

PERSONNEL ISSUES

Q1. How will Reserve member pay and benefits be impacted when they are called to active duty under the partial mobilization?

A1. In general, they will receive the same pay and benefits as an Active component member. There are special provisions of law that ensure there is no difference in housing allowance and cost of living allowance for designated high cost of living areas.

Q2. How will Reservists receive pay and what must they do to get it?

A2. A mobilized member will automatically receive pay bi-weekly on the same schedule as Active component members. The pay will be “direct deposit” to the same financial institution currently used for the member’s normal drill pay and annual training pay, unless the member completes paperwork to change this designation.

Q3. What housing allowances will mobilized Reservists receive?

A3. They will receive a Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) at the rate adjusted for the member’s residence beginning on the first day of mobilization, regardless of the duration of the orders.

Q4. How does this mobilization affect a Reservist’s SGLI?

A4. For a Reserve component member who has the maximum coverage of \$250,000 prior to mobilization, there is no change. He/she will maintain the full coverage. No action is required unless the member elects to reduce his/her coverage. Then the member must complete the SGLV Form 8286.

For a Reserve component member who has no SGLI coverage, he/she is automatically enrolled for maximum coverage, effective on the date of the mobilization. No action required if the member desires the maximum coverage. If the member does not want to enroll, or the member wants to enroll for an amount less than maximum coverage, he/she must complete a Form 8286.

For a Reserve component member who is enrolled for less than full coverage prior to mobilization, he/she is automatically enrolled for maximum coverage, effective on the date of mobilization. No action required if the member desires the maximum coverage. If the member does not want maximum coverage, he/she must complete a SGLV Form 8286.

Q5. When does the new SGLI Family Coverage become effective, and how do Reservists ensure that spouse and children are covered?

A5. SGLI Family Coverage becomes effective on November 1, 2001, for all Active and Ready Reserve families. Spouses and dependent children of members enrolled in SGLI on that date will automatically be enrolled in Family Coverage. No action is required. Because non-enrolled members who are mobilized will automatically be enrolled for maximum SGLI coverage their families will also be automatically enrolled in SGLI Family Coverage with no action required, when the program is implemented.

Q6. What happens to leave that is earned while mobilized?

A6. Service members accrue 30 days of leave each year, at a rate of 2½ days per month. Many Guard and Reserve members prefer to take their leave while on active duty; however, circumstances may preclude a member from using some or all of the leave they earned while serving in support of the contingency operation. Guard or Reserve member have three options on how to handle their leave:

- (1) They may take their accrued leave. If they are serving under involuntary orders and have reached the maximum period of service authorized by law—in the case of partial mobilization that is 24 months—the member can request to be placed on voluntary orders for the period of his or her leave entitlement; or
- (2) They may sell their leave back. The restriction that limits the number of days a member can sell back in a career—60 days—does not apply to Reserve component members who serve in support of a contingency operation; or
- (3) They may use a combination of the preceding two options.

Q7. How does this mobilization affect participation in the Thrift Savings Plan (TSP)?

A7. Mobilization provides the member with sixty days from the date of mobilization to enroll in TSP or to make changes to the amount of the member's contributions. The member has another 60-day window to enroll or make changes beginning on the date of release from active duty. Any contributions the member makes while in a designated imminent danger or hostile fire zone will be tax-free.

Q8. What are the designated imminent danger and hostile fire zones?

A8. See the attached document that lists all the imminent danger/hostile fire zones.

Q9. If a Reservist dies while on active duty, what are the death benefits?

- A9.**
- Payment to the surviving spouse of \$6,000
 - Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) at a monthly rate adjusted periodically by Congress
 - Recovery of remains
 - Identification of remains
 - Notification of next of kin
 - Preparation for burial or cremation
 - Furnishing of uniform or other clothing, if needed
 - Furnishing of casket or urn, or both, with outside box
 - Hearse service
 - Funeral director's services
 - Transportation of remains
 - Round trip transportation of an escort for remains
 - Interment of remains
 - Flag to spouse
 - Flag to parents

Q10. What affect will mobilization of Selected Reserve members have on the member's Montgomery GI Bill for the Selected Reserve (MGIB-SR) eligibility?

- A10.** Provisions of title 38 of the U.S. Code enacted during the Persian Gulf War are still in effect.
- (a) Anyone in receipt of MGIB benefits who is forced to withdraw from school due to being called up will have entitlement restored for the period of the term or semester not completed. In other words, if a person was paid MGIB-SR benefits for September and October and had to withdraw from a term that ended in December, the entitlement used for September and October would be restored with no debt created.
 - (b) Any debt collection action against persons mobilized is suspended until the mobilization period is ended.
 - (c) The period of eligibility is extended by the period of mobilization plus 4 months.

Q11. There have been comments made that the current mobilization may extend to as much as two years. If this occurs will the member be eligible for MGIB benefits for active duty members?

- A11.** Section 5303a of title 38, United States Code, specifies the minimum active-duty service requirement for active MGIB eligibility is 24 months continuous active duty. If a service member is mobilized for two years there is the potential that he/she may be eligible for participation in the Chapter 30 (Active Duty) MGIB. The Department of Veterans Affairs is researching through their General Council for this determination. If it is

determined these mobilized service members are eligible for Active Duty MGIB consideration must be given in offering them the opportunity to elect to or decline participation in the program.

Q12. What options does a member of the Selected Reserve have regarding his enrolled course of instruction if mobilized?

A12. The service member may:

- request refund from the educational institution
- request deferment of the course until his release from Active Duty
- request a course grade based on current standing in the course of instruction

Q13. What if a school will not provide the assistance described in the previous question?

A13. A Guardsperson or Reservist should contact the Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges (SOC). SOC is a consortium of national higher education associations and 1,100 institutional members chartered to help meet the needs of servicemembers. They will work with the student-Reservist and the postsecondary education institution to resolve problems. SOC can be contacted at 1-800-368-5622 or by writing to the:

Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges
One DuPont Circle, N.W., Suite 680
Washington, DC 20036

Q14. Will Guard and Reserve members have Tuition Assistance recouped if mobilized?

A14. No, mobilized Guard and Reserve members do not have to pay back the Federal Tuition Assistance if forced to withdraw from school because of mobilization.

Q15. What is Stop Loss and will it be used for this operation?

A15. Stop Loss is the President's authority under section 12305 of title 10, United States Code to involuntarily retain personnel on active duty beyond their mandatory separation date or retirement date otherwise prescribed in law. The authority to use Stop Loss has been delegated to the Service Secretaries for this operation. The Services are assessing their respective needs to impose stop loss.

Country	Imminent Danger Pay	*Combat Zone Tax Relief Benefits
Afghanistan	X	
Albania	X	X (CZ & QHDA since 3-24-1999)
Algeria	X	
Angola	X	
Azerbaijan	X	
Bahrain	X	X (CZ, since 1-17-1991)
Bosnia-Herzegovina	X	X (QHDA since 11-21-1995)
Burundi	X	
Cambodia	X	
Colombia	X	
Congo, Dem Rep of	X	
Croatia	X	X (QHDA since 11-21-1995)
Egypt	X	
Ethiopia	X	
Georgia	X (Abkhazia only)	
Ghana		
Greece	X (Athens area only)	
Haiti	X	
Indonesia	X (E. Timor only)	
Iran	X	
Iraq	X	X (CZ, since 1-17-1991)
Jordan	X	
Kuwait	X	X (CZ, since 1-17-1991)
Lebanon	X	
Liberia	X	
Macedonia	X	X (QHDA, since 11-21-1995)
Oman		X (CZ, since 1-17-1991)
Pakistan	X	
Peru	X	
Qatar	X	X (CZ, since 1-17-1991)
Saudi Arabia	X	X (CZ, since 1-17-1991)
Sierra Leone	X	
Somalia	X	
Sudan	X	
Tajikistan	X	
Turkey	X	
Uganda	X	
United Arab Emerites		X (CZ, since 1-17-1991)
Yemen	X	
Yugoslavia, Fed Rep (Serbia (incl Kosovo)/Montenegro)	X	X (CZ & QHDA since 3-24-1999)
Zambia		
Arabian (Persian) Gulf area	X	X (CZ, since 1-17-1991)
Red Sea		X (CZ, since 1-17-1991)
Gulf of Oman		X (CZ, since 1-17-1991)
Arabian Sea north of 10 degrees N lat. & W of 68 degrees E long.)		X (CZ, since 1-17-1991)
Gulf of Aden		X (CZ, since 1-17-1991)
Adriatic Sea		X (CZ since 3-24-1999)
Ionian Sea (that portion that lies north of 39N)		X (CZ since 3-24-1999)
*CZ = Combat Zone (designated by President in Executive Order)		
*QHDA = Qualified Hazardous Duty Area (designated by Congress in statute)		

Useful Web Sites:

Department of Defense: <http://www.dtic.mil/defense/defenselink/>
Assistant Secretary of Defense
for Reserve Affairs: <http://raweb.osd.mil>
Army National Guard: <http://www-ng5.ngb.army.mil>
Army Reserve: <http://www.army.mil/usar/>
Navy Reserve: <http://www.navres.navy.mil/>
Marine Corps Reserve: <http://www.marforres.usmc.mil/mcrsc.nsf>
Air National Guard: <http://www.ang.af.mil/>
Air Force Reserve: <http://www.afreserve.com>
Coast Guard Reserve: <http://www.uscg.mil/hq/reserve/reshmpg.html>
SGLI: www.insurance.va.gov
Thrift Savings Plan: www.tsp.gov
Department of Veterans Affairs: www.va.gov