

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.

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 you 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 Quarters (BAQ) 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 can shop in the commissary up to 24 days a year with the commissary privilege card. In addition, you can shop as many times as you like while the Guard members is on annual training (AT) or on orders for active duty. During AT, you need an ID card and a copy of orders. The exchange is a department store that sells clothing and household goods at reasonable prices. There is an exchange at most military bases. Exchange catalog sales are also available. Guard members and family members have unlimited shopping privileges. Just use your ID card.

Life Insurance. Service members are automatically insured for \$200,000 under Servicemembers's Group Life Insurance (SGLI) unless a different amount is elected in writing. SGLI offers low-cost protections, and the small monthly premium is deducted from base pay. This is a great opportunity to provide for the welfare of your family. The Guard member may decline this insurance. Does your family know how much life insurance coverage you have and the policies location?

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. A maximum of 75 points may be earned annually from drill and other inactive training.

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 the college workload). Additional financial assistance may be available. Contact your Retention Office Manager or Educational Services Officer.

Dantes – Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support. This program offers a variety of achievement, aptitude, and entrance examinations at little or no cost. You can also take high school and college courses through independent study. See your Educational Services Officer for more information.

WHAT IS NEEDED TO OBTAIN BENEFITS?

ID Cards. 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).
- 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.
- Under certain circumstances, other family members can be certified as legal dependents and be eligible for ID cards. These include unmarried illegitimate children, parents or parents-in-law, or an unmarried person in the Guard member's legal custody for at least 12 months. Ask your personnel or legal assistance officer for more information.
- Children at age 10 and unmarried children under the age of 21 (including adopted or stepchildren).
- Unmarried children over 21, if incapable of self-support due to a physical or mental incapacity existing prior to their 21st birthday, or between the 21st and 23rd birthday while a legal dependent as a full-time student. This must be established in DEERS and must depend upon the Guard member for more than one-half of their financial support.
- Unremarried widow or widower.
- Unmarried children between 21 and 23 who are attending college full time.

Those individuals who need an ID card should go to their local base or armory. If the unit cannot provide the card, you will be given proper guidance on how to obtain one. You will need to prove eligibility to get your family's ID cards verified, so have these documents available.

- Marriage (clear photocopy is acceptable).
- Birth certificates of children (clear photocopy is acceptable).
- Certified copy of court order for adoption.
- Statement from licensed physician or medical officer indicating incapacitation for children over 21 years.
- Certificate of full-time enrollment from school registrar for dependent children over 21 and less than 23.
- Certified copy of court order establishing paternity.
- Certified copy of death certificate(s).
- Certified copy of divorce decrees.

DEERS (Defense Eligibility Enrollment Reporting System). When the service member and his or her family apply for an ID card, each family member will complete a DEERS form. The DEERS system verifies that you and your family are eligible for medical care (if you are called for active duty or active duty training for more than 30 days).

Commissary Card. In addition to your ID card, you will be issued a U.S. Armed Forces commissary Privilege Card. The commissary card allows you to shop in the commissary 24 times a year.

MEMBER'S STATUS	THE COMMISSARY	THE EXCHANGE
IDT DRILL	ID CARD + COMMISSARY CARD	ID CARD
ANNUAL TRAINING OR ACTIVE DUTY LESS THAN 30 DAYS	ID CARD + ORDERS	ID CARD
ACTIVE DUTY OVER 30 DAYS	ID CARD (USE ORDERS UNTIL NEW ACTIVE DUTY ID CARD IS ISSUED)	ID CARD
RETIRED RESERVE UNDER AGE 60	ID CARD WITH (RET) COMMISSARY CARD	ID CARD WITH (RET)
RETIRED RESERVE OVER AGE 60	ID CARD	ID CARD

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**Your Benefits in the
National Guard!!**