UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
4TH MARINE LOGISTICS GROUP
MARINE FORCES RESERVE
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POLICY LETTER 2-06

From: Commanding General
To: Distribution List

Subj: GUIDANCE CONCERNING SCHEDULING OF IDT PERIODS FOR RECENTLY DEMOBILIZED MARINES

Ref: (a) DoDI 1215.19 w/chg 1
(b) Under Secretary of Defense memo "Addendum to Mobilization/Demobilization Personnel and Pay Policy for Reserve Component Members Ordered to Active Duty in Response to the World Trade Center Attacks" dtd 19 Jul 02

1. Situation. In the coming months, many 4th MLG Marines will demobilize as they return from duty in support of Operations ENDURING FREEDOM AND IRAQI FREEDOM (OEF/OIF). References (a) and (b) outline a policy exempting Marines who have been mobilized in support of these contingencies from performing drill and AT for 60 days after release from active duty. Recent information from medical professionals and our returning Marines indicates that it is not in the best interest of the Marines or the Marine Corps to have demobilized Marines abruptly returned to their home communities with little or no follow-on Marine Corps involvement or support during this 60-day timeframe. This situation demands a more proactive application of leadership.

2. Mission. 4th MLG Commanders must act to support and assist their Marines during the potentially difficult transition from active duty back to civilian life. At the same time, commanders must preserve the maximum effectiveness of their units and the Group. To effectively achieve both goals, commanding officers will schedule regular IDTs for Marines returning from deployment and use this time to maintain connection between the Marine and his unit and to communicate timely and useful transition information.

3. Execution

a. Commander's Intent and Concept of Operations

(1) Commander's Intent. Battalion Commanders shall schedule two 1-day, two drill IDTs for demobilized reservists as soon as practical after demobilization. Such IDT shall be performed on a schedule comparable to a normal drill schedule, e.g. approximately monthly. During the 60-day period after mobilization, returning reservists shall only be required to perform one day of duty, but may, if they choose, participate for two days (i.e. a normal drill weekend). After returning from deployment 4th MLG Marines will be exempt from AT for 6 months or the remainder of the fiscal year (whichever is greater).

(2) Concept of Operations. The sole focus of the IDTs scheduled under this policy shall be the personal welfare of the demobilized Marines and their families, and ensuring that they experience a smooth, positive transition back to civilian life. Such IDTs shall not be used to conduct unit or individual operational training, i.e., going to the field, etc. While the actual training schedule shall be determined at the unit commander's discretion, I expect that IDT during the 60 days following demobilization shall be conducted in a "low stress" setting. Activities scheduled shall be aimed toward enhancing the welfare of our Marines and their families. Such activities may include, ***but are certainly not limited to***, classes or counseling sessions addressing the stresses associated with returning from a combat deployment, classes addressing the stresses commonly endured by stay-home family members, training addressing benefits available to reserve Marines and sailors, briefing on USERRA (Uniformed Services Employment and Re-employment Rights Act), and so forth. Commanders and I-Is are further encouraged to make maximum use of available PWST, ESGR, and other specialist personnel whose expertise may enhance the effectiveness of this policy.

4. Administration and Logistics. Unit commanders shall take the necessary steps required to put this policy into effect as soon as possible. Consistent with the references, if a Marine does not report for scheduled IDT during the 60 days following demobilization, no disciplinary or administrative action may be taken as a result. I encourage battalion commanders and I-Is to ask any questions, or provide any comments or suggestions, that they believe bear upon this policy. I will be happy to address any questions, comments, or suggestions that might help us better care for our loyal Marines and sailors.

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5. Command and Signal. This Policy Letter is effective immediately.

E. G. PAYNE

DISTRIBUTION: Battalion Commanders (All)
Battalion Inspector-Instructors (All)
AC/S, G-3 (Training)