



American Academy of Health Physics
American Board of Health Physics

Corner

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ABHP Policy on Health Physics Experience and Military Service

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Board Member, ABHP*

During the Fall ABHP meeting, the Board clarified its policy for accepting military service as professional health physicist experience. Starting with the 1997 exam year, only experience gained in the officer and warrant officer grades can be used to satisfy the experience requirements for the Part I and Part II exams. The clarification was based on the following:

The parallel drawn between officer and enlisted, and health physicist and technician is consistent with and supported by military job descriptions for the relevant officer and enlisted specialty codes. The services have already made this distinction, i.e., all of the services have a career field in the officer grades called health/medical physicist and an allied enlisted career field with a title reflecting technician or technologist status. The rationale for this has to do with the level of authority, technical skills, decision making, and professional judgement. The ABHP intends to credential at the level of judgement and responsibility represented by the officer and warrant officer grades.

This clarification is consistent with the changes adopted by the Board last year that now requires a health physics or related B.S. degree for entrance to the Part I exam (no longer are college credits in math and

science, without a degree, sufficient educational experience). Applicants who had been awarded a health physics or related B.S. degree at the time of the claimed enlisted experience would be the only exception the Board might consider. Even in these cases, the Board would require evidence that the applicant's professional judgement during the enlisted service was equivalent to that of a health/medical physicist officer. This is no different in the civilian side, i.e., applicants who have fulfilled the academic requirements, but are performing technician-level work do not get professional health physicist experience credit under ABHP policies.

Because of the short time between the fall meeting and application period, there wasn't enough time to publish a new Prospectus that described this clarification. The Board will correct the problem by next year.



CONGRATULATIONS!

Robert M. Ryan is the recipient of the 1997 William A. McAdams Outstanding Service Award. The Award is being presented to him at the Academy's Luncheon in San Antonio. A copy of the award citation will be published in the December *CHP News*.

MOVING?

If you are a member of both the Health Physics Society and the American Academy of Health Physics, be sure to indicate both organizations when you submit your change of address information to the Secretariat. Mailings to Academy members are frequently returned to the Secretariat because the address was only changed in the HPS database. Although the Secretariat is the same, these are two separate organizations with two separate databases.