



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
BUREAU OF NAVAL PERSONNEL
5720 INTEGRITY DRIVE
MILLINGTON, TN 38055-0000

BUPERSINST 1600.7
BUPERS-00D
16 Jun 2015

BUPERS INSTRUCTION 1600.7

From: Chief of Naval Personnel

Subj: DESERTION AND UNAUTHORIZED ABSENCE

Ref: (a) DoD Instruction 1325.02 of 16 November 2012
(b) NAVPERS 15560D, Naval Military Personnel Manual (MILPERSMAN)
(c) SECNAVINST 5820.7C
(d) SECNAVINST 1730.7D
(e) SECNAVINST 1730.9
(f) RESPERS M-1001.5, Reserve Personnel Manual

Encl: (1) Regional Chaplains, Navy Installation Command Directory

1. Purpose. To implement the provisions of reference (a) and establish policies to minimize unauthorized absence (UA) and desertion, foster development of effective deterrent programs, enhance apprehension efforts, and provide for accurate and timely reporting of incidents of UA and desertion.

2. Cancellation. BUPERSINST 1600.6C.

3. Background

a. UA and desertion represent serious breaches of military discipline, reduce military effectiveness, and impose added burdens on commanders and Service members. Reasonable efforts shall be made to cause surrender or apprehension and expeditious return to military control (RMC) of absentees and deserters. Such efforts shall be made at appropriate command levels to investigate facts and circumstances surrounding absences, initiate apprehension actions, and expedite appropriate notification procedures.

b. In the past, the ability of the Military Services to return deserters to military control relied significantly on the assistance of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) through routine investigation and apprehension of deserters. Currently, the FBI limits investigation and apprehension of deserters to only those cases where aggravating circumstances exists (see

enclosure (1) of reference (a)); however, the FBI continues to provide other support such as granting access to, and the inclusion of deserter information in, the Wanted Person File of the National Crime Information Center.

c. Within the Navy, the Navy Deserter Apprehension Program (NDAP) has been established to provide for the apprehension and RMC of Navy members officially declared deserters. A key element of the NDAP is to encourage, by appropriate Service action, civil law enforcement agencies to support efforts in apprehending deserters. This instruction provides policies and assigns responsibilities to ensure attainment of the program's objectives within the Navy.

4. Definitions. For the purpose of this instruction, the following definitions apply:

a. Absentee. A Service member who is absent without authority from his or her unit, organization, or other place of duty where he or she is required to be.

b. Alien Military Service deserter. An alien (i.e., a non-citizen of the United States) serving in the U.S. Military Services who deserts.

c. Apprehension. Physical custody of another person (i.e., arrest or detention).

d. Deserter. A Service member who intends to permanently abandon his or her military duties.

e. Desertion under aggravated circumstances. Those cases of desertion involving one or more of the circumstances listed in enclosure (1) of reference (a).

f. Member under custody. Absentee, deserter, or supervised release violator in the custody of a law enforcement agency or military escort.

g. Return to Military Control (RMC). The date and hour when:

(1) An absentee or deserter surrenders to, is delivered to, or is apprehended by or for military authorities; or

(2) A civilian authority, holding the absentee or deserter for some reason other than at the request of the military, informs the military of his or her availability; or an absentee or deserter otherwise comes under the control of military personnel.

5. Responsibilities

a. Bureau of Naval Personnel (BUPERS), Office of Corrections and Programs (BUPERS-00D), is designated as Navy's senior policy official to serve as lead for deserter and absentee program.

b. Navy Personnel Command (NAVPERSCOM), Office of Corrections and Programs (PERS-00D), shall develop directives, as needed for apprehension of deserters and their return to military control, and provide oversight of the Navy Absentee Collection and Information Center (NACIC).

c. NACIC, aligned under NAVPERSCOM (PERS-00D), has the mission to administer centralized deserter information services; and to provide tracking, monitoring, and collection services of all non-discharged Navy personnel who are administratively declared deserters, and discharged members still subject to the jurisdiction of the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ) to include parole and supervised release violators and escaped prisoners.

d. Commanding officers (COs) and officers in charge (OICs) shall develop procedures at their commands to ensure strict adherence to the requirements of NDAP as provided in this instruction and reference (b), MILPERSMAN 1600-010 through 1600-120. Enclosure (1) provides addresses and phone numbers of regional chaplains for inclusion in letters to notify members' next of kin (NOK) of their unauthorized absence and RMC.

e. Commander, Navy Reserve Forces Command (COMNAVRESFORCOM). Ensure assistance and counsel is provided to an absentee's NOK per reference (b), MILPERSMAN 1600-040.

6. Apprehending Absentees and Deserters

a. NACIC is responsible for administering centralized deserter information services and provide tracking, monitoring,

and collection services for Navy personnel who are administratively declared deserters. NACIC serves as the operational arm of the NDAP; operates a 24-hour Navy deserter information point (NDIP); investigates and causes the apprehension and return (via escort or use of technical arrest orders) of military personnel administratively declared deserters; maintains central repository for deserter records and case files; makes entries into the FBI's National Crime Information Center database; places deserters and returned deserters in appropriate accounting codes in Navy's enlisted master file system; coordinates appropriate accounting codes for officer deserters and returned deserters through NAVPERSCOM, Records/Data Quality Maintenance Division (PERS-33); assists local commands and outside agencies with coordination of transportation for Navy absentees and deserters, parole violators and supervised mandatory release violators, and prisoners; and reports deserter's criminal history data to the FBI's Criminal Justice Information Services Division.

b. NDIP

(1) Navy's central focal point for control, accounting, and dissemination of information concerning Service members administratively classified as deserters.

(2) NDIP provides management information to NAVPERSCOM (PERS-00D) that identifies the number of absentees and deserters returned to military control. The information shall also include one of the following modes of return:

(a) Surrendered to military or civilian authorities;
or

(b) Apprehended by military or civilian authorities.

c. RMC

(1) NACIC shall coordinate with NAVPERSCOM (PERS-00D) for the RMC of apprehended absentees and deserters upon receipt of notification by civil law enforcement agencies that such personnel are available, per reference (c). Apprehended absentees and deserters shall normally be placed in military custody within 48 hours of notification by civilian law enforcement agencies. NAVPERSCOM (PERS-00D) may coordinate with

other Services for the RMC of such personnel in order to conserve resources and to ensure expeditious response.

(2) Commands can request approval from NAVPERSCOM (PERS-00D) for the escort of deserters already in custody of military authorities or absentees if unusual circumstances warrant their expertise. NAVPERSCOM (PERS-00D) shall fund cost of escort travel through a line of accounting provided by Office of the Chief of Naval Operations (OPNAV), Total Force Requirements Division (N12). Cost associated with an absentee's or deserter's transportation shall be charged to the pay account of the individual member.

d. Per references (d) and (e), Navy chaplains can offer Sailors and family members the opportunity to discuss personal matters in complete privacy. This encourages full and complete disclosure by those who seek chaplain assistance under the protection of confidential communications. Such communication can benefit the individual and the institution. Assistance to NOK of deserters and absentees shall be provided as follows:

(1) COs and OICs shall provide a copy of the NOK notification letter required by reference (b), MILPERSMAN 1600-040, to the regional chaplain of the appropriate Navy region per enclosure (1). Additionally, COs and OICs will promptly notify the regional chaplain of an absentee's return to military control.

(2) Upon receiving the NOK notification letter, the regional chaplain (in consultation with COMNAVRESFORCOM as needed) shall notify the Active or Reserve Component chaplain closest to the NOK of the Sailor's absence or return from absence. The regional chaplain (or COMNAVRESFORCOM, as appropriate) shall provide proper training on this program to chaplains and religious program specialists. Additionally, the regional chaplain shall provide necessary administrative support (such as reimbursement for postage and official telephone calls) and shall retain records of contact with NOK as necessary.

(3) If asked to contact the NOK or Sailor, the designated Active or Reserve Component chaplain shall provide appropriate care and advice per references (d) and (e). Reserve Component chaplains shall receive appropriate participation credit per reference (f).

16 Jun 2015

7. Records Management. Records created as a result of this instruction, regardless of media and format, shall be managed per Secretary of the Navy Manual 5210.1 of January 2012.

8. Forms. The following forms shall be utilized when directed to escort or receive an apprehended absentee, deserter, or supervised release violator.

a. DD 553 Deserter/Absentee Wanted by the Armed Forces is available at <http://www.dtic.mil/whs/directives/infomgt/forms/formsprogram.htm/>

b. The following forms are available at <https://navalforms.documentservices.dla.mil/>

(1) OPNAV 5527/2 Department of the Navy Voluntary Statement.

(2) OPNAV 5527/3 Department of the Navy Military Suspect's Acknowledgement and Waiver of Rights.

(3) OPNAV 5527/6 Department of the Navy Investigative Notes.

c. The following forms can be obtained through FBI Identification Division, Washington, DC 20537-9700:

(1) FD 249 FBI Fingerprint Card.

(2) R-84 FBI Final Disposition Report.



DAVID F. STEINDL

Deputy Chief of Naval Personnel

Distribution:

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<http://www.npc.navy.mil/>

BUPERSINST 1600.7
16 Jun 2015

REGIONAL CHAPLAINS, NAVY INSTALLATION COMMAND DIRECTORY

MID-ATLANTIC (Norfolk)
Regional Chaplain
Navy Region Mid-Atlantic (00G)
1510 Gilbert St. (Bldg N-21)
Norfolk, VA 23511-2737
COM: (757) 322-2939/2771/DSN 262
FAX: (757) 445-9384/DSN 262

SOUTHEAST (Jacksonville)
Regional Chaplain
Program Manager for Religious Ministries
Navy Region Southeast Jacksonville Box 102 (N00R)
Jacksonville, FL 32212-5000
COM: (904) 542-6016/1542/DSN 942
FAX: (904) 542-4009/DSN 942

MIDWEST (Great Lakes)
Regional Chaplain
Navy Region Midwest Great Lakes
2601B Paul Jones Street
Great Lakes, IL 60088-2845
COM: (847) 688-4461/DSN 792
FAX: (847) 688-4465/DSN 792

SOUTHWEST (San Diego)
Regional Chaplain
Navy Region Southwest (N00R)
937 North Harbor Drive Box 71
San Diego, CA 92132-0058
COM: (619) 532-1508/3898/DSN 522
FAX: (619) 532-3058/DSN 522

NORTHWEST (Silverdale)
Regional Chaplain
Navy Region Northwest (N00R)
1100 Hunley Road Suite 206
Silverdale, WA 98315-5000
COM: (360) 315-5240/DSN 322
FAX: (360) 315-3592/DSN 322

Enclosure (1)