

# Effects on Military, Families and Retirees

## 1. HEALTHCARE – will furloughs require Military Treatment Facilities to reduce access to active-duty military?

- Active duty medical care is an absolute priority and would be preserved.
- Civilian personnel furloughs may result in reduced services at military treatment facilities, including longer wait times and fewer personnel available to provide care.
- No matter what, the following MTF activities would likely not be impacted:
  - Inpatient care and attendant maintenance of patient medical records
  - Acute and emergency outpatient medical and dental care
  - Emergency response capability
  - Outpatient clinics and ancillary services to support walk in patients
  - Follow up and management of existing conditions
  - Emergency counseling and crisis intervention intake screening/referral services
  - Suicide and substance abuse counseling
  - Dental Class 4 care
  - Private sector care under TRICARE (to include referral management)
  - Certification of eligibility for health care benefits
  - Appointing function
  - All aspects of wounded warrior care
  - All pre-deployment related medical and dental readiness activities
  - Immediate post-deployment medical and dental care
  - All aspects of expeditionary medical care
  - TDYs in support of named operations
  - Foreign humanitarian assistance in response to disaster or other crises posing an imminent threat to life
  - Contracting, contract administration, and logistics operations in support of exempt activities (medical logistics)
  - Activities required to contract for and distribute items as authorized by the Feed and Forage Act to include medical and hospital supplies (medical logistics)
  - Activities necessary to control funds, record new obligations incurred in the performance of exempt activities, and manage working capital funds (RMO)

## 2. HOUSING – will military and privatized housing be affected by furloughs?

- Government-owned housing: it is likely that some repair work will have to be deferred and response-times to routine maintenance requirements will be delayed. The services will prioritize the most urgent requirements which will translate to reduced service levels for military families.
- Privatized housing: the President exercised his authority under the Budget Control Act to exempt military personnel funding, including Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH), from sequestration. Therefore, we foresee no impact since BAH remains fully funded.

## 3. COMMISSARIES – how affected?

- The Defense Commissary Agency (DeCA) is developing an internal contingency plan to minimize the impact to commissary patrons, should sequestration occur.

#### **4. POST/BASE EXCHANGES – how affected?**

- Military Exchange personnel are Non-appropriated Fund (NAF) employees and are paid primarily from the funds generated by the Exchange. NAF employees are Federal employees, but are excluded from most laws administered by OPM.
- Exchanges will remain open and continue to operate. However, a furlough of appropriated fund employees at locations with a heavy civilian employee customer base may result in a reduction in Exchange business. This could trigger a curtailment of business operations at the Exchange and emergency/unplanned furlough of NAF employees.

#### **5. PERMANENT CHANGES OF STATION – how affected?**

- The Services manage their PCS accounts as part of their overall Military Personnel Account (MPA).
- The President has stated that Service MPAs will be exempted from the funding cuts mandated by sequestration.
- Civilian personnel furloughs may result in reduced services at installation transportation offices, including longer wait times and fewer inspectors available for mediation with moving companies.

#### **6. MILITARY SCHOOLS/ TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES – how affected?**

- The effects of civilian furloughs to military schools and training opportunities will be determined by each military service.
- The military services are compiling detailed plans, and I would refer you them regarding the specific effects of furloughs on military schools.

#### **7. MAIL – will overseas mail be affected?**

- Civilian personnel furloughs may result in reduced services at military post offices overseas, including longer wait times and fewer customer mail options.

#### **8. NATIONAL GUARD and RESERVE – will troops still drill? How affected?**

- The pay for the MILTECH personnel category resides in the O&M appropriations which have a great impact on unit's ability to perform effective drill weekends. Civilian furloughs will affect all Reserve components, not just USAR, USAFR and NG.
- Civilian furloughs will have a greater impact on the Military Technicians (MILTECH) in the National Guard, the Army Reserve and Air Force Reserve.
- National Guard and Reserve components should be able to drill; however, furloughs will have a negative impact on drilling effectiveness and readiness.

#### **9. INSTALLATION/BASE SERVICES – will troops be expected to assume new functions currently managed by civilians, to include gate guard, dining facility management, and landscaping? What about augmenting Pentagon Force Protection Agency?**

- It's too soon to tell. The services are working through the specific effects of sequestration on their operations.
- We will protect activities directly related to life, safety, and security.

**10. HEALTHCARE – will Military Treatment Facilities reduce access to military families? Will TRICARE claims be paid at current levels and on-time? Will access to outside providers be reduced by Tricare?**

- Family care is a high priority, and we will make every attempt to maintain access.
- Civilian personnel furloughs may result in reduced services at military treatment facilities, including longer wait times and fewer personnel available to provide care.
- Our goal is to minimize any disruption in the care we provide.

**11. CHILDCARE – will military personnel be prioritized to receive on-base/post childcare services? How affected?**

- Childcare and MWR are not centrally run out of Office of the Secretary of Defense Military Community & Family Policy (OSD/MC&FP) but by each of the four Services.
- They most likely will have differing plans if furloughs go into effect for prioritization of services and other aspects of their operations.

**12. DODEA SCHOOLS – will schools supported by Department of Defense Educational Activity continue to operate? How affected?**

- DoD has directed us to prepare for reduced spending with careful and thoughtful decisions that preserve the ability to provide students a full school year of academic credit and maintain school accreditation standards.
- We understand the anxiety these uncertainties bring to our school communities. DoDEA is reviewing all areas of its budget for potential savings.

**13. MORALE, WELFARE, and RECREATION – how affected?**

- MWR is not centrally run out of Office of the Secretary of Defense Military Community & Family Policy (OSD/MC&FP) but by each of the four Services.
- They most likely will have differing plans if sequestration goes into effect for prioritization of services and other aspects of their operations.

**14. MILITARY RETIREEE & MONETARY BENEFITS – how affected? Will DFAS be able to operate?**

- Retiree pay – like military pay – will not be affected.
- Everyone (military, civilian, retirees) will continue to be paid on time.
- DFAS will continue to operate and all pay activity will continue uninterrupted. We will manage the DFAS operation to make sure all vital activities and products continue to be produced in their normal time frames. To the extent possible, we will look to non-critical activities to absorb any reductions in resources.

**15. HEALTHCARE – will Military Treatment Facilities reduce access to retirees?**

- Civilian personnel furloughs may result in reduced services at military treatment facilities, including longer wait times and fewer personnel available to provide care.