

RELATIONSHIP OF ASSIGNMENT LIMITATION CODES TO ACCESSION WAIVERS IN THE USAF

RELATION DES CODES DE LIMITATION D'AFFECTION AUX ÉLÉMENTS D'ADHÉSION EN L'USAF

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Introduction: US military accession medical standards are defined in Department of Defense Instruction 6130.03. Specific goals of the standards are to ensure individuals entering military service are 1) free of contagious diseases, 2) free of conditions that may require excessive lost duty time or early separation, 3) able to complete training, 4) adaptable to all military environments, and 5) able to do military duties without worsening the medical condition. Air Education and Training Command (AETC) Surgeon's Office is the authority for all accession waiver determinations. AETC studied the relationship between conditions waived for accession and the frequency of these conditions causing Assignment Limitation Codes (ALCs), violating 4) above.

Methods: Air Force Personnel Center (AFPC) provided a list of all ALCs. AFPC data was compared to AETC's Physical Exam Tracker (PET) program data for accession waiver matches. Diagnosis data was compared and relative risks calculated.

Results: AFPC reported 11,419 ALCs in August 2016. Risk of having an ALC in the USAF was 4.76%. The risk of accession waiver ranges from 8.6% up to 10%. 1,800 of 11,419 individuals had PET entries (15.8% of all ALCs). The risk of accession waiver in the ALC group was 7.5-8.3% (a 57-74% increase). Only 35 individuals in the ALC group matched diagnoses to the accession waiver condition. Thus, the risk of having an ALC for a condition previously granted an accession waiver that "worsened" is 0.31% overall or 1.9% if granted an accession waiver.

Conclusion: The vast majority of ALCs in USAF represent medical developments not attributable to previously waived conditions. AETC accurately assessed the waiver risk of specific conditions at least with regards to adaptability to all USAF environments; however, waived individuals appear to have a significantly increased relative risk of acquiring an ALC during their time in service.