



PERSONNEL AND
READINESS

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

SEP 30 2016

MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARY OF THE ARMY

SUBJECT: Military Accessions Vital to the National Interest Pilot Program

During the staffing of the Military Accessions Vital to the National Interest (MAVNI) Pilot Program extension, it came to the attention of my staff that some number of the 4,300 MAVNI applicants in the Army's Delayed Entry Program (DEP) have fallen out of a valid immigration status while awaiting security review processing and accession. This raises concerns in that many such applicants may not ultimately qualify for enlistment, and as a result, will be released from the DEP in an undocumented status making them vulnerable to deportation.

Pursuant to the updated Fiscal Year 2017 MAVNI Program Guidelines, the responsible Military Service will ensure each applicant in DEP maintains an immigration status, or obtains Deferred Action from the Department of Homeland Security, or such applicant will no longer qualify for enlistment. Per this requirement, I direct the Army to conduct a comprehensive review of the immigration status of MAVNIs currently in the DEP and provide that review to the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Manpower and Reserve Affairs.

The review will include a determination on the current immigration status of every Army MAVNI applicant currently in DEP; a projection of whether that status will change while the applicant awaits reporting for training; the amount of time the individual has been in DEP; the skill (language, cultural, or medical) making the individual's enlistment "vital to the national interest;" and what actions the Army intends to conduct with the Department of Homeland Security to obtain Deferred Action for those who have lapsed or are projected to lose their immigration status.

Thank you in advance for your support of this effort which is critical to the sustainment of the MAVNI program and the welfare of its participants.

Peter Levine
Acting

cc:
USD(I)