

MILPERSMAN 1600-030

ACCEPTANCE AND DISPOSITION OF RETURNED DESERTERS

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1. **Policy.** Any military installation or command manned by active duty members may receive absentees and deserters. Absentees and deserters should be subsequently transferred to the nearest installation of their branch of service which has the facilities to process absentees and deserters. Navy Absentee Collection and Information Center (NACIC) will direct the movement of apprehended Navy absentee deserters.

2. **Procedures**

a. **Officers** will be returned to the command from which they deserted, regardless of length of absence, unless otherwise directed by NACIC.

b. **Enlisted** personnel absent for 119 days or less will normally be returned to their original duty station from which they deserted; however,

(1) deserters absent from an overseas shore activity, unit homeported overseas, or a deployed unit absent from homeport for more than 90 days consecutively, who return to military control within the 48 contiguous United States, Puerto Rico, Alaska, or Hawaii; will be transferred to the Navy processing unit closest to the point of apprehension or surrender.

(2) for deserters absent from an overseas shore activity, unit homeported overseas, or a deployed unit, who return to military control in an overseas area, other than where the parent command is located, contact NACIC for guidance.

(3) deserters absent from an overseas shore activity or unit homeported overseas for 119 days or less who return to

military control in the overseas area where the parent command is located, will normally be returned to their parent command for disciplinary processing.

(4) deserters absent 119 days or less who are assigned to an at-sea ship or unit not deployed will be returned to transient personnel unit (TPU) at homeport of unit for further transfer to the unit upon return to port.

(5) deserters absent 119 days or less who are assigned to an at-sea submarine (not deployed), will be returned to the submarine's parent squadron, group, or the TPU at the submarine's homeport.

(6) deserters absent for 120 days or more will be returned to the Navy processing unit closest to the point of apprehension or surrender. Navy processing activities for the purpose of this article are listed below:

- (a) TPU, Puget Sound, Silverdale, WA
- (b) TPU, Jacksonville, FL
- (c) TPU, Norfolk, VA
- (d) TPU, San Diego, CA
- (e) TPU, Pearl Harbor, HI

(7) deserters absent 119 days or less who commit suicide or are otherwise deceased will remain the parent command's responsibility for all reporting requirements (PCR, CACO, etc.). Reporting requirements for deserters absent 120 days or more will be the responsibility of NACIC.

c. When a member fails to return to a command after being issued technical arrest orders (TAO) by NACIC,

(1) the **receiving command** will

(a) notify NACIC via naval message or E-mail at nacic-ops@navy.mil of the member's status within 48 hours after a member's failure to return via TAO.

(b) forward member's personnel documents retained by the command and health records to NACIC via registered mail, if they have them.

(2) **NACIC** will

(a) roll the member's unit identification code (UIC) to NACIC's deserter UIC (Bureau of Naval Personnel (BUPERS) deserter account) following receipt of the naval message or E-mail.

(b) complete DD 553 Deserter/Absentee Wanted by the Armed Forces, signed by the officer-in-charge or assistant officer-in-charge, and enter a new arrest warrant into the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) System. DD 553 may be accessed by using the following link:
<http://www.dtic.mil/whs/directives/forms/dd/ddforms0500-0999.htm>.

(c) coordinate, via brig escorts, the movement of members assigned to the deserter UIC who are subsequently apprehended to the nearest TPU, regardless of absence or desertion length.

Note: In the event a member successfully returns via TAO, the respective command shall notify NACIC of such within 48 hours via naval message. NACIC must be in receipt of this message before transmitting a return to military control message.

d. Waivers of the above policy may be authorized if substantial extenuating circumstances exist. If a deserter cannot be returned to the parent command within 30 days from date of return (excluding hospitalization), notify NACIC and inform Navy Personnel Command (NAVPERSCOM), Corrections and Program Office (PERS-00D) requesting a waiver of this policy. Waiver request shall be by message and inform the parent command and immediate superior in command.