

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES
GOVERNING COMMAND-DIRECTED MENTAL EVALUATIONS

BACKGROUND. DOD Directive #6490.1 and DOD Instruction #6490.4 establish the procedures commanders must follow and the rights of soldiers referred for Command-Directed Mental Health evaluations.

PURPOSE The DOD Directive is designed to protect soldiers from referral to the mental health system as a means of "reprisal" or control of "whistleblowers".

SCOPE. Applies to Command-Directed mental health evaluations – **NOT** referrals for routine evaluations required for administrative separations or to attend schools.

PROCEDURAL REQUIREMENTS - NON-EMERGENCY

Command, upon deciding an evaluation is needed, will:

- a. Consult with a mental health professional by telephone before executing the referral (968-2700).
- b. Two business/working days before the referral provide the soldier a written notice that includes all of the following:
 - 1. Date and time the evaluation is scheduled _____
 - 2. Brief factual description of behaviors prompting the referral (see HFL 222a on reverse side)
 - 3. Name of the MH professional telephonically consulted _____
 - 4. Phone numbers of JAG attorneys and IG whom the soldier can access if questions
- c. Have soldier sign this written notice or annotate that the soldier refused to sign and his/her stated reason.

EMERGENCY REFERRALS: During duty hours contact the Behavioral Health Clinic at 253-968-2700.
After duty hours escort soldier to the Emergency Room.

SOLDIER'S RIGHTS under DOD Directive #6490.1

- 1. Receive notice two business/working days' prior to the appointment for the Command-Directed Mental Health evaluation.
- 2. Receive written notice of referral (completion of HFL 222a & b - Commander's Request for Mental Health Evaluation).
- 3. Right to request advice from attorney (JAG or civilian at own expense).
- 4. Right to submit complaint to IG, if soldier perceives referral is not justified.
- 5. Right to be evaluated by a Mental Health professional of his/her own choosing to include civilian (at soldier's own expense) in addition to military Mental Health professional.
- 6. No person may restrict a soldier's right to communicate with the IG, member of Congress, or any others concerning the Mental Health referral.

I understand my rights under the DOD Directive #6490.1. I have read the reverse side of this form (HFL222a) which states the reasons for this referral and have received a copy.

Soldier's Signature: _____
Date _____

Printed Name

Commander's Signature: _____