

Get The ORFP Advantage!

The California National Guard's Operation Ready Families Program offers a variety of programs to assist the guardmember and their family before, during and after deployment:

- Operation "We Care" Meetings
- Special Benevolence Offers
- Volunteer Education Courses
- Marriage Enrichment Seminars
- Youth Camp

We also offer educational articles on:

- Managing Combat Stress
- Understanding Military Benefits
- Coming Home

...And Much More!

Visit our website!

www.calguard.ca.gov/readyfamilies

Mission First! Family Always!

Operation Ready Families Program
Family Assistance Network
California National Guard
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**Operation Ready Families Program
Family Assistance Network
California National Guard**

Your Benefits in the National Guard!!



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Montgomery G.I. Bill
...and more!

Your Benefits in the National Guard!!

Guard members are authorized benefits according to their status. During the normal drill year, Guard members and their families enjoy many of the benefits active duty members receive.

Pay

Basic Pay. The amount depends on the rank and amount of time in service. You can see your rank and amount of time in service listed in your LES (Leave and Earnings Statement) that comes with each month's pay. In addition to Basic Pay, Guard members on Active Duty for Training receive a Basic Allowance for Subsistence (BAS) for food and a Basic Allowance for lodging, if those are not already provided.

Additional Pay. Pay may also include additional pay for dangerous, highly skilled, or undesirable assignments. For example:

- *Flight Pay* is special monthly pay to pilots, navigators, officer crewmembers, weapons officers and flight surgeons.
- *Hazardous Duty Pay* is a special monthly pay for certain hazardous assignments including demolitions work, work involving contact with toxic fuels or pesticides, and parachuting.

Commissary and Exchange Privileges

The commissary is a non-profit grocery store that can save you about 20-25% on your food bill. Guard members and their families have unlimited shopping privileges at the commissary by showing their ID card.

The exchange is a department store that sells clothing and household goods at reasonable

prices. There is a BX, MCX, NEX, or PX at most military bases. Exchange catalog sales are also available. Guard members and family members have unlimited shopping privileges with the use of their ID card.

Life Insurance.

Service members are automatically insured for \$250,000 under Service member's Group Life Insurance (SGLI) unless a different amount is elected in writing. SGLI offers low-cost protection, and the small monthly premium is deducted from base pay. This is a great opportunity to provide for the welfare of your family.

Retirement

Guard members are eligible for retirement once they reach 60 years of age and complete 20 years of certifiable service. Each day of active service can count toward your retirement. Guard members earn one retirement point for each day of active service, one for each day of full-time service while on active duty for training, and one point for each drill. Other points may be earned through extra training or instruction.

Space Available Travel (Space-A)

If there are seats on military aircraft that are available, Guard members can fly anywhere in the Continental U.S., Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. When the Guard member (sponsor) retires and receives full benefits at age 60, eligible family members may travel with the sponsor to destinations outside the Continental U.S.

Montgomery G.I. Bill.

Guard members who enlist, reenlist, or extend in the National Guard for a period of six years are eligible for this benefit. This program requires no contribution. Members become eligible for 36

months of educational assistance (monthly payment is based on college workload).

Dantes – Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support

This program offers a variety of achievement, aptitude, and entrance examinations at little or not cost. You can also take high school and college courses through independent study. See your Educational Services Officer for more information.

How to Obtain Benefits

To take advantage of your National Guard benefits, you and your family members must have an identification (ID) card. The benefits authorized by the ID cards will vary. Family members who are eligible for ID cards include the member's:

- Spouse (and some former spouses).
- Un-remarried widow or widower.
- Children at age 10 and unmarried children under the age of 21 (including adopted or stepchildren).
- Children under age 10 may be eligible for an ID card if they are not living with a family member who is eligible for an ID card, or under special circumstances, such as living with a sole parent.
- Unmarried children between 21 and 23 who are attending college full time.

Under certain circumstances, other family members may also be eligible for ID cards, see your personnel or legal assistance officer for advice on this matter.

ID cards can be issued at most military installations.

Visit www.dmdc.osd.mil/rsi or call
1-916-854-3233 for more details and
information on military ID Cards