

MILPERSMAN 1050-180

CONVALESCENT LEAVE

Responsible Office	CNO (N13)	Phone:	DSN	225-3304
			COM	(703) 695-3304
			FAX	(703) 695-3311

Governing Directives	DOD Directive 1327.5 of 24 Sept 85 DFAS-DJMS, Procedures Training Guide (DFAS PTG)
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1. **Authority to Grant Convalescent Leave.** Unless otherwise indicated, convalescent leave shall be granted only when recommended by Chief, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, through action taken upon the report by a medical board or the recommended findings of a physical evaluation board, or higher authority.

2. **Who May Grant Convalescent Leave.** The following individuals in positions of authority may grant convalescent leave to active duty Navy patients subject to a set of conditions:

a. a member's commanding officer (upon advice of attending physician);

b. commanders of Navy, Army, or Air Force medical facilities, for personnel hospitalized therein; or

c. the commanding officer of the nearest naval hospital for personnel hospitalized in U.S. Public Health Service hospitals or civilian hospitals; and

d. managers of Veterans Administration hospitals within the 50 United States or in Puerto Rico, may grant convalescent leave to active duty Navy patients, with or without reference to a medical board, a physical evaluation board, or higher authority provided that the conditions stated below are met.

3. **Conditions for Granting Convalescent Leave.** All of the following conditions must be met before convalescent leave may be granted:

a. The convalescent leave is being granted subsequent to and because of a period of hospitalization. Hospitalization is defined as formal admission to a medical treatment facility.

b. The member is not awaiting disciplinary action or separation from the service for medical or administrative reasons.

c. The medical officer in charge of the case considers the convalescent leave to be beneficial to the patient's health.

d. The medical officer in charge of the case certifies

- (1) the patient is not fit for duty,
- (2) the patient will not need hospital treatment during the convalescent leave period contemplated, and
- (3) such leave will not delay final disposition of the case.

4. **Providing Recovery After Birth.** To provide an appropriate recovery period for servicemembers who give birth, convalescent leave will normally be granted for 42 days following any uncomplicated delivery. Servicemembers on such convalescent leave may, with their physician's concurrence, terminate their leave status sooner.

5. **Maximum Allowable Leave Rate**

a. When considered necessary by the attending physician convalescent leave may be granted to members on active duty by the member's commanding officer or the hospital's commanding officer for a period of up to 30 days per period of hospitalization.

b. In instances where care is not provided by a federal military hospital, up to 30 days convalescent leave

may be granted by the member's commanding officer upon the recommendation of the attending physician.

6. **Exercising Care in Granting Leave**

a. Care shall be exercised in granting convalescent leave to limit the duration of such leave to that which is essential in relation to

- (1) diagnosis,
- (2) prognosis,
- (3) estimated duration of treatment, and
- (4) probable final disposition of the patient.

b. Care should be exercised to keep convalescent leave to the minimum amounts required to enable recuperation. The medical treatment facility commanding officer may extend convalescent leave beyond the above time frames if the member's parent command concurs.

c. If considered necessary, the member's commanding officer may require patients receiving care at a facility other than a federal military hospital to be examined by a military medical treatment facility prior to the authorization of additional convalescent leave.

d. Convalescent leave should not delay processing of medical boards or administrative disposition of the member. Members awaiting physical evaluation board (PEB) action may be placed on convalescent leave, but must remain in the local area. Only the PEB may grant exceptions to this policy.

7. **Granting Leave to POW's**. Chief of Naval Operations (N130) may grant convalescent leave to repatriated prisoners of war upon their transfer or detachment to the United States with or without action by a medical board or physical evaluation board.
