DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY
121 BLAKE ROAD
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21402-5000

USNAINST 1531.47C
2/ADAA
AUG 21 2001

USNA INSTRUCTION 1531.47C

From: Superintendent

Subj: PREMEDICAL/PREDENTAL ADVISING AND SELECTION FOR MEDICAL/DENTAL CORPS

Ref: (a) CNO memo to SecNav, Ser 00/300339, of 24 Aug 82 (NOTAL)
(b) CNO memo to SecNav, Ser 00/6U500017, of 22 Feb 96 (NOTAL)

1. Purpose. To establish a program that will provide information and counseling to midshipmen who are interested in a career in the Navy's Medical and Dental Corps and will provide recommendations to the Superintendent on their selection for such service.

2. Cancellation. USNAINST 1531.47B. This directive is a complete revision and should be reviewed in its entirety; no special markings appear because revisions are extensive.

3. Background

a. The premedical program at the United States Naval Academy (USNA) began in 1970 with the Class of 1974. In 1982, the Secretary of the Navy, upon recommendation by the Chief of Naval Operations, established a program which would permit a limited number of highly motivated and well qualified Naval Academy graduates to participate in subsequent naval medical training. In 1996, the Secretary of the Navy expanded the program to provide midshipmen with the opportunity to enter either the Medical or Dental Corps.

The guidelines for this program as outlined in reference (a) and modified by reference (b) are as follows:

(1) Individuals will not be recruited to the Naval Academy for the purpose of preparing to attend medical school or dental school nor shall assurance of attending medical school or dental school upon graduation be implied. Candidates expressing interest in a premedical or predental program should be advised that the likelihood of entering medical school upon graduation is very low. Candidates motivated solely for a career in medicine or dentistry should be strongly advised against entering the Naval Academy.

(2) A maximum of 15 Naval Academy graduates from each class may be permitted to attend medical or dental school directly after graduation. Candidates will be chosen according to established criteria of merit and motivation for career medical or dental service in the United States Navy, including qualification and acceptance by the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USUHS) or any accredited school of medicine, osteopathy, or dentistry in the United States.

(3) No special curriculum will be established to support this program.

(4) Service obligation for medical or dental school will be in addition to the service obligation for USNA. The total obligation for USNA and medical or dental school will be served following medical or dental school graduation. Normally, the obligation for attending USUHS is 7 years; and the obligation for attending a civilian medical or dental school under Armed Forces Health Professions Scholarship Program sponsorship is 4 years.

(5) This program will not be used as a precedent to establish other similar programs leading to initial duty in the Restricted Line or Staff Corps.

b. During the period 1974 to 2000, approximately 200 midshipmen graduated from the Naval Academy and went directly to medical school. Temporary duty at the Naval Academy or elsewhere for the purpose of preparing for medical or dental school has been discontinued.

c. Medical or dental school requirements not offered in the core curriculum at the Naval Academy are 1 year each of biology and organic chemistry. The Naval Academy major which most easily allows this preparation is Chemistry. It is sometimes possible, although more difficult, for midshipmen in other majors to take these courses through validation, overloading, or attendance at summer school.

d. The allocation of 15 billets was modified by reference (b) to allow any of these for assignment to the Dental Corps. There being no dental equivalent to USUHS for dentistry, candidates for the Dental Corps must seek and obtain entry to civilian dental schools.

4. Action. There shall be a committee, called the Premedical and Predental Advising Committee (PPAC), which will provide information and counseling to midshipmen interested in Navy medicine or dentistry and will provide the Superintendent with its recommendations concerning selection of midshipmen for the Medical Corps and the Dental Corps.

a. Membership. The PPAC shall consist of six members: the Naval Academy Premedical Adviser, who will serve as chair; the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs; the Naval Academy Senior Medical Officer or his/her designee; the Naval Academy Senior Dental Officer or his/her designee; one faculty member from the Chemistry Department; and a senior line officer. The faculty member and Premedical Adviser will be appointed by the Academic Dean and Provost, and the senior line officer will be appointed by the Commandant. Members of the PPAC appointed by the Academic Dean and Provost or the Commandant will serve 2-year reappointable terms.

b. Advising. Each year the PPAC will provide information to all interested midshipmen concerning preparation for and selection to the Medical Corps or Dental Corps. Fourth class midshipmen will be advised during briefings for majors selections about the availability of Medical and Dental Corps billets. At least one member of the PPAC will advise those midshipmen of the second and first classes who have declared their intentions to seek selection for the Medical or Dental Corps. The PPAC will assist midshipmen in preparing applications to medical or dental schools.

5. Eligibility. Candidates for the Premedical/Predental program must meet academic, military performance, and conduct requirements comparable to those for graduate education programs.

a. Academic. A Cumulative Quality Point Rating (CQPR) of 3.2 or higher and satisfactory completion of prerequisite course requirements for the program requested. The 3.2 CQPR must be maintained through first class year.

b. Military Performance. No grade in military performance lower than "B" in each semester of second class and first class years.

c. Conduct. No grade in conduct lower than "B" in each semester of second class and first class years.

d. Requests for deviation from established criteria are strongly discouraged. Waivers of eligibility requirements under unusual circumstances will be considered on a case-by-case basis by the PPAC.

6. Medical or Dental Corps Selection. Midshipmen second class who wish to be considered for selection to the Medical or Dental Corps shall submit their formal applications to the PPAC prior to the last day of the spring semester. Shortly after the start of the fall semester, the PPAC will make its recommendations concerning Medical and Dental Corps selection of first class midshipmen to the Superintendent via the Academic Dean and Provost and the Commandant. The PPAC will interview and evaluate the applicants, recommending not more than 15 principals and not more than 3 alternates. Criteria to be used by the PPAC in making its recommendation are aptitude and motivation for a career in Navy medicine or dentistry, academic performance, Medical or Dental College Admission Test scores from the tests taken in the spring of second class year or earlier, military performance, and (if available) acceptance to a medical or dental school. The PPAC will adhere to high standards and is under no obligation to recommend 15 principals. Midshipmen not approved by the Superintendent may not enter the Medical or Dental Corps nor may they attend any medical or dental school directly after graduation even if they are accepted by such a school. Midshipmen who have not been selected by a medical or dental school by 10 May will be assigned to an Unrestricted Line community where billets are still available if they are physically qualified or to a Restricted Line or Staff Corps community where billets are still available if not physically qualified for commissioning in the Unrestricted Line. Midshipmen will be allowed to express a community preference.

for M. TEMPESTILLI
Deputy for Operations

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