

## **Issue 657: Reserve Component Inactive Duty for Training Travel and Transportation Allowances**

**a. Status.** Complete

**b. Entered.** AFAP XXVI, Jan 10

**c. Final action.** 20 Jun 13 AFAP GOSC

**d. Scope.** There is no legal authority for travel and transportation allowances for RC Soldiers conducting In-active Duty for Training (IDT) when the training duty station, drill site or assigned unit location is over 50 miles from home of record. Soldiers often travel significant distances from home of record to duty locations due to unit relocation, individual assignments and other factors. Traveling these distances imposes safety risks such as accidents caused by sleep deprivation and decreased levels of alertness. Soldiers can incur out-of-pocket expenses that exceed the actual pay received. Providing travel and transportation allowances for RC Soldiers will alleviate financial burdens and mitigate risks associated with traveling to and from the training duty station.

**e. Conference Recommendation.** Authorize travel and transportation allowances for RC Soldiers traveling over 50 miles for IDT.

**f. Progress.**

(1) Certain housing benefits are authorized to RC 335 members. USC Title 37 "Pay and Allowances of the Uniformed Services" states that the individual service may provide the RC member "lodging in kind" during the performance of duties if transient Government housing is unavailable.

(2) Title 37 USC 452, dated 31 Dec 11 provides permanent authority for reimbursement of travel expenses (up to \$300 per drill) for certain RC Soldiers who are: (1) qualified in a skill designated as critical; (2) assigned to a unit or in a Reserve pay grade with a critical manpower shortage; or (3) assigned to a unit or position that is disestablished or relocated due to Defense Base Realignment and Closure, and the member is required to commute outside the local commuting distance.

(3) All Army Activities (ALARACT) 249/2008 provides implementation guidance and limits the program to Soldiers who travel more than 150 miles (one-way) to their unit.

(4) Army Reserve has \$25M in the FY14-18 Program Objective Memorandum (POM) as a "command emerging requirement."

(5) On 19 Apr 12 the Chief of the Army Reserve (CAR) initiated an IDT Travel Reimbursement Pilot Program from 1 May 12 until 31 Dec 12. Because of limited available funding and the need to control and test this important authority, the program was only offered to approximately 775 Soldiers in Hard-to-Fill Units or with critical skill shortages. It's expected that this program will be one of several used to increase AR

end strength. Soldiers enrolled in the program are expected to fill vacant positions and remain in the unit longer, enhancing collective training and operational readiness.

(6) On 27 Aug 12 USAR representative briefed Army Vice Chief of Staff (VCSA) at the AFAP GOSC. USAR recommended continued monitoring and examination of the pilot program while the Army Reserve determines how to best expand the program beyond 31 Dec 12. VCSA concurred with the recommendation.

(7) The CAR extended the IDT Travel (Reimbursement) Program for critical skills and hard-to-fill units on 1 Jan 13. The program is still in its early stage of expansion after the CY12 pilot and continues to achieve positive results. The current CY13 program has goals that include enrolling 2,600 Soldiers by 31 Dec 13, and retaining 1,300 due to their enrollment. To date, 932 Soldiers (35.8% of goal) are participating in the program and 542 Soldiers (41.7% of goal) have been retained.

**g. Resolution.** Funding is available in the POM for 14-18 to allow for the continuation of this reimbursement.

**h. Lead agency.** DAAR - RM