



417th Base Support Battalion *Commander's Policy*

Policy Number: 5-1

Proponent: AETV-WG-W

Date: 1 September 2004

SUBJECT: Nursing Mothers Policy

1. REFERENCE:

a. Breastfeeding, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office on Women's Health, 2000.

b. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health People 2010, January 2000.

2. PURPOSE: This policy outlines command support for nursing mothers (both civilian and active duty) within the 417th Base Support Battalion as a commitment to building stronger and healthier families.

3. SCOPE: This policy applies to all personnel within the 417th BSB.

4. POLICY:

a. Recent research has clearly demonstrated the crucial role breastfeeding plays in infant and maternal health. As a commitment to building stronger and healthier families, the BSB will ensure the following policy towards nursing mothers throughout the community.

(1) Nursing mothers will be allowed to breastfeed in all public places throughout the community. Whenever feasible, discretion should be used to ensure others are not placed in an uncomfortable situation, such as a towel placed to ensure the mother's breast is not exposed. However, it is understood that circumstances may not necessarily permit this, and the well-being of the infant is paramount.

(2) When possible, supervisors throughout the community should allow nursing mothers two each, twenty-minute breaks per workday to nurse or pump their breast milk. These breaks should not be in lieu of any other prescribed breaks or meal periods.

b. Agencies and organizations implementing this guidance should see the benefits through improved work attendance, with less time off for infant illness as well as a more energetic staff member.

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c. The Army is committed to stronger and healthier families and this policy will ensure consistent treatment of nursing mothers throughout the community.

5. PROPONENT: 417th BSB, WMEDDAC Breastfeeding Network, Chair, LTC Christine Rem, 350-3894/3920.



THOMAS H. FASS
LTC, EN
Commanding