

The Central Military Commission and the Government Administration Council Jointly Issue the “Directive on the Handling of Elderly, Weak, and Disabled Personnel in the Armed Forces”

24-04-1951

The *Directive* states:

Due to the prolonged and brutal nature of past wars, some comrades have become disabled or chronically ill as a result of war injuries or overwork. Some have even lost their ability to work because of their disabilities or illnesses. These comrades have made valuable contributions to the cause of the Chinese people’s liberation and deserve our respect and care. We must adopt a responsible and thorough approach to properly handle their cases so that everyone can find a suitable place.

To this end, the following requirements are set forth:

1. **Handling Committees** shall be established from provincial-level military districts up to major military regions. These committees will be chaired by the political department director of the respective military region and will be responsible for planning, oversight, review, assessment, and handling of elderly, weak, and disabled personnel within their units.
2. **The principles of handling** will be categorized as medical treatment, education, job transfer, support, and demobilization. Specific regulations are as follows:
 - **(1)** Those who are still undergoing treatment and need further medical care shall continue to receive treatment under the organization of the provincial or major military region to restore their health as soon as possible.
 - **(2)** Those temporarily disabled but likely to recover in the short term shall be allowed to recuperate and, once healthy, will be reassigned to work.
 - **(3)** Those who are mildly elderly, weak, or disabled—unfit for front-line service but still capable of working in local military units or rear offices—should be assigned accordingly.
 - **(4)** Those whose physical condition makes them unfit for military duties but still able to work in civilian roles shall be provided short-term training and then systematically transferred to civilian jobs. Their new position’s benefits must not be lower than their previous military rank.
 - **(5)** Elderly, weak, or disabled cadres with low educational or professional ability and who have difficulty transitioning to civilian roles shall receive political, cultural, and vocational training through schools or workshops organized by army or provincial-level military regions, after which they may be reassigned or transferred to local work.
 - **(6)** Those who, due to age, weakness, or disability, are unfit for military service and unsuitable for civilian work, but have families and financial support and voluntarily request it, may be approved for **demobilization** after review by army or provincial military districts. Officers at platoon level and above are generally not to be demobilized.
 - **(7)** Those with special-grade or first-grade disabilities who are homeless and unable to work or be transferred to civilian roles shall be taken in and supported for life by

provincial governments in **Veterans' Welfare and Rehabilitation Homes**, and their treatment must not fall below their original military rank.

- **(8)** Those with ideological issues shall be organized into study groups for education and transformation, with the goal of eventually assigning them to work.
3. **The Handling Committees** shall not only unify plans, organize steps, and study handling issues, but also assign specific responsibilities within the committee.