

Merchant Mariner Medical Advisory Committee (MEDMAC)

Date:	09/10/2019	Location:	Texas A & M University
Task #:	19-31	Task Title:	Medical Certification for Military to Mariner Applicants
Subcommittee Chair:	Joe Mignogna	Accepted Not Accepted Tabled	List reason if not accepted or tabled

Justification (if needed)¹

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Executive Order 13860 of March 4, 2019 (*Supporting the Transition of Active Duty Service Members and Military Veterans into the Merchant Marine*) intends to promote employment opportunities for United States military veterans while growing the cadre of trained mariners to meet requirements for national and economic security. It is the policy of the United States to support practices and programs that ensure that members of the United States Armed Forces receive appropriate credit for their military training and experience, upon request, toward credentialing requirements as a merchant mariner.

To comply with this executive order, the Coast Guard seeks recommendations for mechanisms to assess the medical and physical qualifications of active duty service members and recently separated/retired military veterans that provides appropriate consideration of their military medical and physical status.

MEDMAC Recommends:^{2,3,4}

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Task Statement Actions:

Coordinate with Merchant Marine Personnel Advisory Committee (MERPAC) to identify and evaluate alternate methods of evaluating the medical and physical qualifications of active duty military members and recently separated/retired military veterans. MERPAC will establish a working group on this topic at their Meeting # 50 under Task Statement X-1, "Utilizing Military Education, Training, and Assessment for STCW and National Certifications."

1. Provide recommendations to the Coast Guard to determine if standard medical certification evaluation will be necessary for active duty military members who do not **immediately** intend to use their Merchant Mariner Credentials.
2. Indicate if the Coast Guard should consider the acceptance of documentation other than the standard CG-719K and CG-719KE forms for medical certification of active duty military members.
 - a. Identify if standard documentation already exists for active duty military members that is duplicative of the CG-719K and CG-719KE forms. Indicate if each applicable service maintains such documentation.
 - b. Recommend the CG-719KE be removed from consideration re: duplicity of forms

Justification / Recommendation continued

- c. If no existing military service documentation is equivalent to the CG-719K form, identify any other documentation from the applicable services that may verify sufficient medical status and physical abilities to issue medical certification.
 - d. Recommendation: Note: The DoD form 2808 does not accommodate CG 719K Section VIII: Demonstration of Physical Ability
3. Determine if recently separated service members could use the same documentation for verification of sufficient medical status and physical abilities to issue medical certification, if their separation occurred within 12 months of application Also consider acceptance of separation physical or VA evaluation (if completed).
 4. Recommend that only the medical or physical *impairments* identified upon discharge are considered, and not any assigned VA service related *disability* determinations.
 5. Education Recommendation: It is noted that at present there is an informational gap within the pool of active duty personnel regarding the mental and physical requirements needed to meet the demands of employment aboard a commercial vessel USCG medical standards. How can information/resources be distributed? MERPAC input