**SECRETARY OF THE ARMY**
**WASHINGTON**

24 SEP 2012

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Army Directive 2012-25 (Temporary Early Retirement Authority)

1. This directive authorizes implementation of an early retirement program consistent with the provisions of Public Law 112-81, National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012, Section 504, enacted 31 December 2011.

2. Retirement with at least 20 years of service has been, and will continue to be, the basic entitlement for personnel who complete a career in the Army. This temporary early retirement authority (TERA) is a discretionary authority and not an entitlement.

3. Soldiers denied continued service with an established involuntary separation date as a result of a Department of the Army centralized selection board process who meet the following eligibility criteria may request TERA in lieu of involuntary separation:

a. Noncommissioned officers denied continued service as a result of the Qualitative Service Program (overstrength or promotion stagnation) centralized selection board who are serving on active duty and have completed 15 but less than 20 years of active service as of the established involuntary separation date.

b. Officers and warrant officers placed at risk for continued service by virtue of non-selection for advancement by Promotion Selection Boards who are serving on active duty and have completed 15 but less than 20 years of active service as of the established involuntary separation date.

c. These basic eligibility requirements may not be waived.

4. Soldiers pending evaluation for disability retirement under 10 U.S.C. Chapter 61 are not eligible for early retirement under this directive.

5. Qualifying Soldiers who wish consideration for early retirement under TERA must apply in accordance with the procedures disseminated by U.S. Army Human Resources Command or the Army National Guard Bureau G-1, as appropriate.

6. Soldiers approved for early retirement will not be eligible for involuntary separation pay, but remain eligible for transition assistance benefits until their retirement date.

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7. This directive is effective immediately and is rescinded on 30 September 2018, if not withdrawn sooner.

John M. McHugh

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