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Calculators on the ASVAB

Assistant Secretary of the Army (Manpower and Reserve Affairs)

Recruiting & Retention

DACMPT

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Immediate Use of Calculators on the ASVAB

ASVAB Modernization

- The US Army is fully supportive of the research efforts and subsequent, prudent work being done by the collective effort of the Defense Testing & Assessment Center (DTAC) & Accession Policy.
- There is also an understanding of the potential need to re-norm the test and the Army looks forward to supporting the chosen methodologies.
- Recently a trend of moving away from standardized tests immersed, but STEM intensive universities (i.e., MIT, Georgia Tech & Georgetown) have reverted to historical trends with the use of these tests.

Army's Request

- During a recent session of the Department's Manpower Accession Policy Working Group (MAPWG), the topic was discussed and not supported by other services for immediate use of a calculator on the ASVAB.
- The Army is of the belief that the environment, as compared to when the ASVAB was created, has changed and the non-usage of a calculator may impair the ability to gain a true understanding of an applicant's suitability for service.
- In most secondary schools, calculators are a key portion of mathematics instruction and the assessment of student proficiency.
- This request service-neutral and is not intended for use only by the Army.

Risk/Mitigation

- The Army acknowledges that there is potential risk involved to this request to include the effect to:
 - Test validity
 - Ongoing studies
 - Force readiness
- The Army is prepared to assume these risks with mitigations through Service-sponsored initiatives:
 - Future Soldier Prep Course - Academic Skills Development Program



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Recruiting & Retention Policy

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