



OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
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WASHINGTON, DC 20301-4000



12 JAN 1999

FORCE MANAGEMENT
POLICY

(Military Personnel Policy)

Honorable Paul D. Coverdell
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510-1004

Dear Senator Coverdell:

Thank you for your December 15, 1998, inquiry concerning the five-year pilot project giving home schoolers Tier I recruiting status. I understand your concerns about home school certification requirements and have looked into this matter myself.

The Department is not requiring certification of home school diplomas. Our guidance to the Services is enclosed for your information. In addition, we reviewed the Marine Corps instructions, also enclosed, and discussed the policy with Marine Corps Headquarters staff. While there is a justified concern that high school drop outs may try to present themselves as home schooled graduates, the Marine Corps intent is not to impose barriers to *bona fide* home schooled graduates. We have been assured that individuals who have no documentation of graduation are referred to Marine Corps Headquarters for closer examination; otherwise, a letter from a parent with a list of completed coursework is sufficient. To date, the Marine Corps has not turned anyone who graduated from home schooling away if they met remaining enlistment standards (e.g., aptitude, age, medical, etc.).

It is important to discern among home schooled individuals and non-graduates who present themselves as home schooled. Since the attrition rate of non-graduates is so poor, if they are not identified accurately the results of the pilot test will not properly reflect the service of home schooled recruits.

I appreciate your personal interest in this matter and hope this information is helpful to you. The interpretive policy language you provided is consonant with the guidance we provided the Services and with the policies adopted by the Services for this pilot test. If I can be of further assistance, please contact me.

Sincerely,

W. S. Sellman
Director
Accession Policy

Enclosures:
As stated

