

Separation Pay

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Summary

Drilling members of the National Guard and Reserve who are not on extended active duty are eligible for separation benefits only if they are involuntarily forced out of the service because of the “deactivation of a unit or changes in force structure, and even then only if the Defense Department has approved those benefits. In some circumstances, a determination of permanent medical disability can qualify a reservist for benefits.

Separation pay is offered rarely. The Defense Department currently is not offering it. The programs are not as robust as those offered to active-duty members and are not voluntary. Reservists must be selected for retention or separation by their commanders. If reservists are separated because of unsatisfactory service, they are not eligible for separation pay.

National Guard and reserve members on full-time active duty are covered by the same separation programs as career active-duty troops. Eligibility for a specific program or benefit depends on such qualifications as rank, career specialty and years of service. When it is authorized and given, separation pay is offered to those who decline voluntary separation programs and still are forced out of the service. (3)

An active-duty reservist must have at least six years on active duty, five of which must be continuous at the time of discharge. The member must have an honorable discharge and meet one of the following criteria:

- Formally discharged under reduction-in-force provisions
- Fully qualified but denied re-enlistment
- As an enlisted member, rated “failed to promote”
- As an officer, fully qualified but not selected for, or denied, promotion
- The following categories of personnel are ineligible for separation pay
- Dishonorable, bad conduct or other-than-honorable discharge recipients
- Anyone eligible for retirement pay
- Those on initial active-duty obligations
- Anyone on active duty for training
- Members discharged as a result of court-martial sentences or in lieu of a court-martial
- Members discharged for unsatisfactory or substandard performance

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Links

- [Army Times Online - Guard and Reserve Separation Factsheet](#)
- [Physical Disability Agency](#)
- [HRC Homepage](#)
- [VA Disability Directory](#)

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References

Regulations

- [AR 135-180, Qualifying Service for Retired Non-regular Service](#)
- [Army Regulation 635-40, Physical Evaluation for Separation](#)
- [Department of Defense Financial Management Regulation Volume 7B, Removal from the Temporary Disability Retired List](#)
- [NGR 680-2, Army National Guard Retirement Points Accounting Management System](#)
- [NGR 600-200, Enlisted Personnel Management, Chapter 8](#)
- [NGR 635-100, Personnel Separations, Chapter 5](#)
- [NGR 600-101, Interim Policy Guidance, Chapter 10](#)

Documents and Forms

- AHRC-STL Form 1259, Approximate Point Value for Retirement Benefits
- AHRC-STL Form 1459, SBP Information Sheet
- AHRC-STL Form 4001, Important Information Concerning Retired Pay Application
- ARNG Information Guide on Non-Regular Retirement, [Insert Document]
- [DD Form 108, Application for Retired Pay Benefits](#)
- DD Form 214, Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty.
- DD Form 215, Correction to DD Form 214
- DD Form 1883, Survivor Benefit Plan Election Certificate, "DD Form 2656-5 replaces the DD Form 1883"
- [DD Form 2656, Data for Payment of Retired Personnel](#)
- [DD Form 2656-5, Reserve Component Survivor Benefit Plan \(RCSBP\) Election](#)
- NGB Form 23-A/B/C, A1, Annual and Detailed Point Statements
- [SF 1199a, Direct Deposit Sign-up Form](#)

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Points of Contact

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