



CHAPTER 13

UNSATISFACTORY PARTICIPATION

Pursuant to Chapter 13, AR 135-178, soldiers will be processed for discharge in the event that they are determined:

1. To be an unsatisfactory participant defined in Chapter 4, AR 135-91; and,
2. Attempts to have the soldier respond or comply with orders or correspondence have resulted in:
 - a. The soldier's refusal to obey either verbally or in writing; or,
 - b. Second notice sent by certified mail refused, unclaimed or otherwise undelivered; or,
 - c. Verification of failure to notify of change of address.

What is an unsatisfactory participant under Chapter 4, AR 135-91? Definitions are important in this chapter: unsatisfactory participant, unexcused absence, and proper documentation of unexcused absences.

Soldiers who accrue more than 9 unexcused MUTAs of the required 48 in any 12 month period are deemed to be unsatisfactory participants; or,

Soldiers who fail to complete the entire period of AT; or,

Soldiers who fail to report a change of address within 45 days of such change;
or,

Soldiers who fail to comply with a second notice to complete and return official military correspondence within 45 days of the second notice.

Remember that an IDT is one four-hour drill period. If a soldier misses one day of drill, that is the equivalent of two IDTs.

Soldiers must be notified properly of their absences, notice sent after 4th unexcused absence. At that point, the commander is required to determine why the soldier is missing drill and to take steps to resolve the problems.

Procedure:

An "Other Than Honorable" characterization of service is presumed, unless good reasons exist for a "General (under honorable conditions)". The reasons to support a General discharge are outlined in Chapter 2, Section III, AR 135-178. Characterization of the discharge as "Honorable" will not be allowed unless recommended by board and record exceptionally meritorious.

Board procedures are required. However, notification procedure allowed if soldier has less than 18 years or more than 20 years AND that soldier's service will be characterized by a general discharge.

Practice Points:

Was proper notice provided?

Does the chapter packet reflect the necessary documentation of the absences?

Did the commander become actively involved in resolving the soldier's conflict that led to unsatisfactory participation?