

EMPLOYMENT AND CAREER OPTIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Reserve Affiliation

When you leave active duty service, you have the opportunity to earn cash bonuses and retain many of your military benefits by joining the Selected Reserve or National Guard.

Obligation to Service Continues for Eight Years

When you entered the service, you incurred a military service obligation of eight years. If you are separating prior to fulfilling eight years of service, then some of that obligation probably remains. You **must** satisfy that obligation by becoming a member of the Ready Reserve in one of the following categories:

» Selected Reserve

You may voluntarily affiliate with the Selected Reserve, either with a National Guard or Reserve unit or a Reserve individual program.

- Upon becoming a member of the Selected Reserves, you may be recalled to active duty in time of war or national emergency. You may also be ordered to active duty involuntarily for up to 270 days, for any single contingency operation, without a declaration of a national emergency.
- Members participate and train as required by the Reserve category to which they belong. For National Guard and Reserve unit programs, this usually means a minimum of one weekend a month and two weeks of annual training per year. For Reserve individual programs, the training requirement may be somewhat less.

» Inactive National Guard

If you served in the Army, you may become a member of the Army National Guard and request transfer to the Inactive National Guard if unable to participate in regular unit training.

- Currently, only the Army maintains an Inactive National Guard. This consists of National Guard personnel in an inactive status, who are attached to a specific National Guard unit but do not participate in training.
- As a member of the Inactive National Guard, you would be recalled to active duty with your unit. To remain a member, you must muster once a year with your assigned unit.

» Individual Ready Reserve (IRR)

If you do not affiliate with one of the above programs, your Service will automatically or involuntarily assign you to the IRR.

- The IRR consists mainly of individuals who have had training and who have served previously in the active component. Other IRR members come from the Selected Reserve and have some of their military service obligation remaining.
- As an IRR member, you may be involuntarily recalled upon declaration of a national emergency. Otherwise, participation requirements may include an annual day of muster duty to satisfy statutory screening requirements.
- IRR members may participate in voluntary temporary tours of active duty and military professional development education programs.

Standby Reserve

If you have not completed your eight-year military service obligation, you will be transferred to a Reserve Component in either the Ready Reserve (Selected Reserve, IRR, or Inactive National Guard), or in the Standby Reserve, under certain conditions.

- » You may be placed in the Standby Reserve if you still have time remaining to complete your military service obligation and are either:
 - Filling a “key” position in a civilian occupation, or
 - Have a temporary hardship or disability.
- » Members of the Standby Reserve have no participation or training requirements, but, in the event of a national emergency, may be involuntarily recalled to active duty. As the term “standby” implies, these reservists will only be mobilized once it has been determined that there are insufficient numbers of qualified members in the Ready Reserve to do the job.



Contact the Reserve Component Transition Office at your installation to see if you qualify for assignment to the Standby Reserve. If you cannot locate this office, contact your installation’s personnel office for assistance.

Opportunity for Continued Military Service Beyond Eight Years

If you *have* served eight years or more of active duty, you may no longer have a military service obligation and do not have to affiliate with the National Guard or Reserves. You may however, choose to continue military service by affiliating with a Reserve Component in one of these categories.

Benefits of Joining a Selected Reserve Unit

The benefits of joining the Selected Reserve include the following:

- | | |
|--|--|
| » Extra pay | » Travel (on a space-available basis) |
| » Opportunity for promotion | » Servicemen’s group life insurance |
| » Full-time employment opportunity | » Reserve Component survivors benefits plan |
| » Military retirement opportunity | » Legal assistance |
| » TRICARE reserve select | » Family centers |
| » Exchange and commissary privileges | » Opportunities for contacts in the civilian community |
| » Morale, welfare, and recreation programs | » Continuation of military ties |
| » Education assistance | » Reserve Component dental plan |
| » Officer and Non-Commissioned Officer (NCO) clubs | |

Priority Placement



Priority placement in a Selected Reserve unit is authorized for “Eligible Involuntary” separtees who apply within one year after their separation. Your installation’s retention or personnel office can assist you. If you have already separated, **contact** the Reserve or National Guard recruiter listed in your local telephone directory.

Where to Sign Up for the Reserves



WHILE YOU ARE IN THE MILITARY

Contact your installation’s Reserve Component Transition Office. The staff will provide you with information about your obligations and benefit. In most cases, they will put you in touch with an active duty recruiter. You can access information about opportunities in the Reserve and National Guard online at the websites listed in the Resources section of this chapter.

ONCE YOU ARE OUT

Contact the nearest Reserve or National Guard unit listed in your local telephone directory. Any recruiting office will refer you to the appropriate recruiter.

OTHER RESOURCES

Many overseas and stateside installations have National Guard and Reserve recruiters located on their facilities.

PUBLIC AND COMMUNITY SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

Public and Community Service (PACS)

Put your military training and skills to greater use continuing your service at the national, state, and local levels. Military service has prepared and equipped you with unique experiences possessed by only a small percentage of the American population. In planning for your transition options, consider tools and resources available to help you get your name in front of non-profit, public, and community service organizations such as schools, hospitals, law enforcement agencies, social service agencies and many more for employment opportunities.

This unique career field enables you to lend your military training to help address compelling community issues and challenges in education, public safety, health and human services, the environment, and more. Opportunities may include efforts to tutor children and adults, rehabilitate housing for low-income families, immunize children against preventable diseases, respond to natural disasters, mentor young people, help persons with disabilities and the elderly maintain their independence, and manage after-school programs for social and academic enrichment, to name a few.