



NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU

111 SOUTH GEORGE MASON DRIVE
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ARNG-HRP

5 April 2017

MEMORANDUM FOR The Adjutants General of all States, Puerto Rico, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the Commanding General of the District of Columbia

SUBJECT: Implementation Guidance for Army National Guard Line of Duty (LOD), Procedures and Investigations (PPOM 17-022)

1. References: See Enclosure.

2. Purpose:

a. To establish Line of Duty (LOD) policy guidance in accordance with Army Regulation 600-8-4 and Department of Defense Instructions 1241.01, 16 April 2016.

b. This policy applies to all Army National Guard Soldiers regardless of status (Title 32, Title 10, Active Guard Reserve, M-Day). To assign responsibility, establish objectives and provide guidance for determining an entitlement to medical care, pay and allowances for Soldiers who incur an injury, illness, disease, or incur aggravation in the line of duty. This guidance establishes criteria for initiating and processing LODs to ensure access to care and a timely resolution of their medical condition(s).

3. Effective 04 April 2017, Soldiers will have up to 180 days following the completion of their qualified duty to request consideration for a line of duty determination, absent special circumstances. Special circumstances are those in which the covered condition pre-dates the 180 day period, e.g., latent onset symptoms of post-traumatic stress and unreported Sexual Assault IAW 600-8-4.

a. Examples are as follows:

(1) A Soldier attends Inactive Duty Training (IDT) from Friday to Sunday afternoon. On Sunday morning he/she incurs an injury to his/her knee during afternoon cargo sling-load training. His/her last qualified duty status ended Sunday, the Soldier has 180 days from Monday, the following day, to file a report of injury to his/her knee.

(2) A Soldier returning from deployment with an injury, illness or disease (other than Behavioral Health (BH) without a LOD completed, has 180 days from the effective REFRAD date on his/her DD214 to file a report of his/her injury.

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b. LODs for Active Guard Reserve (AGR) Soldiers are not initiated if the date of incident happened more than 180 days in the past. Submission of AGR Line of Duty Investigations solely for the purpose of retirement is not authorized.

c. LOD determinations for injuries, illnesses, or diseases that have no lasting effect, defined as not requiring follow on care ultimately affecting a Soldier's overall health or career will not be accepted IAW AR 600-8-4, 2-3b. LODs where the diagnoses are listed as, abrasions, scratches, pain, headache (not associated with BH), hernia, pregnancy etc., are injuries or illness that leave no lasting effect on the Soldier or require hospitalization for further treatment.

d. A Soldier requiring treatment for an emergency medical or dental condition while in a qualified duty status is authorized an interim line of duty determination. This authorizes emergent care, unless clear and unmistakable evidence shows the condition was the result of the member's gross negligence or misconduct. An interim LOD must be initiated within 10 days following completion of qualified duty to continue treatment, if indicated, for covered conditions. The appropriate Defense Health Agency (DHA) office will serve as the Military Medical Authority (MMA) for approval and authorization of emergency medical and dental treatment with a civilian provider.

e. LOD processing remains the same within the States with the exception of the approval process. States will make a recommendation in the Electronic Medical Management Processing System before the LOD is forwarded to the approval authority for adjudication.

f. The LOD determination is required to authorize immediate medical and dental treatment for the covered condition(s). Under no circumstances, will care be authorized after one year from diagnosis without being identified for referral to the Disability Evaluation System (DES). A Soldier must be referred to the DES when the criteria for referral is met in accordance with DoDI 1332.18.

g. LOD processing timelines will remain unchanged in accordance with DODI 1241.04:

(1) Informal Investigations – 60 days

(2) Formal Investigations – 180 days

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4. Should the approval authority, at any time, find that the injury, illness, or disease was not incurred or aggravated in a qualified duty status or was the result of gross negligence or misconduct, all authorizations for medical and dental treatment, incapacitation pay, travel and transportation allowances provided related to in line of duty determination must be terminated immediately. The Service member is financially responsible for all treatment to include emergency treatment for non-covered condition(s), if a finding such as described above is rendered.

5. This PPOM is rescinded when it becomes obsolete or is superseded by publication of revised AR 600-8-4.

6. The point of contact is COL Sharon D. Moore Chief, Personnel Division, ARNG, at 703-607-7100, DSN 327-7100, or sharon.d.moore1.mil@mail.mil.

Encl
References

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ENCLOSURE 1

REFERENCES

- a. Army Regulation (AR) 40-501, Standards of Medical Fitness, December 14, 2007.
- b. Army Regulation (AR) 600-8-4, Line of Duty Policy, Procedures, and Investigations, September 4, 2008.
- c. Department of Defense Directive (DoDD) 5124.02, Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness (USD(P&R)), June 23, 2008.
- d. Department of Defense Instruction (DoDI) 1332.18, Disability Evaluation System (DES), August 5, 2014.
- e. Department of Defense Directive (DoDD) 1241.01, Reserve Component Medical Care and Incapacitation Pay for Line of Duty Conditions, April 19, 2016.
- f. Memorandum, Department of the Army Human Resource Command, 03 Dec 16, subject: Delegation of Authority for Line of Duty.