



COMMANDER'S CALL TOPICS

NOTE: This product has embedded hyperlinks and is best viewed online.

26 February — 2 March 2018

Priority Topic of the Week DoD Policy on Retention of Non- Deployable Service Members

In July 2017, Secretary of Defense James N. Mattis directed the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness to lead the department's effort to "determine changes to military personnel policies necessary to provide the military departments increased flexibility to organize, train, and equip more ready and lethal forces," and deliver recommendations to the deputy secretary of defense and vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff by Dec. 1, 2017.

The DoD Policy on the Retention of Non-Deployable Service Members is one of six recommendations developed by the Military Personnel Policy Working Group to achieve this effort.

DoD Policy on the Retention of Non-Deployable Service Members

DOD requires a department-wide policy that establishes standardized criteria for retaining non-deployable service members. The objective is to reduce the number of non-deployable service members which improves personnel readiness across the force.

- **Service members who are non-deployable for more than 12 consecutive months, for any reason, will be processed for administrative separation** in accordance with DOD Instruction 1332.14, Enlisted Administrative Separations, or DOD Instruction 1332.30, Separation of Regular and Reserve Commissioned Officers, **or will be referred into the Disability Evaluation System** in accordance with DOD Instruction 1332.18, Disability Evaluation System.
- **The only group automatically exempted are pregnant and postpartum service members.**
- The secretaries of the military departments are authorized to grant waivers to retain service members whose period of non-deployability exceeds the 12-month limit. This waiver authority may be delegated to an official no lower than the military service headquarters-level.
- This policy is effective immediately; however, the services have until Oct. 1, 2018, to begin mandatory processing of non-deployable service members for administrative separation under this policy.
- The department is also focused on ensuring service members get routine medical and dental checks in a timely fashion, to ensure the high state of personal readiness demanded by our missions and obligations.

Why is this policy being implemented?

In his initial memorandum to the department, Mattis emphasized, "every action will be designed to ensure our military is ready to fight today and in the future." All service members are expected to be world-wide deployable.

Our focus is to help these members heal as quickly as possible so they can return to training with their unit.



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Additional Notes

- When a service member is medically non-deployable for 12 consecutive months, the services will refer them to the disability evaluation process.
- This policy applies equally to **ALL** service members.
- The secretary of the Air Force will have the authority to retain any Airman.
- **Each non-deployable Airmen's case will be individually reviewed and considered** to include a complete review of their background (time in service, skill set and potential duty locations) before a retention decision is made.
- The Air Force will determine whether the needs of the service outweigh the needs of the individual as the department works to increase readiness and lethality.
- Our wounded, ill, and injured Airmen remain a top priority and will continue to be given the best medical care available.
- For those who will transition, the Air Force will work closely with our wounded warriors, as we do all our transitioning Airmen, to prepare them for their next phase of life, whether back to school or using military skills in the civilian workforce.
- The Air Force, in concert with the DoD, will review and adjust resources as needed to properly resource transition programs as the number of separations increase.

Additional Information

[DoD Retention Policy for Non-Deployable Service Members](#)

Personnel Topics of Interest

- AF selects 1,549 in 18E8/SMSgt promotion cycle; list posts March 1 ([AFPC](#))
- Foreign Area Officer Program chooses 57 new cadre ([AFPC](#))
- 2018 Nominations for First Sergeant of the Year Award sought ([AFPC](#))
- AF Vice Chief of Staff to Congress: help us win any fight at any time ([AF.MIL](#))

Monthly Observance

FEBRUARY IS BLACK HISTORY MONTH

[\(click link for additional information\)](#)

Commander's Call Topic Archive: <http://www.af.mil/AboutUs/CommandersCallTopics.aspx>

Commander's Call Topics is published weekly by SAF/PA to ensure leaders at all levels remain current on issues concerning Airmen and families. Requests for information to be included in future editions should be sent to SAF/PAX via [email](#).

Submissions should include:

- 1) 1-2 sentence synopsis of the issue
- 2) hyperlink to further details
- 3) a POC name and contact information.

*Only submissions that pertaining to the majority of Airmen or specifically to command leadership teams will be considered.

Local or limited-interest items will not be included.