service member is underage and who is released as the result of such action may not be considered to have acquired a MSO; however, service rendered under a void underage enlistment, when characterized as honorable by the Secretary of the Military Department concerned, shall be creditable toward fulfilling any subsequent MSO acquired by the service member. Such credit would not alter the terms of any subsequent enlistment for specific periods of active component or Reserve component service. Paragraph E.4.c., above, applies if service described in this paragraph was performed only in a delayed entry status. Procedures for underage enlistments are established in reference (f).

6. Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) and Service Academy Appointment

a. ROTC Appointments.

(1) ROTC Scholarship Recipients. An officer appointed under 10 U.S.C. Section 2107 (reference (b)) shall have an MSO of 8 years from the date of appointment.

(2) ROTC Advanced Training. An officer appointed under Section 2106 (reference (b)) shall have an MSO of 8 years from the date of appointment minus any prior enlisted service prior to entry into advanced training in accordance with DoD Directive 1215.8 (reference (g)).

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(3) Military Junior Colleges Scholarship Recipients. An officer appointed under 10 U.S.C. Section 2107a (reference (b)) shall have an MSO of 8 years from the date of appointment.

(4) Failure to Complete Training or to Accept Appointment. The MSO shall be equivalent to the period for which the member is ordered to serve on active duty or in a Reserve component under Section 2105, 2107, or 2107a (reference (b)).

b. Service Academy Appointments. An officer appointed under Chapter 403, 603, or 903 (reference (b)) shall incur an MSO of 8 years from the date of appointment. If an appointment is terminated before graduation or if a cadet or midshipman refuses to accept a commission offered following graduation, the MSO shall be equivalent to the period for which the member is ordered to serve on active duty or in the Reserve components under Section 4348, 6959, or 9348 (references (b), and in accordance with DoD Directive 1332.23 (reference (h)) and DoD Directive 1235.10 (reference (i)).

7. Unsatisfactory Participation in the Ready Reserve. A person who incurs a MSO and who subsequently fails to perform satisfactorily any required reserve training may not be discharged, except under subsection E.3., above.

8. Interservice and Intercomponent Transfers. Transfer of service members who have a remaining MSO between Military Services or components of a Military Service shall be accomplished under DoD Directives 1205.5 or 1300.4 (references (j) and (k)). Obligated military service performed before and after an authorized transfer shall be counted toward fulfillment of the MSO.

9. Members of the Clergy. Upon written application, a service member may be discharged from a Reserve component of a Military Service if the service member has become a member of the clergy and satisfactorily establishes that:

- a. the ministry is his or her main and primary vocation;
- b. his or her religious faith group is organized exclusively or substantially for religious purposes;
- c. his or her standing in the faith group is recognized as that of a minister or leader; and
- d. he or she is certified by an appropriate official of the faith group to be a fully qualified member of the clergy, in good standing.

10. Induction. In time of war or national emergency or when otherwise authorized by law, a person who is inducted under section 6(c)(2)(D) of Pub. L. 90-40 (reference (1)) and who completes the required period of active training and service shall continue to hold his or her appointment or enlistment contract to serve as a reservist and shall be required to fulfill the terms of the obligation, unless discharged by the Secretary of the Military Department concerned.

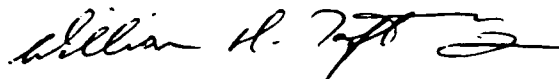
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F. RESPONSIBILITIES

1. The Assistant Secretary of Defense (Reserve Affairs) (ASD(RA)), in coordination with the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Force Management and Personnel (FM&P)), shall establish policy for the fulfillment of the MSO.
2. The Secretaries of the Military Departments shall ensure that plans for the administration of the MSO are consistent with this Directive.
3. The Heads of the Military Services shall:
 - a. Establish procedures for the administration of the MSO in conformance with this Directive.
 - b. Maintain adequate and current information on members of the Ready Reserve who have a remaining obligation, including accurate mailing addresses, military qualifications, physical qualification and such other information as the Secretary of the Military Department concerned may prescribe in accordance with 10 U.S.C. Section 275 (reference (b)).
 - c. Determine appropriate refresher training requirements for service members transferred to the IRR with a remaining MSO.

G. EFFECTIVE DATE AND IMPLEMENTATION

This Directive is effective immediately. Forward two copies of implementing documents to the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Reserve Affairs) within 120 days.



William H. Taft, IV
Deputy Secretary of Defense

Enclosure - 1
References

References, continued

- (e) DoD Directive 1215.13, "Unsatisfactory Performance of Ready Reserve Obligation," June 30, 1979
- (f) DoD Directive 1332.14, "Enlisted Administrative Separations," January 28, 1982
- (g) DoD Directive 1215.8, "Senior Reserve Officers' Training Corps Programs," April 17, 1985
- (h) DoD Directive 1332.23, "Service Academy Separations," May 9, 1968
- (i) DoD Directive 1235.10, "Mobilization of the Ready Reserve," October 27, 1970
- (j) DoD Directive 1205.5, "Transfer of Members Between Reserve Components of the Military Services," May 16, 1980
- (k) DoD Directive 1300.4, "Inter-Service Transfer of Commissioned Officers," April 2, 1984
- (l) Title 50, United States Code, Appendix, Section 451 et seq. (Public Law (Pub. L.) 90-40, "Military Selective Service Act of 1967")