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DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
1010 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1010

JUN 12 2006

MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS
CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR POLICY
UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR PERSONNEL
AND READINESS
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR PUBLIC
AFFAIRS
CHIEF, NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU
COMMANDER, UNITED STATES MILITARY ENTRANCE
PROCESSING COMMAND

SUBJECT: Pre-Accession Drug and Alcohol Testing Policy

This memorandum provides implementation guidance for the policy governing the qualification and disqualification of all applicants for military service participating in drug or alcohol testing including such testing at Military Entrance Processing Stations (MEPS). The guidance is contained in the attached appendix.

This memorandum supersedes the May 11, 2000, Secretary of Defense Memorandum, entitled Pre-Accession Drug and Alcohol Testing. The changes from that memorandum are as follows:

- A candidate for military service who has tested positive for cocaine may reapply and be retested only once.
- The Department will test for amphetamines and a candidate for military service who has tested positive may reapply and be retested only once.

Attachment:
Appendix, Pre-Accession Drug and Alcohol
Testing Implementation Guidance

OSD 04684-06



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Appendix

Pre-Accession Drug and Alcohol Testing Implementation Guidance

This Appendix provides implementation guidance for the policy governing the qualification and disqualification of all applicants for military service participating in drug or alcohol testing including such testing at Military Entrance Processing Stations (MEPS). Military applicants must test negative for drugs and alcohol prior to entering active duty, the reserve components, or the National Guard. A positive drug test constitutes use.

When applicants test positive for cannabis (marijuana) and/or alcohol the following policy applies:

a. Disqualification Period (First Positive Test). Applicants testing positive for the first time are not eligible for military service for a period of 45 days from the date of the test. Applicants may, at Service discretion, return for subsequent testing and MEPS processing, if appropriate, on the 46th day following the date of the first positive test.

b. Disqualification Period (Second Positive Test): Applicants testing positive on a subsequent test are not eligible for military service for a period of 24 months (730 days) from the date of the second positive test. Applicants may, at Service discretion, return for subsequent testing and MEPS processing, if appropriate, on the 731st day following the date of the second positive test.

c. Disqualification Period (Third Positive Test): Applicants testing positive on a third drug test will be permanently disqualified for military service.

d. Grandfathering Provision: None.

e. The Services may implement more restrictive standards of applicant qualification and disqualification for use of cannabis (marijuana) or alcohol. If an applicant tests positive for both alcohol and cannabis on the same day, this will be counted as one positive test. An applicant testing positive for alcohol on one day and positive for marijuana on a subsequent day (or visa versa), will be counted as two positive tests.

When applicants test positive for cocaine, amphetamine, methamphetamine, methylenedioxyamphetamine (MDMA, Ecstasy), and/or methylenedioxyamphetamine (MDA), the following policy applies:

a. Disqualification Period (First Positive Test): Applicants testing positive for the first time are not eligible for military service for a period of 12 months (365 days) from the date of the initial positive test. Applicants may or may not, at Service discretion, return for subsequent testing and MEPS processing, if appropriate, on the 366th day following the date of the first positive test.

b. Disqualification Period (Second Positive Test): Applicants testing positive on a subsequent test shall be permanently disqualified for military service.

c. Grandfathering Provision: Those applicants with two prior positive cocaine tests, and who are eligible to provide a subsequent specimen in accordance with the May 11, 2000 policy memorandum, must provide a specimen for testing no later than July 31, 2007. If the applicant with two prior positive cocaine tests does not provide another specimen by this deadline and if this specimen or any subsequent specimen tests positive for any tested drug, the applicant will be permanently disqualified.

d. The Services may implement more restrictive standards of applicant qualification and disqualification for cocaine and/or amphetamine(s).

Combination positive testing will be processed as follows:

a. An applicant testing positive for cannabis in combination with cocaine and/or any amphetamine(s) on one specimen will be counted as one positive test and processed under the cocaine/amphetamine(s) standard.

b. An applicant testing positive for alcohol and/or cannabis (marijuana) on one specimen (at any time) and who subsequently tests positive for cocaine and/or selected amphetamines(s) (from the effective date of this policy memorandum forward), will be disqualified for 730 days; if the applicant provides a third positive specimen, whether alcohol, and/or cannabis (marijuana), and/or cocaine, and/or amphetamines(s), the applicant will be permanently disqualified for military service.

c. An applicant with one positive cocaine test prior to the effective date of this memorandum and who becomes eligible for subsequent testing after this policy is adopted:

i. will be permanently disqualified if a subsequent test is positive for cocaine and/or amphetamine(s).

ii. will be disqualified for 730 days if the subsequent test is positive for alcohol and/or marijuana; if an additional subsequent test is positive for any tested drug, the applicant will be permanently disqualified.

d. An applicant who tested positive for alcohol and/or marijuana on two specimens (at any time) and subsequently tests positive for any tested drug on a third specimen (at any time) will be permanently disqualified.

Implementation responsibilities are as follows:

a. The Secretaries of the Military Departments will not process applicants in the Delayed Entry Program (DEP) for military service if they are deemed ineligible under the policies set forth herein. Guidelines for in-service testing programs remain unchanged by this policy memorandum.

b. The Commander, U.S. Military Entrance Processing Command (USMEPCOM) will coordinate with the DoD-approved testing laboratory to maximize efficiency of testing. The USMEPCOM will notify applicants of positive results and encourage the applicant to seek treatment and provide them with a list of appropriate resources.

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ACTION MEMO

USD(P) SS APR 14 2006

FOR DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

FROM: Thomas W. O'Connell, Assistant Secretary of Defense (SO/LIC)

O'Connell 11 Apr 06

SUBJECT: Pre-Accession Drug and Alcohol Testing

- The attached proposed policy at Tab A will supersede the May 11, 2000, Secretary of Defense Memorandum, entitled Pre-Accession Drug and Alcohol Testing (Tab B). The changes are as follows:
 - It reduces the number of times from two to one that a candidate for military service can reapply and be re-tested after testing positive for cocaine use.
 - We are making this change because of the increased prevalence of cocaine use in the general population and highly addictive nature of that drug.
 - It establishes the same guidelines for amphetamines as for cocaine (as stated above).
 - The increase availability of amphetamines in the general population dictates this change.

RECOMMEDATION: That you sign the attached policy.

COORDINATION: The list of coordinating officials is attached at Tab C.

Attachments
As Stated

Concur: *[Signature]* Non-concur: _____ Other: _____
6-12

Prepared by: COL Ronald Shippee, USA, ODASD(CN), (703) 697 5607

06/003466-PRA*

1A SD		SMA DSD	<i>[Signature]</i>
SA SD	<i>12/6/5</i>	SA DSD	<i>RE 10/10/06</i>
EXEC SEC	<i>M. D. S.</i>	1715	<i>6/6/06</i>
SR MA	<i>KSJCK</i>	STF DIR	

OSD 04684-06



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