

Surgeon General NOTAM RISK MANAGEMENT LESSONS

1 Feb 2002

The following Notice to Airman (NOTAM) is released by the Air Force Medical Operations Agency (SGZC) and The Office of the Surgeon General.

**ATTENTION:
THE FOLLOWING IS AN OFFICIAL SG NOTAM
PLEASE PRINT, READ, AND DISSEMINATE TO ALL PERSONNEL
ASSIGNED.**

TARGET AUDIENCE: This NOTAM should be reviewed by all provider staff, by all mental health staff, and by those who perform medical record reviews for the PRP. All MTF PRP Medical Consultants should emphasize the importance of the PRP to all members of the Medical Group.

02-001. Personnel Reliability Program (PRP): Reporting Potentially Disqualifying Information (PDI)

This NOTAM should be reviewed by all provider staff, mental health staff, and by those who perform medical record reviews for the PRP. All MTF PRP Medical Consultants should emphasize the importance of the PRP to all members of the Medical Group.

Recently, a number of cases have come to light where PDI was not forwarded to the Certifying Official (CO) by the MTF, resulting in PRP processing discrepancies. Some of these situations have included Air Force members who have made Permanent Change of Station (PCS) moves to new positions only to be permanently decertified from the PRP. The individuals involved were decertified due to mental health issues and/or substance misuse and abuse, which should have been identified and passed to the CO by the MTF prior to the member's departure.

In the cases in question, medical records were documented with mental health issues and numerous instances of substance misuse and abuse. This information was not identified or forwarded as PDI to the gaining commander, nor was there documentation that the information was evaluated by a competent medial authority (CMA) prior to the member's departure. While a history of mental health issues or substance misuse/abuse does not automatically lead to permanent decertification, this type of information must be reported to the CMA and the CO. Had this information been passed to the gaining commander or evaluated by a CMA at the losing location, a decision about permanent decertification would have been made prior to the PCS. If decertification was indicated, this action would have initiated cancellation of the assignment and would have alleviated a hardship on both the member and

the gaining unit. Replacing these members after PCS also requires a short notice assignment for another Air Force member.

MTF responsibilities within the PRP involve two main areas: the initial certification process and ongoing evaluation of patients currently performing PRP related duties. Historical or current factors which could potentially affect reliability should be reviewed in both situations. These factors include:

- Hallucinations and delusions
- Impaired ability to communicate effectively
- Past history of drug use or abuse (including ritual use of peyote)
- A history of legal infractions
- Behavior that suggests contempt for the law or authority
- Any disturbance of thought or concentration
- Anxiety or mood disturbance
- Alcohol abuse or dependence
- Illness sufficient to cause fatigue or distraction
- Injury sufficient to cause fatigue or distraction
- Treatment with psychoactive medications
- Treatment with medications that have the potential to cause sedation or psychosis
- Lack of dependability
- Trouble adjusting to change
- Poor social or emotional stability
- Financial irresponsibility
- Family maltreatment issues
- Significant interpersonal or family problems

The foregoing list is not all-inclusive but should serve as a guide. All PDI must be reported to the CMA and CO for evaluation of the information. The reference is AFI 36-2104, *Nuclear Weapons Personnel Reliability Program*.

Point of contact is Lt Col Kevin Mulligan, AFMOA/SGZC, DSN 297-4061. This NOTAM is posted on the AFMOA/SGZC home page at <https://www.afms.mil/clinqual/>