SECRETARY OF THE ARMY
WASHINGTON

14 SEP 2012

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Army Directive 2012-21 (Optimization of Intermediate-Level Education)

1. References:

a. Army Regulation 350-1 (Army Training and Leader Development), Rapid Action Revision Issued 4 Aug 11.

b. Army Regulation 600-3 (The Army Personnel Development System), 26 Feb 09.

c. Department of the Army Pamphlet 600-3 (Commissioned Officer Professional Development and Career Management), 1 Feb 10.

d. Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Instruction 1800.01D (Officer Professional Military Education Policy (OPMEP)), 15 Jul 09, Including Change 1 dated 15 Dec 11.

2. This directive outlines changes in Army policy to support transition from Universal Intermediate-Level Education (ILE), which provided an ILE common core resident opportunity for all active component Army officers, to a merit-based selection board process. The term "ILE" refers to all forms of officer Joint Professional Military Education I/Military Education Level 4 Professional Military Education (PME). Effective immediately, officer ILE attendance at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, will be referred to as Command and General Staff College. Although the Army is transitioning to a selection board process for ILE, all Army officers will continue to receive the opportunity for an ILE experience through 10-month resident, 14-week satellite campus or distributed learning (DL). By optimizing ILE, we will strengthen the importance of professional education as a component of the Army and:

a. provide a tailored, high-quality ILE opportunity for all officers;

b. maximize the Army's return on its investment by focusing and synchronizing policies and programs to achieve the greatest effect;

c. select and educate the right officers, in the right venue and at the right time, to assume key developmental positions;

d. increase the relevance and professional importance of ILE; and

e. reinforce education earlier in an officer's development timeline.

3. Army Regulation 350-1 contains the Army policy for PME. The following paragraphs are changed to support the transition to merit-based selection for ILE:

a. Paragraph 3-11c is deleted and revised to read:

Merit-based selection boards will be conducted to consider Army officers who have met ILE eligibility criteria (see paragraph 3-34c(1)) regardless of component or branch for 10-month resident or 14-week satellite campus ILE opportunities on a best-qualified basis. Active component Army Competitive Category (ACC) officers will also be considered for select credentialing programs approved in lieu of the ILE Advanced Operations Course. The selection of officers will be in accordance with the ILE quota memorandum prepared by the HQDA DCS, G-3/5/7 Training Directorate. The HQDA DCS, G-1 will exercise general staff supervision over the ILE selection system for active component ACC officers; the Director, Army National Guard will exercise staff supervision over the ILE selection system for ARNG officers; and the Chief, Army Reserve will exercise staff supervision over the ILE selection system for USAR officers. Active component special branches (JAGC, Chaplain Corps, and AMEDD) will conduct separate ILE selection boards. Intermediate-level schools and colleges are:

(1) U.S. Army Command and General Staff College

(2) Air Command and Staff College

(3) Marine Corps Command and Staff College

(4) Naval College of Command and Staff

(5) Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation

(6) Foreign equivalent schools approved by the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

b. Paragraph 3-16e is revised to add a new subparagraph:

(5) Deferment requests submitted by active component officers selected to attend 10-month resident and 14-week satellite campus ILE opportunities must be signed by the first general officer or equivalent in the officer's chain of command and forwarded through the HRC Leader Development Division to the VCSA for approval.

c. Paragraph 3-34b is deleted and revised to read:

The Army will begin selecting active component ACC basic branch and functional area officers for 10-month resident and 14-week satellite campus ILE opportunities and select credentialing programs approved in lieu of the ILE Advanced Operations Course on or about October 2012, beginning with year group 2004. Officers participating in credentialing programs approved in lieu of the ILE Advanced Operations Course not included in the selection board process will continue to receive ILE credit and be considered by the ILE Selection Board for attendance at ILE common core satellite campus only.

d. Paragraph 3-34c(2) is deleted and revised to read:

Active component officers not selected for 10-month resident or 14-week satellite campus opportunities or credentialing programs approved in lieu of the ILE Advanced Operations Course will be afforded the opportunity to complete ILE by DL. HRC will enroll active component officers in DL courses within 6 months after release of the ILE Selection Board results. Active component officers selected for 10-month resident or 14-week satellite campus opportunities who want to complete ILE by DL for a compelling reason(s) may request a waiver. To request a waiver, officers will submit a DA Form 4187 through the first general officer or equivalent in their chain of command for endorsement, their Officer Record Brief or DA Form 2-1, and their most recent APFT and height and weight through the HRC Leader Development Division to the VCSA for approval.

e. Paragraph 3-34d(3) is revised to read:

Through nonresident DL. This is primarily for all Army officers not selected for 10-month resident or 14-week satellite campus opportunities. The nonresident ILE common core is equivalent to the resident course for satisfying career schooling requirements. It is presented in two formats and must be completed within 18 months of enrollment.

4. The provisions of this Army directive are effective immediately. The policy in this directive will be incorporated into Army Regulation 350-1 and other applicable Army regulations and policies as soon as practicable.

5. This directive is rescinded upon publication of the final revised regulation.

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