

Medically Restricted Duty

When a Marine or Sailor becomes ill or injured, Navy military treatment facilities (MTFs) will recommend that they be placed on periods of medically restricted duty when clinically appropriate for treatment. There are four categories of medically restricted duty that allow service members to either be relieved of all military duties or perform light, or limited military duties, depending on the severity of the illness or injury.

Categories of Medically Restricted Duty:

Sick in Quarters (SIQ)

Convalescent Leave

Light Duty

Limited Duty (LIMDU)

	Sick in Quarters (SIQ)	Convalescent Leave	Light Duty	Limited Duty (LIMDU)
Definition	For service members following medical treatment or for "medically directed self-treatment"	For service members following significant medical treatment and/or inpatient hospitalization	Intended to evaluate the effect that an illness, injury, or disease process has on a service member's ability to be in a medically unrestricted duty status	Intended to restrict the military duties of a service member as a result of illness, injury or disease process
Duration	Should not exceed 72hrs, but in rare instances, can be extended up to 14 days	Should not exceed 30 days with the exception of maternity leave (42 days)	A physician may recommend up to 3 periods of 30 days of light duty when the marine is expected to be returned to full duty within those 90 days*	Maximum of six months for any LIMDU period with no more than two periods in 12 months cumulative**
Impact on Military Duties	Relieved of all military duties in a SIQ status	Relieved of all military duties in a leave status	Reports to work but excused of certain duties as defined in their light duty write-up	Reports to work but excused of certain duties as defined in their LIMDU write-up
Recommending Authority	DoD health care provider	DoD health care provider	DoD health care provider	Medical Evaluation Board (MEB)
Approving Authority	Both MTF and parent command must be in agreement. The service member's CO has the final authority if there is a conflict in reaching a compromise	Both MTF and parent command must be in agreement. The service member's CO has the final authority if there is a conflict in reaching a compromise. If geographically separated from parent command, MTF CO has authority	Both MTF and parent command must be in agreement. If the parent command is unable to accommodate a light duty placement, the provider must initiate MEB proceedings and the patient will be placed on temporary LIMDU. The parent command CO has final authority	For enlisted members, does not necessarily require the consent of the parent command. For officers, all recommended periods of LIMDU must be referred to and approved by HQMC (MMSR)
Impact on Pay and Entitlements	None	None	None	May impact special pay (i.e. Dive, Flight, Sub, etc.)
Require the Convening of an MEB?	No	No	No	Yes

*Some conditions may require referral to the local MTF for dictation of a MEB, if warranted.

**Assignment to a period of LIMDU is predicated on a reasonable assumption that a member will return to full and unrestricted duty upon completion of LIMDU. Referral to the Disability Evaluation System (DES) may be considered if return to duty is not expected.

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Medically Restricted Duty Status

Comparing Light Duty and Limited Duty

The scenarios below track example situations and the application of light duty and limited duty.

Light Duty

Limited Duty (LIMDU)

Scenario 1: Marine goes to sick call for shin pain.

Medical provider recommends 30 days of light duty for a hairline fracture. The Marine reports to work but is excused from running. The Marine will be able to return to full duty.

Injury not significant enough to warrant LIMDU

Scenario 2: Marine reports to medical officer with severe shoulder pain.

Marine is unable to achieve complete range of motion. Medical provider recommends 30 days of light duty while awaiting x-ray/MRI. The Marine reports to work but is excused from CFT.

Marine receives the x-ray/MRI showing significant damage. Surgery is required with a 6-8 week recovery time. The MEB places the Marine on LIMDU and can no longer deploy with their unit, but continues to work in a limited capacity in garrison.

Scenario 3: Marine passes out during unit PT and is taken to the hospital.

Marine is automatically placed on LIMDU

Tests reveal a kidney tumor. The Marine's condition requires hospitalization and further consult with a specialist for removal surgery and a kidney transplant. With a minimum 180 days recovery time, the Marine is placed on LIMDU.

Re-evaluation Periods:

Light Duty: Re-evaluations are completed at the expiration of the current light duty period. A MTF physician will conduct a medical determination regarding duty status that abides by the medically restricted duty guidelines.

LIMDU: Re-evaluations are to be completed within two months of the expiration of the current LIMDU period. At that time, a MTF physician will determine if an additional period of LIMDU is necessary and/or referral to the Disability Evaluation System is appropriate. For officers, all period of LIMDU must be approved through HQMC (MMSR); for enlisted Marines on a third or greater period of LIMDU, the referral must be forwarded to HQMC (MMSR) for approval.

Major Differences

The major differences between light duty and LIMDU are that, in comparison to light duty, LIMDU periods:

- Last longer than light duty periods
- Require notification to not only the parent command, but to respective service headquarters and the servicing personnel support detachment of the member's status
- May necessitate the transfer of the member from the parent command if it is a deployable unit
- Do not necessarily require the consent of the member's parent command or of the respective service headquarters
- May only be provided to a patient as the result of the action of an MEB