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TO NAVADMIN

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NAVADMIN 136/07

MSGID/GENADMIN/CNO WASHINGTON DC/N1/MAY//

SUBJ/TASK FORCE INDIVIDUAL AUGMENTATION (TFIA) UPDATE//

RMKS/1. LAST OCTOBER, WE BEGAN

IMPLEMENTING SEVERAL INITIATIVES TO RECOGNIZE SAILORS WHO ARE MAKING SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS IN THE GLOBAL WAR ON TERROR (GWOT). SINCE THAT TIME, THE TFIA RECEIVED CONTINUOUS, POSITIVE FEEDBACK AND SUGGESTIONS FROM ACROSS THE FLEET ON FURTHER IMPROVEMENTS, MODIFICATIONS, AND CHANGES TO NAVY S IA PROCESSES. OVER THE PAST SEVERAL WEEKS, TFIA DEVELOPED THIS FEEDBACK INTO APPROVED RECOMMENDATIONS TO BETTER RECOGNIZE AND VALUE OUR SAILORS WHO SERVE IN IA DUTY.

THIS NAVADMIN SUMMARIZES THIS RECENT WORK, AND OVER THE COMING WEEKS, ADDITIONAL MESSAGES WILL ANNOUNCE SPECIFIC UPDATES AND/ OR NEW INITIATIVES INTENDED TO CONTINUE IMPROVING NAVY S IA PROGRAM, RECOGNIZE OUR IA SAILORS AND BUILD PREDICTABILITY INTO WHAT IS AN INHERENTLY DYNAMIC MISSION.

2. DISTRIBUTION: THE DISTRIBUTION RECOGNITION DETAILED IN NAVADMIN 273/06 IS MODIFIED SUCH THAT IA TOURS OVER 270 (VICE 365) DAYS WILL BE CONSIDERED EQUIVALENT TO FORWARD DEPLOYED NAVAL FORCES (FDFN) TOURS. ENLISTED AND OFFICER DETAILERS WILL AFFORD THE SAME PRIORITY AND BENEFITS TO IA PERSONNEL SUCH AS COAST SELECTION PREFERENCE AND/OR PRIORITY CHOICE OF FOLLOW-ON DUTY ASSIGNMENTS AND LOCATIONS.

3. ADVANCEMENT: THE AWARD POINTS TOWARD ADVANCEMENT RECOGNITION DETAILED IN NAVADMIN 273/06 AND NAVADMIN 280/06 WILL BE UPDATED TO INCLUDE SAILORS WHO HAVE COMPLETED GREATER THAN 90 DAYS (IN AN IA TOUR, PCS TOUR, TEMADD, OR IN ANY DUTY STATUS) IN IRAQ, AFGHANISTAN, HORN OF AFRICA, KUWAIT, GTMO, JOINT TASK FORCE 515 (USPACOM), AND JOINT FORCE SPECIAL TASK FORCE-PHILIPPINES (USPACOM) MISSIONS WILL BE CREDITED TWO ADVANCEMENT POINTS WITH PARENT COMMANDS ENDORSEMENT. A SPECIFIC UPDATE TO NAVADMIN 280/06 WILL BE PROMULGATED BY SEPCOR.

4. PERSONAL READINESS I-STOP: A PERSONAL READINESS I-STOP BACK TO THE PARENT COMMAND WILL BE AUTHORIZED FOR IA S WITH 179 DAY (OR GREATER) ORDERS AND 45 DAYS (OR GREATER) IN THEIR TRAINING TRACK. MEMBERS WILL COMPLETE A FINAL PERSONAL READINESS CHECKLIST WHILE THEY ARE ON THIS I-STOP.

5. STARTING WITH THE SEP 07 ACTIVE DUTY AND AUG 07 INACTIVE DUTY (RESERVE) EXAM CYCLES, ADDITIONAL FLEXIBILITY WILL BE GIVEN TO OPERATIONAL COMMANDERS TO ADMINISTER ADVANCEMENT EXAMS IN IRAQ, AFGHANISTAN AND THE HORN OF AFRICA, IF CONDITIONS PERMIT. EXISTING FLEXIBILITY FOR EARLY, LATE, AND MISSED EXAM CYCLES WILL REMAIN IN AFFECT. A SPECIFIC UPDATE TO NAVADMIN 290/06 WILL BE PROMULGATED SEPCOR.

6. THE PROPOSALS FOR A GWOT-IA BADGE/MEDAL WAS CAREFULLY REVIEWED. CURRENT RECOGNITION BY EXISTING MEDALS (E.G., IRAQ CAMPAIGN, AFGHANISTAN CAMPAIGN, GWOT EXPEDITIONARY) FOR THOSE SERVING IN COUNTRY (INCLUDING

IAS) ARE CONSIDERED SUFFICIENT TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE VITAL CONTRIBUTION

OUR SAILORS ARE MAKING. THE CURRENT INDIVIDUAL AWARDS PROCESS IS BEING STREAMLINED IN ORDER TO ENSURE THAT OUR SAILORS ACHIEVEMENTS ARE RECOGNIZED IN A CONSISTENT AND TIMELY MANNER.

7. WE ARE ALSO MAKING PROGRESS TOWARDS MAINSTREAMING GWOT SUPPORT BILLETS INTO OUR EXISTING DETAILING PROCESS. WITHIN THE NEXT SEVERAL MONTHS WE WILL BEGIN ASSIGNING OFFICERS TO JMD-VALIDATED MISSIONS THROUGH NORMAL DETAILING CHANNELS (USING PCS ORDERS). THIS FIRST STEP IMPROVEMENT IS INTENDED TO ALLOW OUR PEOPLE AN OPPORTUNITY TO NORMALIZE A GWOT TOUR WITH OTHER CAREER ASSIGNMENTS, TO PROVIDE THEM INCREASED STABILITY AND TO DELIVER MORE NOTIFICATION TIME BEFORE A GWOT DEPLOYMENT. BY MAINSTREAMING GWOT SUPPORT ASSIGNMENTS IN THIS MANNER, THE UNCERTAINTY INHERENT IN TODAY S PROCESS (THE CHANCE THAT A SAILOR MAY BE ASSIGNED TO AN IA BILLET AT AN INOPPORTUNE TIME IN THEIR CAREER) WILL BE REDUCED.

ADDITIONAL DETAILS OUTLINING THE PROCESS AND ITS PHASED IMPLEMENTATION WILL BE TRANSMITTED SOON.

8. AS MENTIONED IN PREVIOUS TFIA UPDATE NAVADMINS, BALANCING NAVY S REQUIREMENTS TO SUPPORT THE GWOT WITH OUR INHERENT DUTY TO TAKE CARE OF OUR SAILORS IS CRITICAL. THE STEPS OUTLINED ABOVE ARE AN ESSENTIAL ELEMENT OF MAINTAINING THAT BALANCE AND CONTINUING TO DEMONSTRATE OUR NAVY S RECOGNITION OF THE SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS OUR SAILORS ARE MAKING TODAY. I AM PROUD OF THE WORK THAT IS BEING DONE BY OUR SAILORS IN THE GWOT MISSION AND THANK EACH OF YOU FOR THE SUPPORT YOU GIVE TO THIS EFFORT EVERY DAY.

9. RELEASED BY VADM J. C. HARVEY, JR., N1//

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