Military CDL Program

Reviewing Our Progress – Considering Our Potential – Looking to the Future
CDL Program Review

- 2009 Report mandated by Congress;
- 15 Recommendations to improve the CDL program;
- One recommendation proposed easing transition from military to CDL;
- FMCSA began work on this effort in 2010;
MAP 21 Provisions

Intent is to ease transition from active duty to a civilian credential;
• Required DOT to conduct a study and report to Congress on differences between military and civilian licensing;
• Report to recommend ways to fill the gaps;
• Required DOT to work with DoD to conduct a pilot program; and
• Consider opportunity to waive the current domicile rule.
Military Skills Test Waiver

- Waiver allows the applicant to avoid the time and expense of having to take the driving test;
- 2 years safe military driving experience;
- Applicant self attests to safety record;
- CO endorses application; and
- To date, more than 18,800 waivers issued.
Military CDL Rule I

- Rule extends the time for applying for a skills test waiver from the current 90 days to 1 year after leaving a military position requiring the operation of a commercial motor vehicle (CMV); and

- Domicile Rule allows States to accept applications from and administer both the knowledge and skills tests for a CLP and/or a CDL to active duty military personnel stationed in that State.
Military CDL Rule II

- Even Exchange, for certain MOS’s
- Does not immediately apply to endorsements; and
- Application requests an ‘even trade’ for specific MOS’s to go directly to a CDL (while still complying with other requirements - residency and medical exam).
**Under 21 Military CDL Pilot**

- FAST Act, 2015 requires DOT to study the feasibility, benefits, and safety allowing under 21 drivers to operate in interstate commerce;
- 3 year study will focus on drivers at least 18 but not more than 21;
- Specific MOS identified by FMCSA; *(88M / 2T1 / 3531 / EO)*
- Anticipate the majority of participants will come from Reserve and National Guard components; and
- Requires carrier (employer) sponsorship.
- Pilot kick-off late 2017 – early 2018
• Military CDL programs will be a tremendous support to both the National Guard and Reserve components;
• Provides jobs for Guard and Reserve personnel; and
• Strengthens recruiting efforts for both commands.
USAF Move to Use AAMVA Testing Model

- USAF has adopted the AAMVA 2014 knowledge and skills testing for all USAF 2T1 students. Move will save USAF curriculum development and updating resources. Ultimate move will be to equate USAF 2T1 license to civilian CDL.

- Note that some SDLAs might have standards that exceed the Federal requirements
Effort to Equate Military to CDL Physical

- FAST Act requires DOT to develop process for VA doctors to perform CDL medicals;
- Need to establish Pentagon / Army contact for discussion;
- Additional effort to compare DOD exit physical to CDL physical to eliminate need to take another physical when applying for a CDL; and
- Assure the CDL exam and military exam medical are comparable.
Even Exchange

- Specific Military Occupations for a CDL noted on the sample application;
- Sample Application form attached; and
- May be Adapted by the home State-of-Record.