

14 February 1993

MEMORANDUM FOR Commandant, USAPFS

SUBJECT: Summary, GAO report "MILITARY READINESS: Revised DoD Policies are Needed to Ensure Fitness of Reserve Forces, 22 NOV 93 (encl)

1. The report dealt with reserve component medical non-deployables and physical fitness readiness during Desert Shield/Desert Storm. The following physical fitness observations that are of interest to the USAPFS are stated in the report:

a. The APFT is not mission related (page 40-43, 47-50).

(1) RC generally lower in fitness level related to job skills than they should be,

(2) RC generally not fit for sustained operations.

b. Poor fitness levels of RC soldiers affected performance during Desert Storm (page 45).

c. DOD Physical Fitness Programs contain management control weaknesses (page 51-70)

(1) 75% of RC failed initial APFT at Ft. Jackson mobilization station, 62% at Ft. Sam Houston, 35-55% at Sixth Army mob sites, page 57.

(2) no annual report by service on fitness to DOD as required in DOD policy, directive 1308.1, 1981.

(3) no efficient way to collect data centrally, NGB had no data, USAR had some.

(4) integrity easily compromised in RC.

(5) RC doesn't require all soldiers to take tests, eg, 1992 97,000 out of 222,000 USAR soldiers did not take APFT, page 63.

(6) RC soldiers not separated for consecutive failure.

2. GAO Recommendations to DOD:

a. review fitness programs to identify weaknesses

b. mission specific fitness testing

c. report annual assessment by service to DOD to include:

- how many took fitness test

- pass/fail and fail > 1 test

- what action taken against those who fail

- number of soldiers not tested and why

d. separate those who fail

e. discontinue exemption of older soldiers to fitness testing in other than Army services

f. implement management controls

GAO report summary

3. The USAPFS was mentioned:
 - a. page 47, para 1, ref our recommendation to test specific soldiering skills as part of APFT,
 - b. page 57, 1988-89 APFT AC Study
 - c. page 58, reference 1989-90 RC APFT study that was cancelled
 - d. page 72, ref our organization as a resource.
4. There was no mention that the APFS (or Army) trains Master Fitness Trainers and nothing about our mission.
5. FM 21-20 mentioned reference mission related training.

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