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Veterans Court Services Expansion Program

Resolution 24-01

Description

Calls to support federally-funded Veterans Treatment Court programs for the treatment of justice-involved veterans suffering from substance abuse and/or mental health issues.

Business Case

The Veterans Treatment Court Program is a federally funded program that supports state, local, and tribal efforts to plan, implement, or enhance the operations of veterans treatment courts. These courts effectively integrate evidence-based substance use disorder treatment, mandatory drug testing, incentives and sanctions, and recovery support services in judicially supervised court settings that have jurisdiction over veterans involved in the justice system who have substance use disorders, including a history of violence and PTSD as a result of their military service. Funding can also support efforts at the state level to assess, collect data, evaluate, train, and build or enhance local or tribal VTCs or to increase the identification and access to services for those underserved.

The primary objective of this initiative is to address critical service gaps among veterans and expand the use of the VTC Program in getting veterans who suffer from substance abuse and or mental/health issues appropriate treatment.

Resolution

The Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States stands in support of all state, local, and federal initiatives to expand Veterans Treatment Court Programs.

References

[DOJ BJA Veterans Treatment Court Program](#)

[HR 886 – VTC Coordination Act of 2019](#)

[VA: Justice Involved Veterans Brief](#)

Adopted by Annual Conference: 8/21/2024

Recommended by Resolutions Committee: 8/19/2024

Submitted by: California

Submission Date: 3/5/2024



TRICARE for Young Adults Extension

Resolution 24-02

Description

Calls to remove the government exemption in the ACA that requires healthcare plans to provide healthcare coverage for dependents until they are 26.

Business Case

The Affordable Care Act (ACA) requires plans and insurers that offer dependent child coverage to make the coverage available until a child reaches age 26. Furthermore, commercial and employer-sponsored plans are required by law to offer this coverage at a price comparable with those who would have been covered at a younger age. Currently, unmarried biological, step-children and adopted children are eligible for TRICARE coverage until the age of 21 (or 23 if enrolled in full-time college). Eligibility may extend beyond these age limits if the dependent child is severely disabled. At age 21 (or 23 if a full-time college student), the child may qualify to purchase TRICARE Young Adult. This discrepancy between commercial plans is due to an exemption in the ACA that does not extend these requirements to government plans.

This legislation was introduced as the Health Care Fairness for Military Families Act of 2023 (HR 1045 and S956) in the 118th Congress.

Resolution

The Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States urges Congress to require TRICARE to provide Young Adult Extended Coverage to the age of 26 for all qualified dependents under the sponsor's plan.

References

[ACA, Title 42 USC Sec 2714](#)

<https://www.healthcare.gov/young-adults/children-under-26/>

https://www.cms.gov/cciiio/resources/files/adult_child_fact_sheet

<https://www.hhs.gov/guidance/document/faq-young-adults-and-affordable-care-act-protecting-young-adults-and-eliminating-burdens>

<https://www.healthcare.gov/where-can-i-read-the-affordable-care-act/>

Adopted by Annual Conference: 8/21/2024

Recommended by Resolutions Committee: 8/19/2024

Submitted by: Utah

Submission Date: 3/6/2024



National Guard Child Care Tax Credit

Resolution 24-03

Description

Calls to provide local child care businesses with a much-needed tax benefit to provide child care for qualified dependent children of National Guard Soldiers and Airmen.

Business Case

The Army National Guard Weekend Drill Child Care (WDCC) pilot program failed due to the limitation of accessible child care locations. Many National Guardsmen do not live within local commuting distance of a National Guard or Active-Duty installation. Child care providers stationed at centralized locations are not easily accessible to Guardsmen, who often drive 50 miles or more each way to attend drills.

This legislation would operate in a similar manner to the proposed Senate and House resolutions, Military Spouse Hiring Act (H.R.1277 & S.596), and would permit local child care businesses to claim a tax credit equal to a proportion of the costs incurred when providing child care services for qualified dependent children of drilling National Guardsmen during scheduled weekend drill periods. Authorized Service Members and local child care businesses must meet the criteria as stated in enclosure A (see file attached) for participation in the program.

Providing local child care options within a reasonable commuting distance of their primary residence will help drive down troop absenteeism and attrition, improve mission readiness, and provide local child care providers with a much-needed tax benefit.

Resolution

The Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States urges Congress to pass legislation establishing a program to incentivize local child care businesses with a much-needed tax benefit while providing no-cost, hourly child care for qualified dependent children of authorized National Guard Soldiers and Airmen.

References

Child Care and Development Block Grant (42 USC §9857, 42 USC §9858), Military Spouse Hiring Act (H.R.1277 & S.596), Expanding Childcare in Rural America Act of 2023 (H.R.3922)
[White Paper: National Guard Child care Tax Credit](#)

Adopted by Annual Conference: 8/21/2024

Recommended by Resolutions Committee: 8/19/2024

Submitted by: NGB Title 10

Submission Date: 4/24/2024



Expedited Return of Deported Veterans to the U.S.

Resolution 24-04

Description

Call to stop deporting veterans and expedite the return of deported veterans to the U.S.

Business Case

Many U.S. military veterans are deported each year to countries where they lack family and access to military benefits. Additionally, black veterans are disproportionately affected and are often deported to countries where they face significant challenges and limited resources. Lawful permanent residents who serve in the military can apply for U.S. Citizenship, sometimes without the preliminary step of getting a green card, depending on whether they served in peace or wartime. Despite this, veterans who commit crimes after their service are often deported instead of having their cases heard in Veterans' Treatment Courts or other options that prioritize veteran support. Deported veterans, many suffering from service-connected disabilities such as PTSD, face significant hardships, including unemployment and lack of healthcare. They often struggle to afford the expensive flights the Department of Homeland Security designates for their return. The total count of deported veterans is unknown, but past policies did not consistently consider veteran status during deportation processes. Executive Order 14012 and the Immigrant Military Members and Veterans Initiative aim to prioritize the return of deported veterans, yet greater support is needed. H.R. 4569 (Veterans Service Recognition Act) seeks to address these issues by providing lawful permanent resident status to veterans facing deportation and ensuring their service is considered in deportation decisions.

Resolution

The Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States urges Congress to ensure honorably discharged veterans have their cases heard in Veterans Treatment Courts or other appropriate veterans' programs and be exempt from deportation without due process. Additionally, EANGUS advocates for the expedited return of deported veterans, including the utilization of Space A flights for their return, and calls for support of HR 4569 to cease automatic deportation and establish a pathway for naturalization, with particular attention to the disproportionate impact on Black veterans.

References

1. [White Paper: Deported Veterans](#)
2. [Spectrum News Clip: Deported Veterans](#)
3. [Berkeley Law Article: Deported Veterans](#)
4. [LA Progressive Article: Deported Black Veterans](#)
5. [SD Union Tribune: A Deported Veteran's Story](#)
6. [Video: Black Deported Vets of America](#)
7. [ACLU PR: VSRA](#)
8. [ACLU Endorsement Memo](#)

Adopted by Annual Conference: 8/21/2024

Recommended by Resolutions Committee: 8/19/2024

Submitted by: California

Submission Date: 4/29/2024



Expansion of Access to IVF and All Other Reproductive Healthcare

Resolution 24-05

Description

Calls for expansion of IVF and Family Building Services for Veterans', and the removal of the requirement that medical records must show infertility was caused during deployment.

Business Case

A 2014 government study of over 30,000 Iraq- and Afghanistan-era war veterans found that 15.8 percent of women and 13.8 percent of men reported they had experienced infertility — meaning they struggled to conceive with a partner for more than a year. Meanwhile, infertility among the general population was as low as 8 percent. The frenetic pace of serving in the military, combined with injuries and toxic exposures, doubles the rate at which service members experience infertility.

Toxic Deployment areas were confirmed and listed in the PACT ACT years after servicemembers left those areas. Due to this delay in confirming the toxicity, there should not be a requirement that veterans have something in their medical records showing that the infertility was caused by deployment. Veterans' only requirement should be to prove they were, in fact, deployed to the toxic area and /or combat zone.

Over the years, red tape and confusion with approvals and disapprovals have negatively impacted countless veterans who have started the IVF Process under approval and then were later told they were not approved. This has resulted in cases where eggs have been removed from Women Veterans and placed in a freezer, accumulating significant storage fees. The VA should cover the cost of storage and allow the veterans to complete the process. The VA has recently released expanded Reproductive Assistance Access, but it still falls short of what Active Duty Service Members are offered.

Resolution

The Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States urges Congress to significantly expand veteran access to fertility treatment and counseling options, including assisted reproductive technology like IVF, and to conduct a study on the long-term reproductive health needs of veterans.

References

- [1.White Paper: Expansion of Access to IVF](#)
- [2.Rep Brownley Fertility Study](#)
- [3. NIH Journal](#)
- [4.TBI and Pregnancy](#)
- [5.TBI Hormone Disregulation](#)
- [6.Military.com IVF VA Coverage Issues](#)
- [7.HB 1957 118th Congress](#)

Adopted by Annual Conference: 8/21/2024

Recommended by Resolutions Committee: 8/19/2024

Submitted by: California

Submission Date: 4/30/2024



Junior Enlisted Pay Raise

Resolution 24-06

Description

Calls to recognize the junior enlisted military pay disparity and its impact on quality of life and retention rates and seeks targeted pay raises for junior enlisted service members.

Business Case

Junior enlisted service members play a crucial role in maintaining the nation's defense and security. Recognizing the disparity in pay raises and the impact on junior enlisted personnel's quality of life and retention rates is imperative. Addressing this issue requires a targeted approach and can be achieved by (1) introducing targeted pay raises specifically for junior enlisted service members to address the growing disparity in compensation, (2) basing pay increases on factors such as rank, experience, and cost of living to ensure fair and competitive compensation for junior enlisted, (3) establishing a mechanism for regular reviews of the pay structure to identify and address any discrepancies in compensation, (4) advocating for budget allocations that prioritize fair and equitable compensation for junior enlisted, (5) recognizing that fair and competitive compensation is essential for enhancing the quality of life for junior enlisted service members and their families, and (6) emphasizing the importance of fair compensation in retaining skilled and experienced junior enlisted service members, thereby enhancing overall military readiness.

Resolution

The Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States urges Congress of the United States to enact legislation in support of a junior enlisted pay raise, including support of H.R. 7928 (118th Congress).

References

[AFSA: A Better Way To Give Pay Raises To Junior Enlisted \(19 March 2024\)](#)

Adopted by Annual Conference: 8/21/2024

Recommended by Resolutions Committee: 8/19/2024

Submitted by: Hawaii

Submission Date: 5/9/2024



Retention of 10% Tinnitus Disability

Resolution 24-07

Description

Calls to maintain the separate 10% disability rating for tinnitus, ensuring that veterans can continue to receive compensation for tinnitus regardless of its association with other conditions like hearing loss.

Business Case

As of fiscal year 2020, more than 1.3 million Veterans were receiving disability compensation for hearing loss, and more than 2.3 million received compensation for tinnitus, according to the Veterans Benefits Administration compensation report.

<https://www.research.va.gov/topics/hearing.cfm>

A proposed VA rule change involves removing the separate rating for tinnitus. If enacted, tinnitus will only be rated in conjunction with its underlying cause, such as hearing loss. For example, if hearing loss is non-compensable (rated at 0%), then tinnitus associated with it could be rated at 10%. However, if the hearing loss is compensable (rated at 10% or more), an additional rating for tinnitus will not be given.

Veterans currently receiving a 10% rating for tinnitus will be “grandfathered in” under the old system, meaning their ratings will not change. However, the new rules could mean veterans who have not yet received a rating for tinnitus will not be able to get a separate compensable rating for tinnitus in the future.

Resolution

The Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States strongly supports maintaining the 10% veteran disability rating for tinnitus.

References

[Tucker Law: Article on Proposed VA Rule Change](#)

[VA Proposals: Article 2022](#)

Adopted by Annual Conference: 8/21/2024

Recommended by Resolutions Committee: 8/19/2024

Submitted by: South Dakota

Submission Date: 5/10/2024



Retention of Enlistment/Retention Incentives when Accepting T32 AGR or Tech Jobs

Resolution 24-08

Description

Calls to allow the retention of bonuses and other incentives for individuals who accept T32 AGR or Technician positions to ensure that highly qualified candidates are not deterred from applying.

Business Case

Incentive contracts vary in wording but typically state that bonuses or other incentives will be forfeited if an individual accepts a T32 AGR or Technician position. This stipulation has created a significant barrier, limiting the pool of applicants for these positions. As a result, many highly qualified individuals who have earned substantial bonuses and incentives are reluctant to pursue these opportunities due to the financial penalties involved.

Resolution

The Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States urges Congress to allow the retention of incentives when hired into T32 AGR and Technician positions.

Adopted by Annual Conference: 8/21/2024

Recommended by Resolutions Committee: 8/19/2024

Submitted by: South Dakota

Submission Date: 5/10/2024



Retiree Continued Contributions to the Thrift Savings Plan

Resolution 24-09

Description

Seeks to allow retirees to continue contributing to TSP after retirement.

Business Case

Currently, members who retire are unable to continue contributing to their TSP accounts, despite the Thrift Savings Plan being a low-cost, highly beneficial option for Soldiers and Airmen. While they can roll their TSP funds into another civilian IRA, the inability to make individual contributions after separation limits their savings opportunities. This is particularly challenging for traditional guardsmen, who may not receive retirement pay until age 60. However, with modern technological advancements, it should be feasible to allow post-separation deposits, offering National Guard retirees a valuable and flexible savings option.

Resolution

The Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States urges Congress to Allow retirees the opportunity to contribute private funds to existing TSP accounts.

Adopted by Annual Conference: 8/21/2024

Recommended by Resolutions Committee: 8/19/2024

Submitted by: South Dakota

Submission Date: 5/10/2024



Military Occupation Compatibility with Civilian Certificates & Skills

Resolution 24-10

Description

Calls to create or expand training ETP opportunities for Military Occupation Skills that are closely related to civilian education, experience, and training.

Business Case

Many Military Occupations and Schools align closely with civilian education, experience, and training requirements, sometimes resulting in certifications. Implementing an Exception to Policy for cases where civilian skills directly correlate with MOS requirements could save significant training funds. This could involve abbreviated distance learning and/or testing to acquire military skill identifications. We should not limit this to specific trades like CDL or Journeyman but expand the discussion. For instance, a Soldier with nearly 20 years of experience owning and operating a fuel transportation company is still required to complete four weeks of MOS Qualification to become a certified Army fueler despite their extensive experience. While the COOL program helps Soldiers obtain civilian certifications, it doesn't always translate into military certifications, highlighting the need for more flexible policies.

Resolution

The Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States strongly supports legislation and policy initiatives that aim to connect the civilian and military skill sets to provide training exemptions and/or certifications for service members.

Adopted by Annual Conference: 8/21/2024

Recommended by Resolutions Committee: 8/19/2024

Submitted by: South Dakota

Submission Date: 5/10/2024



Automatic Re-Enrollment in TRICARE Reserve Select and Current Dental Carrier

Resolution 24-11

Description

Calls to mandate automatic re-enrollment into TRICARE Reserve Select and dental coverage for Service Members after completing Active Duty orders to ensure continuous health coverage for them and their families.

Business Case

Currently, when Service Members enrolled in TRICARE Reserve Select (TRS) are placed on Active Duty orders for more than 30 days, they are automatically switched to TRICARE Prime and Active Duty Dental coverage. However, when these orders end, health and dental coverage cease, and providers do not notify Service Members that they must reapply for TRS and dental coverage. As a result, many Service Members who attempt to reapply for TRS just before their orders end find their applications unprocessed due to their Active Duty status, leaving them and their families without health insurance coverage.

This issue highlights a significant disconnect between DEERS and TRICARE regarding the handling of Active Duty orders. Despite the supporting resolutions on this matter in 2017 and 2021, no changes have been implemented. It is crucial to continue advocating for automatic re-enrollment into TRS and dental coverage following Active Duty service to ensure that no Service Member or their family is left without essential health coverage.

Resolution

The Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States urges Congress to mandate TRICARE and dental carriers to auto-enroll servicemembers back into TRICARE Reserve Select and dental coverage if they were enrolled before long tour Active Duty orders where TRICARE Prime kicked in.

Adopted by Annual Conference: 8/21/2024

Recommended by Resolutions Committee: 8/19/2024

Submitted by: South Dakota

Submission Date: 5/10/2024



Addressing Inequities in the USAF's Credentialing Opportunities On-Line (COOL) Program

Resolution 24-12

Description

Calls to ensure that National Guard Airmen have equal access to the USAF Career Opportunities On-Line (COOL) Program, aligning their professional development opportunities with those available to Active Duty personnel.

Business Case

The United States Air Force (USAF) Career Opportunities On-Line (COOL) Program is an essential resource for enhancing the skills and employability of Airmen. It offers industry-recognized credentials and certifications that are crucial for career advancement. However, a significant disparity exists in the program's eligibility criteria, particularly affecting Airmen serving in the National Guard compared to those on Title 10 orders. Currently, drilling National Guard Airmen are excluded from accessing these valuable resources, creating a stark inequity within the USAF.

This exclusion represents a substantial barrier to the professional development and career progression of National Guard Airmen. It is imperative that lawmakers address this issue to ensure that all Airmen, regardless of their service component, have equal access to the professional development opportunities necessary to succeed in both their military and civilian careers.

Resolution

The Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States urges Congress and the USAF to review and expand policies regarding the eligibility of Airmen in the Reserve Components to participate in the USAF COOL Program.

References

[Whitepaper: Inequities in Benefits within USAF COOL](#)
[Title 31 USC 1105\(a\)](#)

Adopted by Annual Conference: 8/21/2024

Recommended by Resolutions Committee: 8/19/2024

Submitted by: Kentucky

Submission Date: 5/14/2024



Ensuring Full Military Retirement Pay for Veterans with Disabilities

Resolution 24-13

Description

Calls to eliminate the offset between military retirement pay and VA disability compensation, ensuring that all veterans receive full concurrent benefits regardless of their disability rating.

Business Case

The men and women who have served in the United States Armed Forces have made significant sacrifices in defense of our nation, often returning with injuries and disabilities incurred during their time in uniform. In recognition of their service and sacrifice, veterans are entitled to benefits designed to support them in their post-military lives.

However, current legislation reduces or offsets military retirement pay for veterans whose VA disability rating is less than 50%, resulting in unjust financial penalties. This policy not only undermines the principles of fairness and equity but also fails to fully honor the commitment we owe to those who have bravely served our nation.

To uphold our promise to these veterans, it is essential to enact legislation that allows for the full concurrent receipt of both military retirement pay and VA disability compensation, regardless of the disability rating. This change will ensure that all veterans receive the benefits they have earned without facing unnecessary financial hardship.

Resolution

The Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States urges Congress to eliminate the current practice of penalizing a military retiree's pay if they are considered less than 50% disabled by the VA by granting full concurrent receipt of VA disability compensation and military retirement pay.

References

[White Paper: Full Concurrent Receipt](#)

Title 38 USC [section 5304](#) and [5305](#); Title 10 USC [section 1414\(b\)](#)

Adopted by Annual Conference: 8/21/2024

Recommended by Resolutions Committee: 8/19/2024

Submitted by: Kentucky

Submission Date: 5/14/2024



Transfer of GI Bill Benefits After Retirement

Resolution 24-14

Description

Calls to allow service members who retire to transfer their benefits without any further service obligation.

Business Case

Currently, service members can transfer Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits to a dependent family member if they meet the following criteria: 1) They have completed at least six years of service at the time the transfer request is approved, 2) they agree to serve an additional four years, and 3) the dependent receiving the benefits is enrolled in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS).

However, these requirements create challenges for service members who are approaching retirement and wish to transfer benefits to dependents they may have later in life. Many service members may have earned these benefits before starting a family and should have the flexibility to transfer them as their family circumstances evolve. The current policy restricts this flexibility and places an undue burden on those who have dedicated their careers to serving our nation. It is essential to allow service members to transfer their earned benefits based on their family needs without being constrained by additional service requirements near retirement.

Resolution

The Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States urges Congress to allow service members who have reached retirement to transfer benefits to dependents that they have later in life and not accrue a further service obligation.

References

<https://www.va.gov/education/transfer-post-9-11-gi-bill-benefits/>

Adopted by Annual Conference: 8/21/2024

Recommended by Resolutions Committee: 8/19/2024

Submitted by: Nebraska

Submission Date: 5/14/2024



Disparity in Buying Back Title 32 AGR Service for Title 32/Title 5 Federal Retirement

Resolution 24-15

Description

Calls to correct the disparity in retirement credit for National Guard members who transition from Title 32 AGR service to Title 32 MILTECH, Title 32 NDS, or Title 5 NDS positions, ensuring their service is fully recognized in the FERS Retirement system.

Business Case

National Guard members who have served under Title 32 Active Guard/Reserve (AGR) and later transition to Title 32 MILTECH, Title 32 NDS, or Title 5 NDS positions within the FERS Retirement system currently face a significant disadvantage. Under current FERS policy and the U.S. Code, these members are unable to "buy back" their Title 32 AGR service time to count toward their federal retirement. The outdated justification for this policy is that Title 32 AGR is considered "State Active Duty." However, it is important to note that Title 32 AGR members can retire with full Title 10 retirement benefits after 20 years of Active Federal Service (AFS).

Allowing these service members to buy back their Title 32 AGR time would effectively reimburse the federal government for retirement-related costs, reducing the overall budgetary impact. This disparity in policy unfairly penalizes those who have dedicated years of service to the National Guard and should be addressed to ensure equitable retirement benefits for all Guard members. Congress must investigate and correct this issue to provide fair treatment for future National Guard retirees.

Resolution

The Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States urges Congress to correct the disparity in the computation allowance of Title 32 AGR Service towards Title 32 MILTECH, Title 32 NDS, and/or Title 5 NDS retirement.

References

[FERS Policy, Chapter 22, Creditable Military Service](#)

Adopted by Annual Conference: 8/21/2024

Recommended by Resolutions Committee: 8/19/2024

Submitted by: Virginia

Submission Date: 5/14/2024



Support of the Servicewomen and Veterans Menopause Research Act

Resolution 24-16

Description

Calls on Congress to enact H.R. 7596, the “Servicewomen and Veterans Menopause Research Act.”

Business Case

Medical readiness is one of the top issues regarding the National Guard's deployability. During the 118th Congress, H.R. 7596, “Servicewomen and Veterans Menopause Research Act,” was introduced to conduct research related to menopause, perimenopause, or mid-life women’s health and for other purposes. The biggest hurdle for this legislation is the offset of appropriations because funding has not previously been provided to the DoD or VA for this research, but we believe that the benefit far exceeds the expense.

Traditional Guardsmen are eligible to serve up until the age of 60. The transition into menopause typically occurs in women aged 45 – 55 and lasts for about 7 years. Women have traditionally been underrepresented in medical research. Comprehensive research into menopause and perimenopause is needed to highlight the physical, biological, psychological, and social changes that occur in National Guard Servicewomen during midlife and the impacts on their health.

Implementation of research programs related to menopause, perimenopause, or mid-life women’s health will provide data and knowledge about the current health of all National Guard Servicewomen and Women Veterans to enable the Defense Health Agency and the Veterans Affairs Center for Women Veterans to provide women-specific healthcare and services required.

Resolution

The Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States urges Congress to pass H.R. 7596, the “Servicewomen and Veterans Menopause Research Act,” or subsequently introduced legislation, and direct the Secretaries of Defense and the Veterans Affairs to take specific steps regarding research related to menopause, perimenopause, or mid-life women’s health, and for other purposes.

References

[H.R. 7596 “Servicewomen and Veterans Menopause Research Act”](#)

Adopted by Annual Conference: 8/21/2024

Recommended by Resolutions Committee: 8/19/2024

Submitted by: NGB Title 10

Submission Date: 5/26/2024



Information Clearinghouse and Opposition to “Defend the Guard Act” State Legislation

Resolution 24-17

Description

Declares EANGUS’ opposition Defend the Guard Act legislation and directs service as an information hub, providing timely updates to all member states on related legislative developments.

Business Case

The 10th Amendment Center and the Defend the Guard organization have introduced potentially harmful legislation in over 38 states. Although none have passed into law yet, the "Defend the Guard" legislation would prohibit a state's National Guard units from being deployed into active combat without a formal declaration of war by Congress, as outlined in the U.S. Constitution. While the intent behind this legislation is commendable, the approach of requiring a governor to withhold a state's National Guard from federal activation is counterproductive. Such actions could lead to the reallocation of critical missions from the state in question to other states without such restrictions, effectively "defunding" the National Guard of the state that adopts this law.

Given the ongoing threat of this legislation being introduced in multiple states, it is crucial to maintain constant communication among the states. EANGUS can play a pivotal role by acting as a clearinghouse, relaying timely and accurate information from state associations about the status of Defend the Guard legislation across the country. This proactive approach will help ensure that all EANGUS states, territories, and districts are fully informed and can respond effectively to these legislative challenges.

Resolution

EANGUS stands in opposition to Defend The Guard Act legislation introduced in member states and will aim to provide all member states with timely and accurate information that it receives from state associations concerning Defend the Guard Act legislation introduced in the respective state.

References

<https://tenthamentcenter.com/legislation/defend-the-guard/>

Adopted by Annual Conference: 8/21/2024

Recommended by Resolutions Committee: 8/19/2024

Submitted by: Montana

Submission Date: 5/27/2024



Payroll Allotments for National Guard and Reserve Members

Resolution 24-18

Description

Calls to grant National Guard and Reserve members the same ability as active-duty personnel to establish allotments from their military pay.

Business Case

Active-duty service members have the option to set up allotments from their military pay for various purposes, such as repaying military loans or covering insurance premiums. However, National Guard and Reserve members are currently excluded from this option, with the sole exception being the State Sponsored Life Insurance (SSLI) allotment. According to the Financial Management Regulation DOD 7000.14, this exclusion is due to "DJMS-RC system limitations." Yet, the fact that SSLI allotments are possible demonstrates that technical solutions already exist.

These "system limitations" are outdated regulatory and policy constraints that have not been adequately addressed. Given the advancements in technology and automation, there is no reason why the current financial system cannot be updated to allow National Guard and Reserve members to establish allotments from their pay. While it is understood that there may be instances when these members do not receive a paycheck, such as during months without drill, the impact on their allotments would be no different than the potential catch-up deductions that active-duty members face under similar circumstances, such as during AWOL or government shutdowns.

Resolution

The Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States urges Congress to ensure that National Guard and Reserve members have the same opportunity as active-duty members to have allotments established from their military pay.

References

[White Paper: Pay Allotments for NG/Reserve Members](#)

Adopted by Annual Conference: 8/21/2024

Recommended by Resolutions Committee: 8/19/2024

Submitted by: Arizona

Submission Date: 5/31/2024



Saving Tuition Assistance and Education Benefits

Resolution 24-19

Description

Urges the U.S. Army and Air Force to expand, rather than reduce, existing educational benefits

Business Case

The Army Credentialing Assistance program is a vital resource for enlisted soldiers seeking the credentials and qualifications necessary for their civilian and military careers. However, the Army currently proposes reducing the program's funding from \$4,000 annually to just \$1,000, with a lifetime cap of \$4,000. Such a drastic reduction would severely limit the program's effectiveness, undermining its usage, benefits, and overall objectives.

Education is one of the primary incentives for individuals to join the military, and the ability of National Guard soldiers and airmen to gain valuable credentials at no personal cost is a key retention tool. This program not only enhances their proficiency in both military and civilian roles but also supports their long-term career development. Reducing the program to a one-time use or severely limiting its funding would eliminate its value as a retention incentive and hinder service members' ability to obtain even basic credentials. It is crucial to maintain or increase, not reduce, the current funding levels for the Army Credentialing Assistance program to ensure that it continues to serve as an effective tool for retaining skilled and qualified soldiers within the ranks.

Resolution

The Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States calls on the U.S. Army and Air Force to expand, rather than reduce, existing educational programs. This expansion will enhance retention, education, and overall improvement for our service members.

References

<https://eangus.org/could-a-new-army-education-funding-policy-lead-to-less-certifications-for-soldiers/>

<https://www.military.com/daily-news/2024/04/01/army-eyes-dramatic-cuts-key-education-benefits-soldiers.html>

<https://www.military.com/daily-news/2024/04/08/army-weighing-cuts-tuition-assistance-move-could-slash-benefits-used-100000-soldiers-annually.html>

Adopted by Annual Conference: 8/21/2024

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Submitted by: Florida

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Wearable Less-Than-Lethal Tactical Response Systems

Resolution 24-20

Description

Calls to increase funding for the development and production of wearable, less-than-lethal response systems.

Business Case

The U.S. Army and Marine Corps are working to reduce the weight of gear worn or carried in combat (see GAO White Paper GAO-17-431, May 2017). Ground personnel currently carry an average of 120 lbs of gear. A large portion comes from personal protective equipment (PPE), such as vests, hard and soft armor, and helmets. Additional equipment includes cell phones, cameras, radios, ammunition, weapons, food, water, and miscellaneous items. Efforts are underway to integrate equipment and explore initiatives like improved logistics, aerial delivery capabilities, and load transfer systems to lessen this burden.

This resolution suggests exploring wearable less-than-lethal tactical response systems (WLLTRS), which integrate a ballistic exoskeleton worn on the forearm. Basic models operate as stand-alone data terminals and communication hubs with a high-resolution, low-power AMOLED screen interface. Features include situational awareness location information, HD camera/recording, mapping, identification/targeting laser, visual disruptor/illumination, and 750KV drive stunner. Customizable features include facial recognition, FLIR camera, TASER, and detection of explosives, toxic airborne chemicals, illicit drugs, and cell phones. The goal is to reduce the weight carried by service members and ensure a comfortable fit.

Resolution

The Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States urges Congress to increase funding for the development and production of WLLTRS. Meet the intent of the National Defense Authorization Agreement and GAO-17-431 to reduce the weight of PPE and other carried items while enhancing ground forces' capabilities in security, crowd control, corrections, law enforcement, and combat scenarios.

References

<https://www.gao.gov/assets/gao-17-431.pdf>

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Safety Beacon

Resolution 24-21

Description

Calls on the U.S. Army and Air Force to allocate funding for personal light beacons for service members.

Business Case

Ensuring the safety of U.S. service members and mitigating training or combat hazards is a top priority. One effective measure is the use of small individual light beacons capable of marking individuals or locations with visible and/or infrared (IR) spectrum lighting. These beacons enable service members and commanders to operate in low-to-no-light conditions and improve personnel recovery efforts.

Historically managed by aviation officers, the need for small, non-intrusive beacons for daily training and combat operations has become critical for safety and survivability. These beacons are essential for preventing service members from becoming lost during training, such as land navigation exercises, or injured in vehicle accidents during black-out operations. The beacons should be small, not exceeding two inches in any dimension, and capable of attaching securely to field gear or a physical fitness uniform. They should also be rechargeable via a standardized connection, such as USB-C, and can operate continuously for 21 days (3 weeks) of night operations. Implementing these beacons will significantly enhance the safety and effectiveness of service members in both training and combat scenarios.

Resolution

The Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States urges the U.S. Army and Air Force to allocate funding to provide small individual light beacons for all service members to utilize during training and combat scenarios.

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