



## CHAPTER 11

### DRUG/ALCOHOL ABUSE REHABILITATION FAILURE

**A) Discharge is required under AR 600-85 for soldiers who fail to participate, cooperate or complete drug rehab program IF**

- 1) There is a lack of potential for continued military service OR**
- 2) Long-term civilian rehab in a med facility is determined necessary**

B) Allows discharge of a soldier when commander determines that further efforts are not practical AND discharge is in the best interest of the Army

C) Chap 11 does not preclude discharge of soldier referred to such a program under any other provision of this reg.

**Using Chap 11 as a tool:** This gives commanders the option of allowing soldiers a chance at rehab instead of automatic discharge. Your argument to the command is better if the soldier has already enrolled.

**Involve chain of command:** If the soldier's first line supervisor is aware of the problem, you will be more likely to get support in the form of letters or testimony as to the soldier's future military potential, as well as understanding for any time off needed for the program.

#### **Where should you refer a soldier for rehab programs?**

- **If the soldier is insured**, some insurance companies offer drug rehab. This has the added benefit of normally being in a " medical facility", as noted in A (2), and may buy the soldier more chances.

- **Your local courts** will have information on Drug Court programs. While the soldier will not be in Drug Court, most of these programs are long-term and will evaluate patients on an ability to pay basis. Some accept state benefit coverage (MediCal). All of these programs will have live-in residential programs and outpatient programs. Most likely you will be able to secure a staff member to speak or write to the command regarding the need for long-term care if your soldier does not succeed at first. Hopefully the command will not require a waiver of any confidentiality agreement and the results of drug tests can remain confidential.

**-VA Benefits?** Local VA hospitals have long-term rehab programs. Again, check confidentiality agreements.

- If no other program is available, try to get the command to agree to **AA or NA**. These classes are free, found everywhere, and held at all times. AA and NA have some added benefits to the soldier under this provision; there is no drug testing, confidentiality is assured, and the soldier has the opportunity to enlist the help of a sponsor who will most likely be available to write letters to the commander.