

12TH SIGNAL COMPANY, U.S. MARINE CORPS RESERVE (O),  
U. S. NAVAL AND MARINE CORPS RESERVE TRAINING CENTER  
321 EMBARCADERO, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA.

24 September, 1948.

MEMORANDUM TO: All Hands.

SUBJECT: Regulations governing determination of satisfactory participation in an "organized unit" under the Selective Service Act of 1948.

1. The following is quoted for information of all concerned:

"HEADQUARTERS, U.S. MARINE CORPS  
WASHINGTON

"AF-312-hpt

10 September, 1948

"MC-1040419

"From: Commandant of the Marine Corps.  
"To: Commander, Marine Air Reserve Training,  
Directors, Marine Corps Reserve Districts,  
Commanding Officers, Organized Marine Corps  
Reserve Units (Ground and Air).

"Subject: Determination of satisfactory service for  
exemption under Selective Service Act of 1948.

"Reference: (a) RCL 108-48.  
(b) Dir, MCR ltr to CO's all OMCR units (Grnd),  
of 24Jun48, re implications of Selective  
Service Legislation.

"Enclosure: (A) Sample of form for use in reply to requests  
of local boards for verification of status  
and to report change of status.

"1. THE PROVISIONS OF THIS LETTER ARE APPLICABLE ONLY TO THOSE MEMBERS OF THE MARINE CORPS RESERVE WHO ARE EXEMPT FROM INDUCTION SOLELY BY REASON OF THEIR MEMBERSHIP IN AN "ORGANIZED UNIT" OF THE MARINE CORPS RESERVE. A Reservist so exempt is one who was a member of an "organized unit" on 24 June 1948 and who continues to be such a member and satisfactorily participates in scheduled drills and training periods as prescribed by the Secretary of Defense.

"2. The Secretary of Defense has defined an "organized unit" and has prescribed satisfactory service for the purposes of exemption under the Selective Service Act of 1948 as follows:

"For the purpose of definition of an 'organized unit' of a Reserve component under Section 16(h) of the Selective Service Act of 1948, thirty-five (35) scheduled drills, or training periods, or days of active Federal service, or any combination thereof, per year, are hereby prescribed as a minimum

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requirement.

"The Secretary of the Department concerned shall determine for the respective Reserve components of that Department what constitutes satisfactory participation in such organized units in accordance with existing law. Provided, however, that for purposes of satisfactory attendance in an organized units within the meaning of Section 6(c)(1) of the Act, not more than ten percent (10%) absence per year from scheduled drills or training periods; or periods of equivalent instruction, shall be permitted by any department."

"3. The Secretary of the Navy has certified that all units of Class II, Organized Marine Corps Reserve (Ground and Air), and the Platoon Leaders' Class, meet the minimum requirements of the definition of an "organized unit" quoted in the preceding paragraph.

"4. Attention is invited to the mandatory requirement that not more than ten percent (10%) absence per year from scheduled drills or training periods, or periods of equivalent instruction, shall be permitted. "Scheduled drills" or "training periods" for the units listed in paragraph 3, less the Platoon Leader's Class, are considered to be synonymous terms. "Equivalent instruction" as used above is synonymous with the term "equivalent instruction or duty" as defined in Article 13-125, Marine Corps Manual, and will be assigned to members of those units listed in paragraph 3, less the Platoon Leaders' Class, in accordance with the provisions of that Article, except as authorized in paragraph 6 below.

"5. The term, "training periods" as used in paragraph 2 above is applicable to the Platoon Leaders' Class, and shall apply to the six-week periods of active duty for training scheduled for members of that Class during the summer of each year. (Separate instructions will be published later covering those members of the Platoon Leaders' Class who complete or have completed the required one (1) or two (2) summer training periods and for whom no further training is scheduled.)

"6. In the event of illness or injury causing temporary physical disability to such an extent that an individual cannot perform either his scheduled drills or the periods of equivalent instruction or duty authorized by Article 13-125, Marine Corps Manual, within the limitations imposed therein, such drills may be made up as periods of equivalent instruction or duty in excess of those limitations, BUT IN A NON-PAY STATUS, AND NOT MORE THAN ONE SUCH PERIOD MAY BE MADE UP IN ANY ONE DAY. Illness or injury, to be acceptable as an excuse for drills or periods of equivalent instruction or duty missed, must be verified in writing by a medical officer or a licensed civilian physician that the Reservist was in fact incapacitated and unable to attend the scheduled drill or equivalent instruction or duty period.

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"7. Forty-eight (48) drills annually are hereby prescribed for all units of Class II, Organized Marine Corps Reserve. Also, members of such units who are in receipt of pay for drills are hereby required to perform such active training duty as is directed for the unit to which attached, not to exceed fifteen (15) days annually, unless excused therefrom by the Commanding Officer of the unit because of illness or injury verified in writing by a medical officer or a licensed civilian physician as being of such seriousness as to prevent attendance when ordered, or for other good and sufficient reason when specifically excused by the Commandant of the Marine Corps. (When a Reservist has been properly excused from attendance at a regularly scheduled annual field training period of his unit, he will not be required to undergo an alternate period of such training.) Therefore, absence from five (5) or more drills in any one year, which have not and may not be made up by equivalent instruction-or-duty-periods as authorized herein, or failure to attend annual field training from which the individual concerned was not properly excused, shall constitute UNSATISFACTORY ATTENDANCE within the meaning of paragraph 2 of this letter.

"8. Attendance at the entire summer training period of the Platoon Leaders' Class shall be required of members of that Unit unless the individual concerned has completed all required training. Exception will be made only when illness or injury, certified to by a medical officer or a licensed civilian physician, physically incapacitates the individual to such a degree that he is unable to perform active military service on the date he is ordered to proceed to camp.

"9. Satisfactory participation in an organized unit includes satisfactory attendance as specified herein and satisfactory PERFORMANCE of duty. Unsatisfactory performance will be determined in each case of a Class II Reservist by the Commandant of the Marine Corps, based upon the report and recommendation of the Reservist's Commanding Officer, which report shall include full details as to why the Commanding Officer considers performance of duty of the individual to be unsatisfactory. Each such report and recommendation shall be referred to the man concerned for his information and such written statement in regard thereto as he may care to make (or a statement that he does not desire to make a statement), which statement shall be forwarded with the report and recommendation to this Headquarters. In the case of Platoon Leaders, failure to complete successfully the course of instruction to which assigned shall constitute unsatisfactory performance of duty within the meaning of this paragraph.

"10. The effective date on which attendance at scheduled drills and training periods must meet the standards prescribed in paragraphs 7 and 8 above is 1 OCTOBER 1948.

"11. The Selective Service System will, in questionnaires to be filled out by the individual on registration,

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require answers which indicate the individual's status in the Marine Corps Reserve. It is anticipated that Local Boards will make requests to Commanding Officers and District Directors for verification of the status of certain Reservists. For the purpose of replying to these requests and to reduce the clerical workload as much as possible, Enclosure (A) is being printed and an initial supply will be furnished District Directors and Commanding Officers. Additional blank forms may be obtained upon requisition in the usual manner to the appropriate Marine Corps Depot of Supplies. These forms shall be handled in such a manner as to minimize possible loss or forgery. For the purpose of reporting information to local boards, the custodian of the Reservist's service-record shall be responsible for submitting the required reports. A copy of each report shall be filed in the service record of the Reservist concerned.

"12. Reports concerning individuals liable for induction shall be made promptly to each such individual's Local Board as follows:

"a. When requested by the Local Board or by the Reservist concerned.

"b. When a Reservist's membership in an "organized unit" is terminated for any reason, including transfer to another "organized unit."\*

"c. When a Reservist's attendance at scheduled drills, training periods or periods of equivalent instruction becomes unsatisfactory as that term is defined in paragraphs 7 or 8 as applicable.

"d. When a Reservist's performance of duty becomes unsatisfactory as that term is defined in paragraph 9.

"\*NOTE: Transfer from one "Organized Marine Corps Reserve unit" to another such unit, of a Reservist to whom this letter applies, does not affect the draft-exempt status of the individual so long as he continues to be such member and satisfactorily participates in the scheduled activities of his unit. Commanding Officers of Organized Reserve units, whose units are at full authorized strength, are hereby authorized to approve requests for transfer to their unit from any other Organized Reserve unit of draft-eligible applicants acceptable to them and carry them temporarily in excess of Table of Organization allowances until normal attrition reduces such over-strength.

"13. Reference (b) is hereby cancelled. However, Commanding Officers of Organized Units will hereafter transfer from the Organized Reserve a man to whom this letter is applicable only upon request of the individual or after his immunity to in-

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induction has ceased by reason of unsatisfactory participation and that fact has been reported to his Local Board, unless such transfer is specifically authorized by the Commandant of the Marine Corps.

"14. Attention is called to the fact that, while a report to the Reservist's Local Board is required when his attendance or performance of duty becomes unsatisfactory as defined herein, it is not mandatory that he be transferred from the Organized Unit, such action being discretionary with the Commanding Officer. A Reservist who becomes so subject to induction may, if considered desirable, be retained in the Organized Unit until called for induction and should be informed of his right to apply for twenty-one (21) months' training and service with the Marine Corps in order to fulfill his obligation for such training and service under the Selective Service Act of 1948, provided he applies for such active duty before he is notified by Selective Service to report for pre-induction physical and mental examination.

"15. In addition to those Reservists who were members of an "organized unit" on 24 June 1948, persons in the following status are exempt from induction under the conditions stated:

"a. Any person who served honorably on active duty in the Marine Corps between 16 September 1940 and 24 June 1948 for a period of at least ninety (90) days but less than twelve (12) months and who becomes a member of an Organized Marine Corps Reserve unit if such a unit is reasonably accessible; or becomes a member of the Volunteer Marine Corps Reserve if an Organized Marine Corps Reserve unit is not available to him.

"b. Any person who served honorably on active duty in the Army, the Air Force, the Navy, the Coast Guard, the Public Health Service, (or the armed forces of any country allied with the United States in World War II prior to 2 September, 1945) between 16 September 1940 and 24 June 1948, for a period of at least ninety (90) days but less than twelve (12) months and who becomes a member of the Organized Marine Corps Reserve.

Determination as to the availability of an organized unit to such an individual rests with his Local Board. However, it will be noted that District Directors are required to state an opinion as to such availability in Item 2 of Enclosure (A). For those in the status described in this paragraph who are members of the Organized Marine Corps Reserve, the provisions of this letter relative to maintaining satisfactory attendance and performance of duty standards do NOT apply.

"16. EXCEPT FOR THOSE PERSONS DESCRIBED IN PARAGRAPH 15 ABOVE, NO PERSON WHO BECOMES A MEMBER OF THE MARINE CORPS

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RESERVE AFTER 24 JUNE 1948 SHALL THEREBY BE EXEMPT FROM REGISTRATION OR TRAINING AND SERVICE BY INDUCTION.

"17. Strict adherence to the spirit and the letter of this directive is essential to insure that individuals who are exempted from induction by reason of their membership in the Marine Corps Reserve are justly entitled to such exemption. Commanding Officers are enjoined to establish such safeguards as they deem necessary to assure that the units under their command are not used by individuals as an instrument by which they avoid rendering the quality and quantity of service which the law demands.

"18. Commanding Officers will carefully explain the contents of this letter to all personnel affected by it prior to 1 October 1948. It is suggested that unit newspapers be utilized to carry information regarding the above regulations.

OLIVER P. SMITH  
Acting

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/s/ WM. T. CLEMENT,  
Major General, U.S. Marine Corps  
Director.

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2. The Enclosure referred to in the above letter is omitted herefrom, as it does not serve the purpose of this memorandum.

3. Personnel not fully understanding the contents of the above letter are directed to contact the Commanding Officer or the Inspector-Instructor, 12th Signal Company so that it may be more carefully explained to them.

4. Your attention is particularly invited to the fact that absence from five (5) or more drills in any one year, which have not and may not be made up by equivalent instruction or duty periods as authorized herein, or failure to attend annual field training from which the individual concerned was not properly excused, shall constitute UNSATISFACTORY ATTENDANCE within the meaning of paragraph 2 of the above letter. Keep in mind that this unit performs two (2) drills on Sunday afternoons, therefore absence from two and one-half (2½) Sunday afternoons shall constitute UNSATISFACTORY ATTENDANCE.

PAUL C. MORGAN, JR.,  
Major, USMCR(O),  
Commanding.

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