



PERSONNEL AND
READINESS

UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-4000



DEC - 6 2005

MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS
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UNDER SECRETARIES OF DEFENSE
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GENERAL COUNSEL, DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
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DIRECTORS OF DEFENSE AGENCIES
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SUBJECT: Policy Guidance for Medical Deferral Pending Deployment to Theaters of Operation

Section 732c (Uniform Policy on Medical Deferral Pending Deployment to Theaters of Operation) of the Fiscal Year 2005 National Defense Authorization Act (attached) requires that, "The Secretary of Defense shall prescribe, for uniform applicability throughout the Armed Forces, a policy on deferral of medical treatment of members pending deployment."

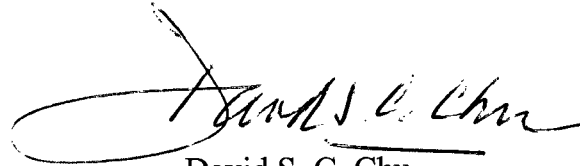
The policy of the Department of Defense is that the Military Departments, informed by guidance from the theater combatant commander, determine medical deployment standards for their members deploying to a theater of operations. If a Service member has a medical or dental condition that causes failure to meet deployment standards, and an episode or short period of treatment will cause that member to meet Service deployment standards, the Service may, at its option, treat that member and then deploy him or her to theater after an adequate recovery period.

If the Service wishes to deploy a member who does not meet its deployment standards, to have an episode or short period of care in the theater of operations that will render him otherwise fit for duty in that theater, that Service will obtain a waiver from the senior in-theater medical commander. The senior in-theater medical commander will take into account, among other factors, the area of the planned deployment, the availability and optempo of the required medical or dental services in that area, and the likelihood of complications of treatment while in theater further degrading the functional status of the



Service member and the supporting medical or dental assets, potentially causing evacuation of the Service member or overloading the supporting medical or dental assets.

This policy is effective immediately.



David S. C. Chu

Attachment:
As stated

Public Law 108-375 (FY 2005 National Defense Authorization Act)
Section 732 - Medical Readiness of Reserves

(c) Uniform Policy on Medical Deferral Pending Deployment to Theaters of Operation.

- (1) REQUIREMENT FOR POLICY - The Secretary of Defense shall prescribe, for uniform applicability throughout the Armed Forces, a policy on deferral of medical treatment of members pending deployment.
- (2) CONTENT - The policy prescribed under paragraph (1) may specify the following matters:
 - (A) The circumstances under which treatment for medical conditions may be deferred to be provided within a theater of operations in order to prevent delay or other disruption of a deployment to that theater.
 - (B) The circumstances under which medical conditions are to be treated before deployment to that theater.