PERSONNEL—GENERAL

MEDICAL RESTRICTION FROM FLIGHT DUTY, SUSPENSIONS, FLYING EVALUATION BOARDS, AND FLIGHT STATUS REVIEW SYSTEM

SECTION I. GENERAL

1. Purpose. This regulation prescribes procedures governing medical restriction from flight duty, suspensions, flying evaluation boards, and the flight status review system for Army aviators.

2. Definitions. For purposes of this regulation, the following definitions apply:
   a. Army aviation. See AR 320-5.
   b. Army aviator. See AR 95-1.
   c. Aviation officer. See AR 95-1.
   d. Student aviator. An individual undergoing a Department of the Army approved course of flight instruction leading to the award of the aeronautical designation of "Army aviator."
   e. Flight Status Review Board. An administrative board of officers appointed by the Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel in connection with the Flight Status Review System to which cases are referred to determine the professional qualifications of an Army aviator for continuation on flying status.
   f. Flight status review system. Annual review of flight and personnel records of Army aviators to determine their professional qualifications for continuation on flying status.
   g. Flying evaluation boards. A board of officers appointed for the purpose of evaluating the professional qualifications of officers, warrant officers, and warrant officer candidates to be recommended for the award of aeronautical designation of Army aviator or for evaluation of the professional qualification of Army aviators for continuation of flying duty when flying deficiencies or other disqualifying conditions are indicated.
   h. Flying status. See AR 37-104 and AR 600-106.
   i. Medical restriction from flight duty. An administrative procedure exercised by a commander upon recommendation of an appropriate medical authority which restricts an Army aviator from performance of flight duty during periods of physical incapacity of from 1 day to approximately 6 months' duration. Correspondence initiated by an appropriate medical authority recommending medical restriction or removal from such...
restriction of an Army aviator, and the resultant indorsement by the commanding officer of the aviator concerned is subsequently filed in the Individual Flight Record File of the aviator as a permanent record.

j. Permanent removal from the Army Aviation Program. A condition which may be imposed on aviators indefinitely suspended from flying status which denies consideration for return to flying status. This action is normally associated with suspensions resulting from the personal request of the individual aviator for release from flying status and is announced in suspension orders.

k. Suspensions.

(1) Temporary suspension. The temporary removal of an Army aviator from flying status for 30 days or less for reasons other than medical incapacity.

(2) Intermediate suspension. A suspension of an Army aviator from flying status for more than 30 days but less than 6 months.

(3) Indefinite suspension. A suspension of an Army aviator from flying status for a period which is expected to exceed 6 months.

l. Termination of suspension. A means of ending or removing a suspension from flying status.

Section II. SUSPENSION PROCEDURES

3. Authority for suspension of flying status. In accordance with Executive Order 11157, 22 June 1964, all commanders are authorized to impose temporary suspension or recommend for intermediate or indefinite suspension any Army aviator of their command who, in their opinion, is unfit for flying duty, except that when an aviator has been determined by an appropriate medical authority to be unfit for flying duty as a result of injury, illness, or other physical incapacity, suspension will not be made because of such incapacity prior to expiration of the periods stipulated in paragraph 4a(4), and further providing that the aviator remains incapacitated. Requests for intermediate or indefinite suspension evolving from medical incapacity beyond the periods of medical restriction from flight duty stipulated in paragraph 4 will indicate whether or not the aviator meets the flight requirements for entitlement to incentive pay during the month that he became incapacitated.

a. General. All actions pertaining to suspensions will be recorded in written orders. Suspensions will not be ordered as disciplinary measures under any circumstances. Disciplinary actions required for violation of flying regulations will be accomplished under the Uniform Code of Military Justice. Intermediate and indefinite suspensions require approval of and will be ordered by higher commanders as indicated in b and c below. Termination of temporary suspension can be ordered by all commanders imposing such suspension without reference to higher authority.

b. Intermediate suspension. Recommendation for suspension and reasons therefor will be submitted through channels for approval. Commanders in chief of major Army overseas commands; commanding generals of major Army commands and Commanding Generals of CONUS armies and the Military District of Washington, U.S. Army, and the U.S. Army Aviation Center; and Chief, National Guard Bureau are delegated the authority and responsibility to take final action on intermediate suspensions and terminate such suspensions of Army aviators under their jurisdiction except when the suspension was imposed for the
purpose of conducting flying evaluation board proceedings. In such cases, final action on the intermediate suspension will be taken upon receipt of the flying evaluation board review conducted by Headquarters, Department of the Army. Commanders in chief of major overseas commands may further delegate this authority and responsibility to commanding generals of armies and/or logistic commands under their jurisdiction.

c. Indefinite suspension. Recommendations for suspension will be submitted through channels to Headquarters, Department of the Army for review and final action for aviators on active duty and for USAF aviators not on active duty. Recommendations for suspension will be submitted to Chief, National Guard Bureau, for final action concerning ARNG aviators not on active duty. Appropriate orders will be issued confirming final action in all cases.

4. Suspension procedures. a. Conditions for suspension. An Army aviator will be suspended from flying status when any one of the following conditions exist:

(1) Lack of proficiency. Evidence indicates lack of proficiency in performance of flying duties or failure to perform minimum semi-annual and annual flying proficiency requirements.

(2) Lack of incentive for flying (combat or otherwise). Refusal to fly a specific category of aircraft or certain models; refusal to fly certain mission, combat or otherwise; or any other similar deficiency which would limit an aviator's worldwide assignment potential.

(3) Undesirable habits or traits of character. Evidence exists that the Army aviator possesses emotional instability, or inherent characteristics of personality which may preclude his continued utilization in the performance of useful flying duty.

(4) Physical disqualification.

(a) Incapacity due to an aviation accident or performance of aerial flights. A member who has been certified by the appropriate medical authority to be incapacitated for flying duty by an injury or illness caused by an aviation accident or as the result of performing flying duty will be placed on medical restriction from flight duty and will not be suspended due to this incapacity unless a period of 6 months has elapsed and he remains incapacitated. In the event the incapacitated member is restored to duty involving flying prior to the termination of the 6-month period, no suspension ensues. If the member has met flight requirements for the month in which he becomes incapacitated, the 6-month period before suspension will begin on the 1st day of the following month. If he has not met such requirements, the 6-month period before suspension will begin on the 1st day of the month in which he becomes incapacitated.

(b) Incapacity not due to aviation accident or performance of aerial flights. A member who has been certified by the appropriate medical authority to be incapacitated for flying duty as the result of an injury or illness not due to an aviation accident or participation in flying duty will be placed on medical restriction from flight duty, and will not be suspended because of such incapacity unless a period of 3 months has elapsed and he remains incapacitated. In the event the member is restored to duty involving flying prior to expiration of the 3-month period, no suspension ensues. If the member has met flight requirements for the month in which he becomes incapacitated, the 3-month period before suspension will begin on the 1st day of the following month. If he has not met flight requirements, the 3-month period before suspension will begin the 1st day of the month in which the incapacity commences.

(c) Action of Medical Corps officer. Medical Corps officers will advise commanders and Army aviators when the aviator is not physically qualified to engage in aerial flight, and will make a determination of the physical condition of aviators who remain in a medical restriction from flight duty status upon
expiration of the 6- or 3-month period provided for above, and submit written recommendations to commanders as to to the type of suspension, intermediate or indefinite, whichever is appropriate.

(5) Flagrant violations of flying regulations. An Army aviator who commits an act constituting a flagrant violation of flying regulations may be considered to have demonstrated a lack of flying judgment or proficiency to a degree to renders him unfit or unqualified for performance of flying duty.

(6) Personal request by an Army aviator for suspension. An Army aviator may be suspended from flying when he requests, in writing, suspension or termination of his flying status orders.

(7) Academic or flying deficiencies of student aviators. Student aviators undergoing flight instruction or instrument training leading to the award of the aeronautical designation of Army aviator who fail to satisfactorily complete such training for academic or flying deficiencies will be suspended from flying status. Recommendation of the training facility regarding continued suspension or restoration of flying status will be forwarded to Chief of Personnel Operations, ATTN: OPXAA, Department of the Army, Washington, D.C. 20315, for final review and disposition. In the case of an ARNG student aviator, such recommendation will be forwarded to Chief, National Guard Bureau, Department of the Army, Washington, D.C. 20310, for final review and disposition.

(8) Administrative causes. This condition of suspension is imposed for circumstances not included above.

b. Notification of suspension.

(1) An Army aviator who has been suspended will be so informed in writing by his commanding officer. Written acknowledgment of such suspension will be made immediately by the suspended Army aviator. Recommendations for intermediate or indefinite suspension, together with all pertinent information, will be forwarded to the appropriate authority designated in paragraph 3. The unit commander also will provide the appropriate disbursing office with a copy of suspension orders.

(2) An aviator whose suspension has been terminated will be informed in writing by his commanding officer. The unit commander will provide the aviator under suspension and the appropriate disbursing officer with a copy of the terminating order to include those received from higher authority on a previously forwarded intermediate or indefinite suspension order.

c. Duty while suspended. During the period of suspension an Army aviator will not be assigned to duties requiring the piloting of aircraft.

d. Action in case of reassignment. In the event an Army aviator is reassigned while under a suspension for flying status, the former unit commander will include in the individual's field 201 file, for the information of the new commanding officer, a résumé of the case including a copy of the suspension orders.

e. Automatic suspension because of patient status. When an aviator is in a medical patient status, i.e., sick in hospital, sick in quarters, or sick leave status, the date of automatic suspension will be the first day following the 6- or 3-month period stipulated in a(4) above. Notification of automatic suspension will be forwarded by the medical facility concerned to the commanding officer of the individual concerned with recommendations as to the type of suspension, intermediate or indefinite, which is appropriate. All cases which result in the Army aviator being recommended for indefinite suspension from flying status will be forwarded by the commanding officer of the individual concerned to the Chief of Personnel Operations, ATTN: OPXAA or Chief, National Guard Bureau, for National Guard Personnel.

f. Excusal from meeting incentive pay and proficiency requirements when physical incapacity results from an aviation accident. An Army aviator who is injured or otherwise incapacitated as a result of an aviation accident or as a result of performing flying duty is deemed to have met the incentive pay and proficiency requirements for flight duty for a period not to exceed 3 consecutive
months. This 3-month period will be determined as follows:

(1) If the aviator has met incentive pay flight requirements for the month in which he becomes incapacitated, the 3-month period will begin on the 1st day of the following month.

(2) If the aviator has not met incentive pay flight requirements for the month in which he becomes incapacitated, the 3-month period will begin on the 1st day of the month of incapacitation.

g. Orders format. See AR 310-10.

Section III. FLYING EVALUATION BOARDS

5. Purpose. This section prescribes the appointment, composition, and circumstances applicable to flying evaluation boards. They are appointed as a quasi-judicial body of officers for the purposes described in paragraph 2g.

6. Appointment authority. Commanders in chief of major Army overseas commands; commanding generals of major Army commands and commanding generals of CONUS armies, Military District of Washington, U.S. Army, and the U.S. Army Aviation Center; the Commanding Officer, U.S. Army Primary Helicopter Center; and the Chief, National Guard Bureau are authorized to appoint flying evaluation boards. Commanders in chief of major overseas commands may delegate this authority to commanding generals of armies and/or logistical commands under their jurisdiction.

7. When convened.

a. Convening authorities. Flying evaluation boards will be convened when required by the commanders listed in paragraph 6 or when directed by Headquarters, Department of the Army, to determine the flying qualification of Army aviators suspended from flying status, except in cases of suspension for reason of physical incapacity. National Guard flying evaluation boards may be convened by the Adjutant General of the States, Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and the Commanding General, District of Columbia National Guard.

b. Circumstances.

(1) Flying evaluation board action is mandatory for each Army aviator who requests or who is recommended for indefinite suspension from flying status, except in the case of an Army aviator who is found to be physically disqualified for flying duty or in the case of an Army aviator who is suspended as a result of Flight Status Review Board action. The mandatory requirement may be waived by Headquarters, Department of the Army or Chief, National Guard Bureau, as appropriate, for aviators requesting indefinite suspension when such action is in the best interest of the Army and will be without prejudice to the individual.

(2) Flying evaluation board action is mandatory for each Army aviator who has been indefinitely suspended from flying status and who is recommended for restoration to flying status; except in the case of an Army aviator who previously has been found to be physically disqualified for flying duty and who subsequently has been found physically qualified for flying duty by a qualified aviation medical officer, or the case of an Army aviator who is restored to flying status by the Flight Status Review Board.

(3) Flying evaluation board action will be directed for an Army aviator when his aircraft accident experience indicates that his flying ability or safety is subject to question. Such board action may be directed by Headquarters, Department of the Army or Chief, National Guard Bureau, as appropriate, or requested by the unit or higher commander of the Army aviator concerned. The unit or higher commander will request flying evaluation board action as a result of any aircraft accident when, in his opinion, the flying ability or safety of an Army aviator under his command or jurisdiction is subject to question.

(4) When an Army aviator fails or submits a resignation from an advanced course of flight instruction, the school commandant will determine whether or not flying ability or flying safety is in question. If
suspension action is considered warranted, the case will be referred to a flying evaluation board. When no grounds exist for questioning flying status the case will be referred to a faculty board for recommendation of retention or elimination from the course of instruction.

(5) Student aviators who fail or resign from primary flight training courses will appear before faculty boards.

8. Composition. A flying evaluation board will consist of not less than three Army officers, one of which will be a non aviation officer of the command, one will be an Army aviator currently on flying status, and one an officer from the Army Medical Corps. The requirement for a medical officer may be waived when the issue is nonmedical. If desired, additional members above the minimum of three officers may be appointed by the appointing authority. In any case where an Army aviator not on active duty is involved, at least one Army aviator board member will be of the same component and duty status as the aviator in question and one board member will be an Army aviator on active duty. National Guard boards must include as a member an Army aviation advisor to the National Guard of a State.

9. Proceedings. a. Conduct of proceedings. Flying evaluation boards will be conducted, and reports prepared and submitted as prescribed by AR 15-6, with appropriate modification.

b. Report of proceedings. Flying evaluation board proceedings will include recommendations regarding future utilization of officers for aviation duty or permanent removal from the Army Aviation Program. An additional recommendation will be made concerning continuance of authority to wear the aviator badge when any of the factors specified in paragraph 94c, AR 672-5-1, are evident in the case.

10. Final review. Report of proceedings of flying evaluation boards will be forwarded to the convening authority not later than 30 days from the convening date of the board. Headquarters, Department of the Army will take final action on board proceedings pertaining to aviators on active duty and USAR aviators not on active duty. The Chief, National Guard Bureau, will take final action on board proceedings pertaining to ARNG aviators.

11. Appeal. For cogent reasons, based upon additional information or extenuating circumstances an Army aviator may request Headquarters, Department of the Army or Chief, National Guard Bureau for ARNG aviators, to reconsider the final review of a flying evaluation board’s recommendations and findings. No further consideration will be made in any case once an appeal has been acted on. In all cases the decision of Headquarters, Department of the Army or Chief, National Guard Bureau, as appropriate, will be final.

Section IV. FLIGHT STATUS REVIEW SYSTEM

12. Purpose. The Department of the Army Flight Status Review System establishes procedures to determine individuals to be suspended from flying status even though physically qualified and in exceptional cases to restore previously suspended aviators to flying status. It provides for elimination from flying status of aviators who—

a. Are in excess of requirements, or

b. Fail to meet the minimum standards of performance as an Army officer or warrant officer, or

c. Have insufficient potential for continued aviation duty.

13. Responsibility for review. a. Any commander having aviators under his command will—

(1) Establish procedures as necessary to accomplish the requirements in paragraph 4a.

(2) Provide for semiannual review of individual flight record files for accomplishment of the requirements of AR 95–32.

b. Major Army overseas commanders, commanders of major Army commands, CONUS armies, and Military District of Washington, U.S. Army, will review and forward individual flight records in accordance with AR 95–64.

c. Specified commanders may waive flight minimums as authorized by AR 95–32.

d. The Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel, Department of the Army is responsible for—

(1) Annual review of the personnel records of all aviators in conjunction with those reviews required by title 10, United States Code, section 3781, AR 135–215, and AR 635–105.
(2) Annual review of the flight records of all aviators.

(3) Appointment of a Flight Status Review Board annually or more often as needed.

e. Semiannually, Headquarters, Department of the Army will review the requirements for and strengths of aviators in each grade. If the number of aviators exceeds the requirement and forced attrition from flying status is necessary to balance strengths, a flight status review board will be convened at Headquarters, Department of the Army and charged with selecting aviators to be suspended from flying status.

f. Chief, National Guard Bureau is responsible for actions contained in d and e above for ARNG aviators.


a. This administrative board will be appointed by the Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel in connection with the Army Flight Status Review System. The Board will be composed of not less than five Army aviators in the grade of lieutenant colonel or above and one non-aviation officer as recorder without vote. Appointment and composition of Flight Status Review Boards for ARNG aviators will be as directed by Chief, National Guard Bureau.

b. The Board will review the flying and personnel records of aviators referred to it. Selection of records to be referred to the Board will be based on the following:

(1) Current and projected Army aviation requirements.

(2) Potential of individuals for command and staff aviation assignments.

(3) Overall performance of duty.

(4) Accomplishment of flight requirements.

(5) History of flying evaluation board proceedings.

(6) History of aircraft accidents.

(7) Habits, traits of character, and physical qualifications applicable to flying duty.

b. Officers considered will not appear before the Board. Officers selected for suspension from flying status will be notified accordingly by Headquarters, Department of the Army. Notification of suspension actions concerning ARNG aviators will be made by Chief, National Guard Bureau. Suspension will be effective 90 days from the date that notification is forwarded from Headquarters, Department of the Army.

By Order of the Secretary of the Army:

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