



MANPOWER AND  
RESERVE AFFAIRS

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MEMORANDUM FOR DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY  
(MILITARY PERSONNEL)  
DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE  
(FORCE MANAGEMENT INTEGRATION)  
DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE NAVY  
(MILITARY MANPOWER AND PERSONNEL)  
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD DIRECTOR OF  
MILITARY PERSONNEL

SUBJECT: Clarification of Convalescent Leave Policy for Service Members  
Recovering from Sexual Assault

Secretary of Defense Memorandum, "Commencing DoD Actions and Implementation to Address Sexual Assault and Sexual Harassment in the Military," September 22, 2021, established the Department's strategic direction to implement the recommendations of the Independent Review Commission (IRC) on Sexual Assault, wherever possible. The IRC recommended "allowing survivors flexibility to take non-chargeable time off for seeking services or time for recovery from sexual assault."

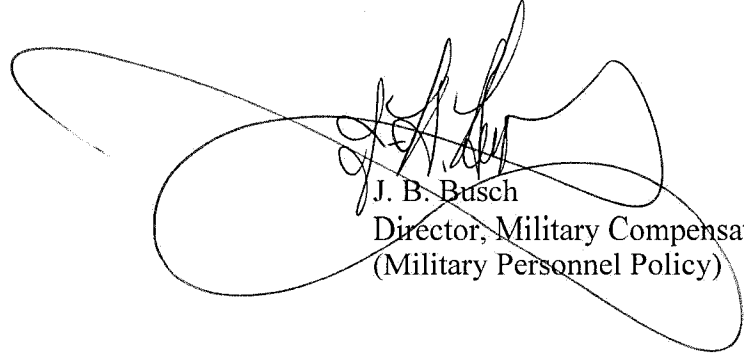
In response, this memorandum clarifies existing policy for convalescent leave and encourages commanders and military treatment facility (MTF) directors to use the authority that already exists in DoD Instruction (DoDI) 1327.06, "Leave and Liberty Policy and Procedures" to support Service members in their recovery from sexual assault.

Per DoDI 1327.06, commanders and MTF directors may grant convalescent leave (non-chargeable) to Service members for their treatment and recuperation from sexual assault based on a recommendation of a medical or mental healthcare provider or sexual assault medical forensic examiner. Such leave may be approved to start immediately following the release from a medical facility, the completion of a sexual assault forensic examination, or the completion of an appointment with a healthcare provider after the sexual assault incident is reported. Convalescent leave that is approved by a commander or MTF director may range from 1 day to 30 days. Convalescent leave exceeding 30 days is controlled at the level designated by the Secretary concerned. There is no cumulative limit to the number of days of convalescent leave that may be granted.

Under existing policy, procedures, and procedures, commanders should allow Service members to attend, in a normal duty status during normal duty hours, any scheduled medical or non-medical appointments, services, or counseling related to their sexual assault incidents, in order to support them in their recovery. As such, these activities are the appointed place of duty for such personnel. Service members who are already on convalescent leave or liberty may attend these activities while on such time off. There is no

cumulative limit to the number of days that Service members may take to attend such activities in a normal duty status.

Commanders should allow Service members sufficient time to access the care they need with the intent to allow healing and recovery from the trauma of sexual assault.



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