



RHODE ISLAND NATIONAL GUARD
JOINT FORCE HEADQUARTERS
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NGRI-TAG

13 May 2025

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Rhode Island Army National Guard (RIARNG) Drug Testing Policy

1. REFERENCES.

- a. Department of Defense Instruction 1010.01 Military Personnel Drug Abuse Testing Program, dated 14 February 2018
- b. Department of Defense Instruction 1010.16, Technical Procedures for the Military Personnel Drug Abuse Testing Program, 15 June 2020
- c. Army Regulation 600-85, The Army Substance Abuse Program, 4 October 2024
- d. Department of Defense Instruction 1300.28, In-Service Transition for Transgender Service Members, 20 December 2022

2. APPLICABILITY. This policy is applicable to all Soldiers assigned or attached to the Rhode Island Army National Guard.

3. PURPOSE. The use of illegal drugs and illegal use or misuse of pharmaceutical drugs is a serious threat to the readiness and preparedness of the Rhode Island National Guard. Random drug testing is the primary mechanism of deterrence. This policy informs commanders of their responsibility in maintaining a consistent and aggressive drug testing program.

4. POLICY. Commanders' responsibilities:

- a. Commanders will appoint on orders at least 2 Unit Deterrence Leaders (UDLs); 1 primary UDL and 1 alternate UDL. The UDL will be an officer, warrant officer or NCO in the rank of E-5 or above. **All UDL candidates must have a urinalysis test within 12 months from the appointment date and have at least 24 months remaining on their current term of service. Units with less than 20 Soldiers will receive drug testing support from the next higher unit in the chain of command or from the RIARNG Drug Testing Coordinator (DTC) or RIARNG Substance Abuse Prevention Program NCO.**

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b. Commanders will ensure appointed UDLs attend the initial 16-hour UDL certification course. Course attendance must be scheduled through the RIARNG DTC. The UDL certification is valid for 24 months. To maintain certification, the UDL must successfully pass the UDL recertification exam within 60 days of their current certification expiration date. UDLs must retake the entire 16-hour UDL certification course if the Soldier fails the re-certification exam or if their certification has been expired for more than 60 days. The UDL is not authorized to conduct a urinalysis test if their certification has expired.

c. Commanders must employ direct observation of urine collection to maintain the integrity and effectiveness of their UA programs. Soldiers selected as urinalysis test observers must be an officer, warrant officer, or NCO (E-5 or above). Observers must be the same gender as indicated in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS). Observers cannot be currently enrolled in mandatory substance use disorder treatment in the past twelve months or be under investigation for any offenses in the last three years. Observers must be briefed by the UDL, receive a demonstration of their duties each time they are selected to observe, and sign the urinalysis observation briefing memorandum that outlines their duties and penalties for not performing them properly.

d. Commanders at every level will ensure random urinalysis drug testing at the rate of 10 percent of assigned end strength each month or the equivalent for units on alternate battle assembly cycles. The primary selection for testing will be the Inspection Random (IR) drug testing code.

e. Commanders will ensure all Soldiers are tested, at a minimum, once annually. Soldiers not selected for a random urinalysis test during the first three quarters of each fiscal year, will be selected for testing during the fourth quarter using the Inspection Other (IO) test basis code. Commanders will not use unit sweep (Inspection Unit (IU)) testing to meet this requirement.

(1) Commanders have the authority to increase random urinalysis testing rates above the mandated 10% IR per month. Commanders are strongly encouraged to conduct unit sweep urinalysis test periodically but only if they have met the required monthly IR testing rates year to date.

(2) Commanders are, in addition to random testing, authorized to direct individuals to test based on reasonable suspicion or probable cause. Every commander has access to a Judge Advocate for consultation prior to execution of these types of tests. IU testing will not be used as a means of testing a Soldier who is suspected of abusing drugs but does not have sufficient Probable Cause (PO) to conduct a PO collection.

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(3) Commanders will order a Soldier with illicit use to provide a urine sample every month for the duration of their suspension. The sample will be collected under the "Inspection Other" (IO) test basis.

(4) Commanders will use special drug tests or additional testing for Soldiers with a particular military occupation specialty.

5. EXPIRATION. This memorandum supersedes the RIARNG Alcohol and Drug Abuse Policy, dated 13 August 2024, and will remain in effect until superseded or rescinded.

6. Point of contact for this memorandum is the RIARNG Drug Testing Coordinator, at (401) 275-4062.

ANDREW J. CHEVALIER
Brigadier General
The Adjutant General

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