



OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
4000 DEFENSE PENTAGON,  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-4000

AUG 15 2003

PERSONNEL AND  
READINESS

MEMORANDUM FOR DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF, G-1, USA  
CHIEF OF NAVAL PERSONNEL  
DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF FOR PERSONNEL, USAF  
DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF FOR MANPOWER AND  
RESERVE AFFAIRS, USMC

SUBJECT: Extension of Home School and National Guard Youth Challenge  
Tier 1 Pilot Program

We are nearing the completion date of the Congressionally mandated pilot program and owe the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate and the Committee on National Security of the House of Representatives a report on February 1, 2004. In anticipation of this requirement, we have contracted with the Center for Naval Analyses and are in the process of collecting the data necessary to prepare the report.

The Assistant Secretary of the Army (Manpower and Reserve Affairs) asked us to consider extending the project. Although we do not believe it necessary to delay the required report to Congress, PDUSD(P&R) has decided to permit the Services to continue treating home school and National Guard Youth Challenge GED credentials with the same enlistment priority as high school diploma graduates (i.e., Tier 1) through September 30, 2004. That will allow my staff the opportunity to complete the evaluation and report with scientifically based recommendations. This extension will also enable the Services to continue recruiting and enlisting youth with these credentials as Tier 1 for another year. At that time, we will be in a position to recommend a more permanent policy. Regardless of the outcome of this pilot program, the Services are encouraged to enlist youth who show promise, both in terms of their aptitude and likelihood to complete their contracted term of service.

It is not our policy to evaluate the value of various credentials, the curriculum, or test upon which they are awarded; rather, the credentials are used as surrogates for predicting military adaptability. We understand that one unfortunate by-product of this policy is that others may misunderstand the purpose of this important enlistment screening and may think we are either judging actual credentials from an educational content viewpoint or the character of individuals based on their education credential. We recognize the need to articulate the policy as clearly as possible and provide objective data in support of enlistment standards for education credentials. Dr. Jane Arabian (703 697-9271, jane.arabian@osd.mil) is available to answer questions.

Curtis L. Gilroy  
Director, Accession Policy  
(Military Personnel Policy)

cc Commanding General, Army Recruiting Command  
Commanding General, Marine Corps Recruiting Command  
Commander, Air Force Recruiting Service  
Commander, Navy Recruiting Command