



Department of Defense

INSTRUCTION

NUMBER 1215.17
September 12, 2002

ASD(RA)

SUBJECT: Educational Requirements for Appointment of Reserve Component Officers to a Grade Above First Lieutenant or Lieutenant (Junior Grade)

References: (a) DoD Instruction 1215.17, "Educational Requirements for Appointment of Reserve Component Officers to a Grade Above First Lieutenant or Lieutenant (Junior Grade)," November 2, 1995 (hereby canceled)
(b) Section 12205 of title 10, United States Code

1. PURPOSE

This Instruction reissues reference (a) and implements policy, assigns responsibilities, and prescribes procedures under reference (b) for determining which educational institutions may award baccalaureate degrees to satisfy the educational requirement for appointment of Reserve component officers to a grade above First Lieutenant or Lieutenant (Junior Grade). This Instruction also authorizes the Secretary of the Army and the Secretary of the Navy to waive the baccalaureate degree appointment for Army and Marine Corps officers, respectively, whose original appointment as Reserve officer was through the Army Officer Candidate School or the Marine Corps Meritorious Commissioning Program.

2. APPLICABILITY

This Instruction applies to the Office of the Secretary of Defense, and the Military Departments, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Combatant Commands, the Office of the Inspector General of the Department of Defense, the Defense Agencies, the DoD Field Activities, and all other organizational entities within the Department of Defense (hereafter referred to collectively as "the DoD Components").

3. DEFINITIONS

3.1. Accredited Educational Institution. An educational institution accredited by an agency the Secretary of Education recognizes.

3.2. Qualifying Educational Institution. An educational institution that is accredited, or an unaccredited educational institution that the Secretary of Defense designates under paragraphs 6.1. and 6.2., below.

3.3. Unaccredited Educational Institution. An educational institution not accredited by an agency the Secretary of Education recognizes.

4. POLICY

4.1. It is DoD policy under Section 12205 of 10 U.S.C. (reference (b)) to require Reserve component officers to have at least a baccalaureate degree from a qualifying educational institution before being recognized in or appointed to:

4.1.1. A grade above First Lieutenant in the Army Reserve, Air Force Reserve or Marine Corps Reserve.

4.1.2. Lieutenant (Junior Grade) in the Naval Reserve.

4.1.3. A grade above First Lieutenant as a member of the Army National Guard or Air National Guard.

4.2. Exempt from this policy is any officer who was appointed to or recognized in:

4.2.1. A higher grade for service in a health profession for which a baccalaureate degree is not a condition of original appointment or assignment.

4.2.2. The Naval Reserve or Marine Corps Reserve as a limited duty officer.

4.2.3. The Naval Reserve for service under the Naval Aviation Cadet (NAVCAD) program or the Seaman to Admiral program.

4.2.4. A higher grade if appointed to, or federally recognized in, the grade of captain or, in the case of the Navy, lieutenant before October 1, 1995.

4.2.5. The grade of captain or major in the Alaska Army National Guard, who resides permanently at a location in Alaska that is more than 50 miles from each of the cities of Anchorage, Fairbanks, and Juneau, Alaska, by paved road, and who is serving in a Scout unit or a Scout support unit.

4.3. Waivers

4.3.1. The Secretary of the Army may waive the applicability of paragraph 4.1., above, to any officer whose original appointment in the Army as a Reserve officer is through the Army Officer Candidate School program.

4.3.2. The Secretary of the Navy may waive the applicability of paragraph 4.1., above, to any officer whose original appointment in the Marine Corps as a Reserve officer is through the Marine Corps Meritorious Commissioning Program.

4.3.3. Any waiver shall be made on a case-by-case basis, considering the individual circumstances of the officer involved, and may continue in effect for no more than 2 years after the waiver is granted. The Secretary concerned may provide for such a waiver to be effective before the date of the waiver, as appropriate in an individual case.

4.4. The Department of Defense shall designate an unaccredited educational institution as a qualifying educational institution for the purpose of meeting this educational requirement if that institution meets the criteria established in this Instruction.

5. RESPONSIBILITIES

5.1. The Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs, under the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, shall:

5.1.1. Establish and publish in the Federal Register requirements and procedures for an unaccredited educational institution to apply for qualifying as a DoD qualified educational institution.

5.1.2. Provide, annually, to the Secretaries of the Military Departments a list of those unaccredited educational institutions that have been approved by the Department of Defense as a qualifying educational institution. This list shall include the year or years for which unaccredited educational institutions are designated as qualifying educational institutions.

5.2. The Secretaries of the Military Departments shall establish procedures to ensure that:

5.2.1. Reserve component officers selected for appointment who are required to hold a baccalaureate degree do hold that degree. This applies to officers appointed to or federally recognized a grade above:

5.2.1.1. First Lieutenant in the Army Reserve, Air Force Reserve, or Marine Corps Reserve.

5.2.1.2. Lieutenant (Junior Grade) in the Naval Reserve.

5.2.1.3. First Lieutenant as a member of the Army National Guard or Air National Guard.

5.2.2. A degree from an unaccredited educational institution that the Department of Defense recognized as a qualifying educational institution to satisfy the educational requirements of reference (b) shall not have been awarded more than 8 years before the date the officer is to be appointed or federally recognized in the grade of:

5.2.2.1. Captain in the Army Reserve, Army National Guard, Air Force Reserve, Air National Guard, or Marine Corps Reserve.

5.2.2.2. Lieutenant in the Naval Reserve.

6. PROCEDURES

6.1. An unaccredited educational institution may obtain designation as a qualifying educational institution for a specific Reserve component officer who graduated from that educational institution by providing certification from registrars at three accredited educational institutions that maintain ROTC programs that their educational institutions would accept at least 90 percent of the credit hours earned by that officer at the unaccredited educational institution, as of the year of graduation.

6.2. For an unaccredited educational institution to be designated as a qualifying educational institution for a specific year, that educational institution must provide the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs certification from the registrars at three different accredited educational institutions that maintain ROTC programs listing the major field(s) of study in which that educational institution would accept at least 90 percent of the credit hours earned by a student who was awarded a baccalaureate degree in that major field of study at the unaccredited educational institution, as of the year of graduation.

6.3. An unaccredited educational institution shall submit the required documents no later than January 1 of the year for which they seek to be designated as a qualifying educational institution.

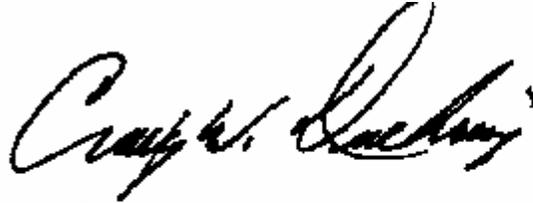
6.4. Send the required documents to:

Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs
Attn: DASD(M&P)
1500 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1500

6.5. Applications containing the required documents may also be submitted at any time from unaccredited educational institutions requesting designation as a qualifying educational institution for prior school years.

7. EFFECTIVE DATE

This Instruction is effective immediately.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Craig W. Duehring". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Craig W. Duehring
Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense
(Reserve Affairs)