

ALARACT 298/2011 - ARMY DEPLOYMENT PERIOD POLICY

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THIS MESSAGE IS RELEASED ON BEHALF OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY//

SUBJECT: ARMY DEPLOYMENT PERIOD POLICY//

MSGID/ORDER/HQDA//

REF/SECARMY MEMORANDUM/"ARMY DEPLOYMENT PERIOD POLICY"/DTD 3 AUG 11//
TIMEZONE/Z//

1. (FOUO) SITUATION. SINCE SEPTEMBER 2001, THE ARMY HAS FULLY SUPPORTED THE NATION'S EFFORTS IN OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM, OPERATION NEW DAWN, OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM, AND OTHERS. OVER THE COURSE OF THESE CONFLICTS THE ARMY HAS ADJUSTED TOUR LENGTHS TO ENSURE THE ARMY CAN CONTINUE TO FULLY SUPPORT COMBATANT COMMANDERS WHILE ALSO UNDERTAKING INITIATIVES TO BALANCE THE FORCE AND PROVIDE THE MAXIMUM QUALITY TIME POSSIBLE AT HOME FOR SOLDIERS AND FAMILIES. SINCE 2008 THE ARMY HAS BEEN ON A GLIDEPATH TO INCREASE THIS TIME AT HOME FOR MOST SOLDIERS. ADDITIONALLY, NATIONAL POLICY HAS DIRECTED A REDUCTION OF FORCES IN BOTH OPERATION NEW DAWN AND OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM IN THE NEAR FUTURE. AS A RESULT, THE ARMY HAS AN OPPORTUNITY TO AGAIN REVIEW ARMY DEPLOYMENT PERIOD POLICY (AKA "BOOTS ON GROUND" OR "BOG") TO CONTINUE ON THE GLIDEPATH TO PROVIDE SOLDIERS AND FAMILIES THE BEST QUALITY OF LIFE WHILE ALSO ENSURING WE MEET ALL MISSIONS.

2. (FOUO) MISSION. BEGINNING 1 JAN 12 THE ARMY WILL TRANSITION TO 9-MONTH DEPLOYMENT PERIODS TO ANY OCONUS NAMED OPERATION FOR GENERAL PURPOSE FORCES UNITS FROM DIVISION HEADQUARTERS ECHELON AND BELOW WITH FULL IMPLEMENTATION NLT 1 APR 12 TO INCREASE THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR SOLDIERS AND FAMILIES AND REBALANCE THE FORCE.

3. (FOUO) EXECUTION.

INTENT:

PURPOSE: THIS INITIATIVE IS INTENDED TO INCREASE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR SOLDIERS AND FAMILIES, REBALANCE THE FORCE, AND PROVIDE GREATER ALIGNMENT WITHIN DIVISION FORMATIONS OF UNIT DEPLOYMENTS.

KEY TASKS:

__ ENSURE SOLID COORDINATION BETWEEN THE ARSTAF, ASCCS, DRUS, AND AGENCIES TO ENSURE SMOOTH IMPLEMENTATION AND LIMITATION OF DISRUPTIONS TO SUPPORTING SYSTEMS (E.G. RESET, PERSONNEL REASSIGNMENTS, EQUIPPING INITIATIVES)

__ POSITIVE COMMUNICATION TO THE FORCE OF BENEFITS OF SHORTER DEPLOYMENTS TO THE SOLDIER, THE FAMILY, AND THE FORCE

__ TRANSPARENT COMMUNICATION WITH EFFECTED COMBATANT COMMANDS

__ FULL SUPPORT OF COMBATANT COMMANDER REQUIREMENTS

END STATE: COMBATANT COMMANDERS REQUIREMENTS ARE FULLY MET AND ARMY UNITS

FROM DIVISION HEADQUARTERS AND BELOW DEPLOY FOR 9-MONTH DEPLOYMENTS

3.A. CONCEPT OF THE OPERATION: THIS IS A THREE PHASED OPERATION. PHASE I IS THE PREPARATION/SYSTEMS ADJUSTMENT PHASE. PHASE I BEGINS WITH THE ISSUANCE OF THIS ORDER AND CONCLUDES UPON BEGINNING OF THE TRANSITIONAL PERIOD, 31 DEC 11. PHASE II IS A TRANSITIONAL PERIOD WHERE SOME UNITS DEPLOY FOR PERIODS LESS THAN 12 MONTHS. PHASE III BEGINS ON 1 APR 12 WHEN ALL UNITS DEPLOY FOR 9-MONTH DEPLOYMENTS ONLY.

3.A.1. PHASE I: ARSTAF COORDINATION OCCURS UNDER G-3/5/7 LEAD TO ENSURE PROPER PREPARATION FOR STAFF SYSTEMS FOR THE TRANSITION. FORSCOM, AS THE ARMY'S SERVICE COMPONENT FORCE PROVIDER, IN COORDINATION WITH HQDA G-3/5/7 DEVELOPS, STAFFS, AND SYNCHRONIZES UPDATED PATCH CHARTS AND DEPLOYMENT ORDERS AS REQUIRED. FORSCOM WILL ALSO STRIVE TO IMPROVE ALIGNMENT OF DEPLOYMENTS BETWEEN DIVISION HEADQUARTERS, BRIGADE COMBAT TEAMS, AND WHERE POSSIBLE COMBAT AVIATION BRIGADES AND SUSTAINMENT BRIGADES. ADJUSTING TO INCREASE ALIGNMENT WILL RESULT IN SOME UNITS ENCOUNTERING REDUCED DWELL THAN CURRENTLY PLANNED, BUT ABOVE A 1:1 BOG:DWELL RATIO IN THE SHORT TERM. OCPA ICW OCLL DEVELOPS TALKING POINTS AND IMPLEMENTS A MESSAGING STRATEGY TO ENSURE COMMUNICATION OF THE PLAN AND ITS INTENT AND EFFECTS TO SOLDIERS, FAMILIES, AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC, AS REQUIRED.

3.A.2. PHASE II: ON 1 JAN 12, UNITS CAN BEGIN DEPLOYMENT ON TOUR LENGTHS OF 9 MONTHS, BUT UP TO 12 MONTHS AS NECESSARY. FORSCOM WILL DETERMINE WHAT PERIODS OF TIME UNITS WILL DEPLOY BASED UPON AN ANALYSIS OF TRAINING REQUIREMENTS AND TIMELINES, MANNING STATUS, AND TRANSPORTABILITY FEASIBILITY. FORSCOM WILL PUBLISH UPDATED PLANNING PRODUCTS AS SOON AS APPROVED AND REVISE THEM AS NECESSARY. THIS PHASE CONCLUDES ON 31 MAR 12 WITH THE CLOSURE OF THE TRANSITION PERIOD.

3.A.3. PHASE III: AFTER 1 APR 12, ALL UNITS FROM DIVISION HEADQUARTERS AND BELOW ON OCONUS MISSIONS DEPLOY ON 9-MONTH DEPLOYMENTS. ARMY CONTINUES TO STRIVE TO BUILD DWELL TIME FOR SOLDIERS AND UNITS.

3.B. TASKS TO ARSTAFF:

3.B.1. DCS G-1.

3.B.1.A. UPDATE ARMY MANNING GUIDANCE AND PERSONNEL POLICIES AS REQUIRED TO SUPPORT 9-MONTH BOG.

3.B.1.B. CONTINUE TO MONITOR EFFECTS TO THE FORCE OF SHORTER TOUR LENGTHS.

3.B.1.C. COORDINATE WITH HQDA G-3/5/7 (DAMO-SS) ON IMPACTS TO ARFORGEN MODEL AND MANNING AIM POINTS.

3.B.1.D. PROVIDE A 9-MONTH DEPLOYMENT TOUR LENGTH POLICY EXPERT FOR POSSIBLE MEDIA ENGAGEMENT AS DETERMINED BY OCPA

3.B.1.E. PROVIDE A REPRESENTATIVE TO ARSTAF PLANNING/IMPLEMENTATION EFFORT.

3.B.2. DCS G-3/5/7.

3.B.2.A ARSTAF LEAD FOR COORDINATION/IMPLEMENTATION (INITIALLY DAMO-ODO, COL MARK SOLOMON, 703-697-2968 (MARK.SOLOMON@CONUS.ARMY.MIL; MARK.SOLOMON@HQDA.ARMY.SMIL.MIL).

3.B.2.B ADJUST/UPDATE ARFORGEN SYNCHRONIZATION ORDERS AND GLOBAL FORCE MANAGEMENT PLAN ORDERS AS NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT 9-MONTH BOG POLICY. (DAMO-

SSG)

3.B.2.C ADJUST/UPDATE ARMY REDLINE POLICY FOR SYNCHRONICITY WITH THIS EXORD.
(DAMO-SSG)

3.B.2.D PROVIDE A 9-MONTH DEPLOYMENT TOUR LENGTH POLICY EXPERT FOR POSSIBLE MEDIA ENGAGEMENT AS DETERMINED BY OCPA.

3.B.2.E REVIEW AND VALIDATE ETDA AND MEEL EQUIPPING REQUIREMENTS IN SUPPORT OF OPERATIONS IN OEF TO ENSURE TPE SETS SUPPORT UNITS DEPLOYING UNDER THIS POLICY.

3.B.2.F MANAGE REQUESTS FOR EXCEPTIONS TO THIS POLICY FOR CONSIDERATION OF CSA OR ASA M&RA AS APPROPRIATE BASED UPON PARAS 3.D.5 AND 3.D.6 OF THIS ORDER (DAMO-SSG FOR FUTURE FYS; DAMO-ODO FOR FYS ALREADY ORDERED IN THE SDOB).

3.B.3. DCS G-4.

3.B.3.A. ICW ARMY MATERIEL COMMAND, IDENTIFY SOURCING SOLUTIONS FOR SHORTAGE MTOE EQUIPMENT (NON-G-8 MANAGED LINS) TO SUPPORT THE REFINED EQUIPMENT TIMELINES.

3.B.3.B. COORDINATE AND INTEGRATE EFFORTS ACROSS SUPPORTING AGENCIES AS NECESSARY (I.E. AMC, SDDC, USTRANSCOM, ETC.) TO ENSURE COORDINATED LOGISTICS AND SUSTAINMENT EFFORTS.

3.B.3.C. ICW ARMY MATERIEL COMMAND ADJUST EQUIPMENT RESET PROGRAM TO ENSURE SUPPORT OF UNIT EQUIPPING REQUIREMENTS BASED UPON NEW DEPLOYMENT TIMELINES AND UNIT ALIGNMENT INITIATIVES.

3.B.3.D. PROVIDE A REPRESENTATIVE TO ARSTAF PLANNING/IMPLEMENTATION EFFORT.

3.B.4. DCS G-8.

3.B.4.A. ADJUST UNIT EQUIPPING TIMELINES TO SUPPORT NECESSARY TRAINING TIMELINES.

3.B.4.B. PROVIDE A REPRESENTATIVE TO ARSTAF PLANNING/IMPLEMENTATION EFFORT.

3.B.4.C. REVIEW VALIDATED ETDA AND MEEL REQUIREMENTS TO ENSURE TPE LEVELS ARE RESOURCED TO SUPPORT UNIT FORMATIONS DEPLOYING UNDER THIS POLICY.

3.B.5. ARMY BUDGET OFFICE.

3.B.5.A. UPDATE COST ESTIMATES OF 9-MONTH BOG AND ALIGNMENT INITIATIVE AS REQUIRED.

3.B.5.B. ENSURE ADJUSTMENTS TO FUTURE BUDGET REQUESTS ARE MADE TO ENSURE USE OF OCO FUNDING WHERE POSSIBLE.

3.B.5.C. PROVIDE A REPRESENTATIVE TO ARSTAF PLANNING/IMPLEMENTATION EFFORT.

3.B.6. OFFICE OF CHIEF OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS.

3.B.6.A. DEVELOP STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS PLAN TO PROVIDE COMMAND INFORMATION TO SOLDIERS, FAMILIES, AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC REGARDING THE CHANGE TO ARMY POLICY AND THE POSITIVE EFFECTS (PUBLISHED AS ANNEX J TO THIS ORDER).

3.B.6.B. PROVIDE A REPRESENTATIVE TO ARSTAF PLANNING/IMPLEMENTATION EFFORT.

3.B.7. OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL LEGISLATIVE LIAISON. CONDUCT ANY NECESSARY COMMUNICATION WITH CONGRESS REGARDING THIS POLICY CHANGE AND IMPLEMENTATION THEREOF.

3.C. TASKS TO SUBORDINATE UNITS.

3.C.1. FORCES COMMAND (FORSCOM)

3.C.1.A. ICW DAMO-ODO, DEVELOP AND SYNCHRONIZE A SOURCING PLAN/PATCH CHART TO SUPPORT BOTH 9-MONTH DEPLOYMENT LENGTHS AND DIVISION/BCT/CAB/SUSTAINMENT BRIGADE ALIGNMENT.

3.C.1.B. ICW DAMO-SSG ADJUST ARFORGEN MODEL.

3.C.1.C. BRIEF ARSTAF ON PROGRESS OF IMPLEMENTATION AS REQUIRED. COORDINATE WITH ARSTAF LEAD FOR TIME/PLACE/METHOD.

3.C.1.D. MONITOR/ANALYZE BOG:DWELL AND PROVIDE INFORMATION TO ARMY LEADERSHIP AS NECESSARY TO FACILITATE POLICY MODIFICATIONS AS APPROPRIATE TO IMPROVE THE POSTURE OF THE FORCE AND ACHIEVE THE BEST QUALITY OF LIFE POSSIBLE FOR SOLDIERS AND FAMILIES WHILE MEETING ALL ASSIGNED MISSIONS.

3.C.2. ARMY MATERIEL COMMAND (AMC). PROVIDE INPUT REGARDING MODERNIZATION/RESET/EQUIPPING ISSUES AS REQUIRED TO HQDA G-8/G-4 FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE ARSTAF.

3.D. COORDINATING INSTRUCTIONS.

3.D.1. THIS DEPLOYMENT PERIOD POLICY IS EFFECTIVE FOR BOTH ACTIVE COMPONENT AND RESERVE COMPONENT UNITS/SOLDIERS. DEPLOYMENT PERIOD IS DEFINED AS THE LENGTH OF TIME BETWEEN THE DEPLOYMENT AND REDEPLOYMENT OF FORCES AND IS NOT/NOT INCLUSIVE OF TIME SPENT AT MOBILIZATION STATIONS FOR RESERVE COMPONENT UNITS.

3.D.2. CORPS HEADQUARTERS WILL CONTINUE ON 1-YEAR DEPLOYMENT LENGTHS UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

3.D.3. INDIVIDUAL AUGMENTEES (IMAs) WILL CONTINUE ON 1-YEAR DEPLOYMENT LENGTHS. ARMY INTENT IS TO REDUCE THESE DEPLOYMENTS TO 9-MONTHS WHEN POSSIBLE.

3.D.4. ARMY SOLDIERS DEPLOYED FOR 9-MONTH DEPLOYMENTS WILL NOT HAVE ENVIRONMENTAL MORALE LEAVE WHILE DEPLOYED.

3.D.5. EXCEPTIONS TO THIS POLICY FOR HIGH DEMAND/LOW DENSITY UNITS WILL BE CONSIDERED BY THE CSA ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS. FORSCOM MAY SUBMIT REQUESTS FOR EXCEPTION TO POLICY TO HQDA G-3/5/7 IN MEMORANDUM FORMAT OUTLINING THE UNIT REQUESTED FOR EXCEPTION AND JUSTIFICATION. DAMO-SSG WILL MANAGE EXCEPTION REQUESTS FOR FISCAL YEARS NOT YET ORDERED IN THE SDOB; DAMO-ODO WILL MANAGE EXCEPTION REQUESTS FOR ALL FISCAL YEARS ALREADY ORDERED IN THE SDOB.

3.D.6. ALL OTHER EXCEPTION REQUESTS WILL BE SUBMITTED TO G-3/5/7 FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE ASA M&RA IAW SECARMY POLICY LETTER AT REF A.

3.D.7. HQDA WILL CONTINUE TO REFINE/ADJUST TOUR LENGTHS AS REQUIRED BASED UPON COMBATANT COMMANDER REQUIREMENTS, FORCE STRUCTURE ADJUSTMENTS, END STRENGTH ADJUSTMENTS AND OTHER PERTINENT FACTORS.

4. (FOUO) ADMIN AND LOG. DIRECT COORDINATION (DIRLAUTH) IS AUTHORIZED.

5. (U) COMMAND AND CONTROL.

5.A. HQDA G-3/5/7, OPERATIONS DIRECTORATE (DAMO-ODO) POC: COL MARK SOLOMON, COMM: 703-695-2345, EMAIL: MARK.SOLOMON@CONUS.ARMY.MIL.

5.B. HQDA G-3/5/7, PLANS AND POLICY DIRECTORATE (DAMO-SSG) POC: COL DOUG MCCOLLUM, COMM: 703-614-0406, EMAIL: DOUGLAS.MCCOLLUM@CONUS.ARMY.MIL

5.C. ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT WITH POC INFORMATION TO POC LISTED IN 5.A

5.D. EXPIRATION DATE CANNOT BE DETERMINED.