

INFORMATION PAPER

DAPE-IP
9 November 2008

SUBJECT: Keeping Wounded Warriors in the Army

1. Purpose. To address the following: *“What is the process to keep wounded warriors in the Army who want to stay? What initiatives is the Army taking to assist Wounded Warriors?”*

2. Key Points:

a. Immediately after injury, many Soldiers question their ability to remain in the Army. Department of Defense (DoD) policy for military physical disability evaluation includes provision for the respective Services to continue either on active duty (COAD) or in the Reserves (COAR), as applicable. The primary objective of continuation of service is to conserve manpower strength while taking advantage of needed skills and experience.

b. To be eligible a Soldier must meet one of the following three criteria outlined in AR 635-40: 15 or more years of service; qualification in a critical skill or shortage MOS; or disability resulting from combat or terrorism. Current practice, however, allows any Soldier found unfit by the Physical Disability Evaluation System (PDES) to apply for COAD/COAR. Mobilized TPU/IRR RC are limited to applying for COAR only.

c. Soldiers need to inform their Army Leadership i.e. Triad, Physical Evaluation Liaison Officer (PEBLO), or Army Wounded Warrior (AW2) Soldier Family Management Specialist (SFMS) of their desire to remain in the service, and submit a request through the PEBLO counselor. Application for COAD or COAR can only occur at the PEB subsequent to MEB findings that indicate that a Soldier falls below retention standards and should be considered for separation or medical retirement.

d. The Soldier must be able to work in a military environment without adversely affecting their health, posing a risk to other Soldiers, or requiring undue loss of time from duty for medical treatment. The Deputy Chief of Staff, G-1, is the disapproval authority on all requests for continuation from Soldiers tracked by the U.S. Army Wounded Warrior Program (AW2).

e. Soldiers approved for COAD may remain on active duty (provided otherwise qualified) until their retention control point, MRD or retirement date, age 62 (AC) or age 60 (AGR) whichever comes first. Soldiers approved for COAR may serve up to their maximum years of service, MRD or age 60, whichever comes first. Enlisted Soldiers are required to reenlist if their approved continuation period extends beyond their contractual enlistment.

f. Information on COAD/COAR program is found in AR 635-40 and on the Army G1 website (<http://www.armyg1.army.mil/>) under “What’s New”.