SUBJ: NOTIFICATION OF PENDING POSTPARTUM AND ADOPTION DEFERMENT POLICY CHANGE

1. THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY HAS APPROVED A CHANGE TO THE DEFERMENT POLICY FOR SOLDIERS WHO ARE MOTHERS OF NEW BORNS OR ELIGIBLE PARENTS OF AN ADOPTED CHILD. THE CURRENT FOUR MONTH OVERSEAS ASSIGNMENT/DEPLOYMENT DEFERMENT PERIOD WILL BE LENGTHED TO SIX MONTHS. THIS MESSAGE GIVES COMMANDERS AND SOLDIERS AN ADVANCE NOTICE TO PLAN FOR IMPLEMENTATION.

2. THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS CHANGE SHALL BE 1 AUGUST 2008 TO COINCIDE WITH THE ARMY’S RETURN TO A TWELVE MONTH BOOTS ON THE GROUND (BOG) POLICY.

3. ON 1 AUGUST 2008, SOLDIERS WHO ARE SERVING A DEFERMENT PERIOD OF FOUR MONTHS WILL HAVE THEIR DEFERMENT EXTENDED TO SIX MONTHS UNLESS WAIVED BY THE INDIVIDUAL SOLDIER CONCERNED. SOLDIERS WITH DEFERMENTS ENDING PRIOR TO 1 AUGUST 2008 WILL COMPLETE THEIR CURRENT FOUR MONTH DEFERMENTS. COMMANDERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO GRANT 6 MONTH DEFERMENTS PRIOR TO THE OFFICIAL IMPLEMENTATION DATE OF THE NEW POLICY IF OPERATIONALLY FEASIBLE.

4. THE CHANGES WILL BE PUBLISHED IN AR 614-30, TABLE 3-1, RULES 32 AND 33, AND PARAGRAPH 3-8A(5). SPECIFICALLY, IN TABLE 3-1, RULE 32, THIRD COLUMN, FOUR MONTHS WILL CHANGE TO SIX MONTHS. RULE 33, THIRD COLUMN, FOUR MONTHS WILL CHANGE TO SIX MONTHS. RULE 33, FOURTH COLUMN WILL CHANGE TO: SOLDIER WAIVES DEFERMENT OR COMMANDER, IF AUTHORIZED, EXTENDS THE TIME PERIOD OF THE DEFERMENT. CHANGES WILL ALSO BE PUBLISHED IN ADDITIONAL PUBLICATIONS AS APPROPRIATE.

5. POC FOR REGULATORY CHANGES IS MR. WELLS, DAPE-MPE-DR, DSN: 225-7917, EMAIL DAPE-MPE@HQDA.ARMY.MIL.

6. EXPIRATION DATE OF THIS MESSAGE IS 1 AUGUST 2009.