

## THE WALTER REED ARMY INSTITUTE OF RESEARCH

# Epidemiology

## Mission

Our primary activities are managing the Accession Medical Standards Analysis and Research Activity (AMSARA) efforts in support of evidence-based DoD medical standards and developing collaborations to conduct epidemiologic research using unique military resources to benefit the health of our military and civilian populations.

## Major Accomplishments

- The quadrennial review for the medical accession standards by the Accession Medical Standards Working Group (AMSWG) was completed and led to the evidence-based publication of DoD Instruction 6130.04, Medical Standards for Appointment, Enlistment, or Induction in the Military Services in April 28, 2010.
- The Accession of Recruit Motivation and Strength (ARMS) study in Army enlistees compared those who exceed weight/body fat standards but passed a physical fitness test to those who were weight/body fat qualified. No increase in attrition and minimal increase in morbidity outcomes including heat illness and musculoskeletal injury were observed.
- The 2010 AMSARA Annual Report was published with descriptive statistics of applicants and accessions for enlisted service, including attrition, medical waivers, hospitalizations, disability discharges, and existed prior to service discharges.

## Scope of Problem

- Recruiting, screening, and training costs are approximately \$75,000 per enlistee
- About 11% (>18,000/year) of recruits fail to complete Initial Entry Training
- About 3% leave with Existed Prior to Service (EPTS) discharge conditions
- About 30% of enlistees fail to finish first tour of duty
- The current accession screening process disqualifies many who can serve successfully :
  - Active Duty accessions have a 6% waiver rate
  - Few of those waived receive an EPTS discharge for the waived condition
- The current accession screening process fails to identify many disqualifying conditions:
  - Approximately 3% of all accessions receive an EPTS discharge

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