Enclosure 2 to PPOM 23-044
Information Paper

INFORMATION PAPER

ARNG-CSG
19JUL2024

SUBJECT: Physical Requirements for Current Army Aviator Administrative Actions

1. Purpose: To identify regulatory requirements and waiver authorities for performance of aviation duties and aviation officer reappointments.

2. Facts:

a. Both Army Regulation (AR) 135-100 para 2-1e and AR 135-101 para 1-5c require a medical examination prescribed in AR 40-501 to appoint as a commissioned, warrant or Army Medical Department (AMEDD) officer. AR 135-100 para 1-6g(1)(b) requires a flight duty medical examination (FDME) prescribed by AR 40-501, chapter 4, for continuance of aviation duty. AR 135-100 does not require an additional physical if the previous medical examination is valid under AR 40-501 (para 2-1e).

b. Only an "applicant," or person not in a military status, who applies for initial appointment, enlistment or re-enlistment in the ARNG must abide by the standards of Army Regulation (AR) 40-501, Chapter 2, for accession into the Army (AR 40-501 para 2-2c(1)). Otherwise, ARNG officers conducting reappointment between commissioned and warrant officer must meet the provisions of AR 40-501, Chapter 3 (para 3-2a). Current Army Aviators must maintain the standards of a Chapter 4, Class 2 physical to continue flight duties (para 4-2(b)(2)). The Director, ARNG, is the medical waiver authority for all accessions for ARNG and the Army National Guard of the United States (ARNGUS) (para 1-6(i)).

c. National Guard Regulation (NGR) 600-100 states that "appointment of commissioned officers from a commissioned or warrant officer status from any component of the U.S. Army with not break in service will have a current Periodic Health Assessment (PHA) under medical fitness standards specified in AR 40-501" (para 2-7h(2)). Appendix K changes this requirement by stating "All AMEDD initial appointment application packets must contain a current AR 40-501, chapter 2 physical exam to include current Army enlisted Soldiers, warrant officers, and basic branch officers" (para K-5a). Per AR 40-501, this is not required for active status ARNG officers.

d. Thus, the reappointment physical standards for active status, commissioned, warrant and AMEDD aviation officers are solely AR 40-501 Chapter 3 and 4 standards. Waiver authority is the Director, ARNG. NGR 600-100 requires an additional Chapter 2 physical that is not required by AR 135-101.

e. All aviators must maintain annual medical fitness standards in accordance with AR 40-501 and be issued a Department of Defense (DD) Form 2992 (AR 600-105 para 2-7c). The DD Form 2992 is the outcome of a comprehensive flight duty medical

examination (FDME), conducted every five years, or a flight duty health screen (FDHS), conducted annually when an initial or comprehensive FDME is not required (Department of the Army Pamphlet (DA PAM) 40-502 para 6-1b).

f. Issuance of the DD Form 2992, with the comments “Full Flying Duty” or FFD, constitutes aeromedical recommendation of flying duty while the FDME/FDHS is pending review by the US Army Aeromedical Activity (USAAMA). The unit commander retains approval authority for all aeromedical recommendations, and the recommendation is valid until the FDME/FDHS is no longer valid (DA PAM 40-502 para 6-2e). DD Form 2992s do not require a USAAMA disposition stamp for usage (AR 40-502 para 4-9e).

g. Thus, unless an aeromedical waiver(s) is/are required, a DD Form 2992 serves as a valid aeromedical determination until final determination is made by USAAMA. For applicants requiring waivers, a DD Form 2992 is only permissible for a limited length of time, for example: “Temporary FFD, 90 days, pending receipt of waiver” (DA PAM 40-502 para 5-14a(2)). Aeromedical providers must refer to the aeromedical policy letters for waiver requirements.

h. DA PAM 40-502 also states that a complete, annual PHA medically qualifies all Army personnel for promotion, regardless of component (para 5-23). Therefore, the regulatory medical requirements for reappointment to or from active status, ARNG, aviation specialties are the standards of Chapter 3, AR 40-501, and a current DD Form 2992.

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