



EMS Information Bulletin- #1

DATE: August 5, 2003

SUBJECT: EMS PERSONNEL CALLED TO ACTIVE MILITARY DUTY POLICY

TO: EMS Practitioners Called to Active Military Duty
Ambulance Services
Quick Response Services

FROM: Emergency Medical Services Office
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The “EMS Personnel Called to Active Military Duty” policy defines the documentation and process required for the recognition/authorization of EMS practitioners who are deployed or activated under military orders in the service of the United States Armed Forces, including any member of the military reserve called to extended active duty. This EMS Information Bulletin should be used in conjunction with the basic re-certification process.

As described in the policy, the individual may request credit for qualifying continuing education courses successfully completed while on active military duty through the CE by endorsement process.

- If the individual was deployed and acting in a medical military occupational specialty or equivalent, the training and practice required for him/her to function in this capacity would exceed the continuing education requirements required for recertification/authorization.
- Individuals functioning in a non-medical position are also required to take specific training prior to deployment. An example of a program that may have been completed is the Combat Lifesaver Course that is a 40-hour program. This program exceeds the continuing education requirements for recertification/authorization. Other programs that may have been completed by non-medical military personnel prior to deployment include first aid, nuclear/biological/radiological education, infection control and environmental emergencies. The practitioner should provide a training record or letter from the military verifying this training.

In summary, if an individual can provide documentation of his/her deployment as a medical military classification or completion of the Combat Lifesaver Course, this documentation can be accepted and processed as CE by endorsement for the 24 CEs with 24 of the CE's in the medical/trauma category. Other training will be evaluated following the current CE by endorsement process.

If a practitioner is unable to produce documentation of programs that would meet the continuing education and CPR requirements and his/her certification has expired or is going to expire within twelve (12) months of his/her discharge date the practitioner through the regional EMS council should:

1. **Request an exception to the continuing education requirement due to the military deployment, and;**
2. **Seek an extension of time to complete CE and CPR requirements.**

If the request is granted, the practitioner will be recertified with documentation that states that the practitioner must satisfy the CE & CPR requirements for the prior certification period and for the current certification period before he/she would be eligible for recertification in a subsequent certification period.

Ambulance organizations should ensure that an appropriate in-service/re-orientation program is provided for individuals returning from prolonged periods of military duty.

The goal is to quickly review all requests, approve as appropriate and return military personnel to work in EMS with as little delay as possible. For paramedics and PHRNs, the ALS service medical director is key to facilitating this process. The Department may grant paramedics and PHRNs an exception to the continuing education requirements for medical command authorization, but the ALS service medical director still must ensure that paramedics and PHRNs have demonstrated competency to perform all skills in the prehospital practitioner's scope of practice.