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NAVADMIN 062/25

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SUBJ/CHANGES TO AVIATION SPECIAL DUTY WAIVER PROCESSING//

REF/A/NAVADMIN 013/25 CORRECTED COPY CHANGES TO SPECIAL DUTY WAIVER//

RMKS/1. The Chief of Bureau of Medicine and Surgery (BUMED) has directed both immediate and long-term improvements to Special Duty Waiver (SDW) processes to eliminate the backlog of medical holds at Recruit Training Command and all other accession points. Guidance for SDW processes for undersea medicine was previously released in ref (A). This memo addresses SDW processes for the aviation community.

2. This guidance implements a process change to improve timeliness and maximize resources in support of the aviation SDW process. It applies to the performance of all initial flight physicals and directs the Naval Aerospace Medical Institute (NAMI) to maintain a list in the Aeromedical Reference and Waiver Guide (ARWG) of disqualifying conditions for which no waiver will be recommended (WNR).

3. For the rapid disposition of initial flight physicals when a WNR condition is found:

a. An appropriately credentialed and privileged clinician (Aerospace Medicine physician, Flight Surgeon, Aerospace Medicine Physician Assistant, or Aviation Medicine Examiner) will perform all aeromedical examinations.

These clinicians are collectively referred to as Aerospace Medical Clinicians (AMCs).

b. Individuals who receive a general duty waiver also require a waiver for aviation special duty. The WNR pre-existing conditions listed in the ARWG will not be considered for an aeromedical waiver, with the rare exception of some Class V flight physicals for which a waiver request may be submitted on a case -by-case basis at the discretion of the AMC. If submitted, consideration will be based on assigned platform, flight environment, occupational duties, physical requirements, and mental and physical stressors. Class I or Class II aeromedical clearances have additional disqualifying conditions in addition to those listed for all classes.

c. Individuals found to have a WNR preexisting condition do not require any further evaluation for aviation special duty assignment, including lab testing, imaging, or specialist consultation. An individual with a

disqualifying condition for a more restrictive class may still be submitted for a less restrictive class (e.g., Class II instead of Class I). AMCs should complete an abbreviated disqualification package with a brief aeromedical summary which references this message and submit via AERO as Disqualified, Waiver Not Recommended. NAMI shall forward this to the appropriate Bureau of Naval Personnel (BUPERS) code for final determination without any further adjudication required, unless NAMI or BUPERS determines a formal NAMI review is indicated.

4. NAMI shall maintain a current list of WNR conditions in the ARWG, reviewed and updated as needed based on medical evidence, aeromedical best-practices, and any superseding medical guidance. Updates to this list, in addition to any other ARWG updates, shall be reviewed and approved quarterly by the Aerospace Medicine Corporate Board and subsequently reported to Chief, BUMED via the BUMED Branch Head, Aerospace Medicine.

5. The ARWG is accessible at: <https://www.med.navy.mil/Navy-Medicine-Operational-Training-Command/Naval-Aerospace-Medical-Institute/Aeromedical-Reference-and-Waiver-Guide/>

6. Tracking. The current SDW backlog must be tracked to understand the effectiveness of the mitigation strategy being implemented.

a. All accession points with enlisted personnel or officer candidates who have graduated but remain in a medical hold status while awaiting their aviation medical waiver shall report monthly to BUMED Assessments and Analytics (N58) the total number of personnel in that status and the total number of flight physicals performed that month. Numbers for each category (e.g.: mental health, cardiology, etc.) should be included if possible.

b. This report should be provided to BUMED N58 upon receipt of this guidance, and monthly thereafter via email at [usn.ncr.bumedfchva.mbx.n58@health.mil](mailto:usn.ncr.bumedfchva.mbx.n58@health.mil).

7. BUMED primary point of contact is Branch Head, Aerospace Medicine (N10F1) via email at [AVMED@health.mil](mailto:AVMED@health.mil) or phone at (703) 681-9323.

8. Released by Rear Admiral Darin K. Via, N093, Surgeon General of the Navy.//

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