



**NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU
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09 DEC 2010

MEMORANDUM FOR See Distribution

FROM: NGB/A1

SUBJ: NGB/A1 Guidance on Early TRICARE Benefits for Air National Guard (ANG) Members and Their Families

REFERENCE: NGB/CF Memorandum, Early TRICARE for Air National Guard Members, that superseded NGB/CF dated 30 Jun 08

FSS ACTION OFFICES: Customer Service and Installation Personnel Readiness (IPR)

References:

(a) USD (P&R) memo, dated 7 Jan 04, SUBJ: Health Care Benefits for Reserve Component Members and Their Dependents: Second Addendum to Mobilization/Demobilization Personnel and Pay Policy for Reserve Component Members Ordered to Active Duty in Response to the World Trade Center and Pentagon Attacks

(b) ASD (RA) memo, dated 16 Jun 04, SUBJ: Enhanced Health Care Benefits for Reserve Component Members and Their Dependents

(c) DoD Instruction 7730.54, "Reserve Components Common Personnel Data System," Incorporating Change 2, July 28, 2010

This memo is in eight parts:

- Part I: Background
- Part II: Eligibility
- Part III: Program specifics
- Part IV: Medical Coverage/Enrollment
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Part I: Background

1. The FY2010 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) amended 10 U.S.C. 1074 to increase the amount of time a Reserve Component (RC) may be eligible for TRICARE coverage prior to mobilization. DoDI 7730.54 implements pre activation TRICARE for ANG members ordered to active duty in support of a contingency operation for more than 30 days and their eligible family members.

Part II: Eligibility

2. An ANG member who is issued a delayed-effective-date active-duty order specifying a period of active duty of 31 or more days in support of a contingency operation shall be eligible (along with family members) for pre-activation TRICARE commencing on the issuance date of a qualifying order. Contingency Operations are defined in section 101(a)(13) of title 10 United States Code (U. S. C.) .. A delayed effective date active duty order is an order issued in advance of the active duty start date.

For orders issued on or after 28 Oct 10, maximum eligibility is limited to 180 days prior to activation. The issuance date of a qualifying delayed-effective-date active duty order determines the length of eligibility as follows:

- If the order is issued 180 days or less prior to the start date of activation, eligibility commences on the issuance date of the individual activation/mobilization order.

- Example: Member is issued a qualifying order on 30 Apr 11 to start active duty on 1 Jun 2011. Preactivation benefit eligibility begins on 30 Apr 11 (individual activation/mobilization order issuance date).

- If the order is issued 181 days or more prior to the start date of the activation, eligibility commences on the 180th day prior to activation.

- Example: Member is issued a qualifying order 191 days prior to activation on 1 Jan 11 to start active duty on 10 Jul 2011, preactivation benefit eligibility would begin on 11 Jan 11 instead of the individual activation/mobilization order issuance date as the maximum eligibility period is limited to 180 days.

3. Eligibility will be reflected in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS). ANG members can verify their eligibility on the Guard and Reserve Web Portal at <https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/Guard-ReservePortal>. Members should take great effort to ensure their family members have current identification cards and are enrolled in DEERS.

Part III: Program Specifics

5. Eligible members will be provided health care by military hospitals and clinics, or by TRICARE-authorized providers, reimbursed through supplemental care rules. ANG members will not be enrolled into TRICARE Prime unless, and until, they reach their final duty station. Family members may choose to enroll in TRICARE Prime Remote (TPR) for Active Duty Family Members (TPRADFM) if they reside in a TPR zip code. Family members who reside outside the 50 states will follow the appropriate enrollment procedures for the overseas program.

6. Members who are enrolled in the TRICARE dental program (TDP) and issued delayed-effective-date active-duty orders (individual activation/mobilization order) will be automatically

disenrolled and will become eligible for care at dental treatment facilities or through the tri-service remote dental program. Family members enrolled in TDP will continue to be enrolled; however, they will be charged the lower active-duty family member shared premium rate. Those family members not enrolled in TDP are eligible to enroll under this program.

7. The TRICARE Management Activity (TMA) recommends all eligible members and their family members retain any bills for health and dental services. They can submit claims for TRICARE reimbursement, if eligible.

Part IV: Medical Coverage/Enrollment

8. TRICARE Reserve Select (TRS). TRS is a premium-based health plan that Air National Guard members may purchase. Monthly premium rate is determined by the type of coverage: TRS member-only or TRS member-and-family (Visit www.tricare.mil, enter profile, and click on "Costs.")

Disenrollment Due to Change in Status: When an ANG member is ordered to active-duty service for more than 30 days, the member and their family becomes eligible for non-premium TRICARE plans (e.g., *TRICARE Prime*). TRS coverage is automatically terminated. When the ANG member's active-duty service ends, the eligibility for non-premium plans ends as well unless the member qualifies for TRICARE transitional health care, otherwise known as Transitional Assistant Management Program (TAMP). **Eligibility information is listed at www.tricare.mil**

If an ANG member qualifies for TAMP, that member is eligible for transitional benefits. The member and their eligible family members receive a total of 180 days of TAMP coverage. This 180 day period begins the day after the qualifying active-duty period ends. TAMP eligible members (including the former active-duty member) who were enrolled in Prime immediately prior to their change in status may continue their enrollment in TRICARE Prime with no break in coverage. A reenrollment application must be completed prior to the TAMP expiration period in order to continue with TRICARE Prime. The effective date shall be the date the sponsor separated from active duty as the intent is to ensure that Prime coverage is seamless.

If a service member does not qualify for TAMP coverage, there is a timeframe limitation in which the member must reenroll in TRS to continue uninterrupted health care coverage. Presently 60 days, changing in the near future to 30 days.

Federal employee reservists do not qualify for TRICARE Reserve Select as they are eligible for health care coverage under the Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) Program (unless their position is excluded by law or regulation). Federal employee reservists who are placed in a leave without pay status (LWOP) when called to active duty for more than 30 days can keep their FEHB coverage for up to 18 months. The reservist is responsible for paying the enrollee share of the premium during the first 12 months, and the agency pays the agency's share.

More information on FEHB is available on the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) website <http://www.opm.gov/insure/health/eligibility/index.asp>.

Part V: DEERS Updates

9. When qualifying an individual activation/mobilization order is issued via the Air Reserve Order writing System (AROWS), data is captured during end-of-day processing and provided to the LIMMOB area of the Military Personnel Data System (MilPDS). At the next end-of-day processing, a transaction file is created from MilPDS and is provided to the Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC). When data arrives at DMDC it is validated and entered into DMDC's database and data is provided for update into DEERS. Generally, this process will take up to seven workdays before DEERS reflects eligibility based on the AROWS order issuance.

In the event DEERS eligibility is not reflected on the as of the eighth duty day from order certification via AROWS, units should verify that data in AROWS and the LIMMOB area of MilPDS are consistent. If these two systems reflect the correct information, the base DEERS/RAPIDS office should provide a screen print of the LIMMOB current data to the DEERS Project Office at ARPC for assistance. If the AROWS data and LIMMOB data do not match, the base Installation Personnel Readiness (IPR) office should be contacted for assistance. If any system edits are made, allow seven duty days for these to process through to DEERS. AROWS Order Specialist may not change an active duty effective (start) date on an individual activation/mobilization order within AROWS. For the process to work according to the system design and mandated restrictions the individual activation/mobilization order must first be cancelled and a new initial individual activation/mobilization order application created the following duty day. Once the change has been updated within DEERS, the original notification date will need to be updated and this may be done by coordinating the change through the DEERS/RAPIDS Project Office at ARPC using the canceled individual activation/mobilization order issuance date as the source for the change/update request.

There is no manual update of contingency data in DEERS. The only authoritative source is the data flowing to DMDC. If the data is corrected, the DEERS record should also update. Only after verifying that all data is correct can base level DEERS/RAPIDS users contact the DEERS Project Office at ARPC for assistance.

Under no circumstance should DEERS/RAPIDS operators input active duty segments in DEERS for any period that a member is serving on a contingency activation. If data is entered as non-contingency, the updates from AROWS will fail and the record will not reflect pre-activation TRICARE eligibility nor Transitional Assistance Management Program (TAMP) eligibility period for post deployment.

Part VI: Orders Information

10. FOR ORDERS ISSUING OFFICIALS.

Do not delay issuance of contingency individual activation/mobilization orders. These orders establish a member's pre-activation benefit under TRICARE. If a member is later removed from a qualifying individual activation/mobilization order, the member will be eligible for TRICARE

benefits from date of issuance (limited to 180 days maximum) up until the Non-Mobilization Notification date they were removed from the individual activation/mobilization order.

Part VII: Definitions

ACTIVE DUTY: Identifies ANG personnel serving on volunteer or non-volunteer (mobilization) orders. For the purpose of this program, personnel must be serving on active-duty orders for more than 30 days in support of a contingency operation.

12. POCs

NGB MPS Customer Assistance Policy Branch: NGB/A1PS, Master Sergeant Edidiong O. Ekong NGB/A1PS, commercial 703-607-5093/5975, DSN 327-5093/5975 and email: ngb.a1ps@ang.af.mil

NGB Readiness: NGB/A1PR, commercial 301-836-7158, DSN 278-7158 and email: angrc.ngb.a1pr.staff@ang.af.mil.

TRICARE: <http://www.tricare.mil/mybenefit/>

12. This memorandum supersedes NGB/A1 Early TRICARE guidance memo for ANG members, dated 28 Jan 10.



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