

# News Release



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## **Secretary Elaine L. Chao Announces Information Military Reservists And Their Families Need to Know About Employee Benefits *Rights to Pension and Health Coverage Continue During Military Service***

**WASHINGTON** --Secretary of Labor Elaine L. Chao today unveiled updated information to help Reserve and National Guard units preparing to be deployed understand their rights to pension and health benefits coverage available through private sector employers.

“Military reservists should have confidence that while they are serving their country in active duty, their job pension and health benefits will continue for their families,” said Secretary of Labor Elaine L. Chao. “That is why we have developed information to familiarize reservists and family members with the federal law that protects these benefits.

“Many troops will be called to serve. This represents a great sacrifice by reservists, guardsmen and employers who must carry on without the services of these valuable employees during our fight against terrorism and to preserve the freedom cherished by Americans.”

*Frequently Asked Questions for Reservists Being Called to Active Duty* provides basic information about how retirement benefits of reservists are protected during service to our country. It also describes the rights of family members to maintain health coverage, including the right to keep coverage under the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act – known as COBRA continuation coverage -- as well as the various health benefit options available to family members.

A copy of the questions and answers can be obtained on the department’s Web site at [www.dol.gov/pwba](http://www.dol.gov/pwba). The public also may call with questions through a toll-free number at 1-866-275-7922 or electronically at [www.askpwba.dol.gov](http://www.askpwba.dol.gov).

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