

# Responsibilities of Soldier Escorts

1. General: This Fort Drum memo describes procedures unit and escort responsibilities for Soldier supervision for those referred to Behavioral Health Department (BHD).

2. Definition: **An escort should be provided to supervise those Soldiers who may be a threat to themselves or others.**

3. Command Responsibility: **The command should search the Soldier for weapons or paraphernalia prior to the escort taking responsibility for the Soldier.**

4. Soldier Escort Qualifications:

a. The Soldier's unit should provide an escort who is an NCO and is of equal or higher rank to the Soldier being escorted. The escort must be able to drive the Soldier to the appropriate clinic or hospital.

b. An escort should not be responsible for more than one individual and ideally should be the same gender as the observed Soldier.

5. Soldier Escort Responsibilities:

a. Escorts must monitor the Soldier's whereabouts at all times (e.g., trips to the latrine, smoke breaks, etc). In the event that a Soldier attempts to leave BHD without authorization, the clinic staff will make no attempt to physically restrain the Soldier. However, a BHD representative or the escort will take the initiative to call the unit and the Military Police if indicated.

b. Escorts will check with BHD personnel before leaving the area. The escort is required (and should be prepared) to remain at BHD until the Soldier's appointment is concluded.

c. If the mental health provider recommends hospitalization, the unit escort, or other command representative, will stay with the Soldier until the receiving facility has taken responsibility for him/her. Unfortunately, this could take many hours. The escort will be responsible for securing necessary documentation to deliver to command and/or other medical personnel.