



WISCONSIN NATIONAL GUARD ASSOCIATION, INC.

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MEMORANDUM FOR: WINGA Membership

28 March 2020

FROM: WINGA Legislative Committee Co-Chairs

1. The committee is focused on Army, Air and Joint issues for the Wisconsin National Guard. Top issues include:

2. **Protect National Guard priorities in the 2020 Defense Budget from DoD Reprogramming.** The 2020 DoD appropriation funds \$1 billion for National Guard modernization programs, including upgraded Humvees, new C-130Js and the National Guard and Reserve Equipment Account. The President has ordered DoD to reprogram these funds to other priorities.

UPDATE: In February 2020, Sen. Dick Durbin (D-IL) introduced the Restoring Military Priorities Act of 2020 to restore \$3.8 billion in DoD reprogrammed funds to their original purpose and to prevent future efforts to reallocate established appropriations.

3. ***Provide pay and benefit equity by providing the same hazard-duty incentive pay (HDIP) to Reserve Component personnel as is received by Active Duty personnel.*** As part of their service, qualified Active Component, National Guard, and Reserve servicemembers are entitled to HDIP while performing hazardous duties such as flying duty, parachute jumping, and demolition of explosives. However, Guardsmen and Reservists are only awarded 1/30th of HDIP compared to their Active Component counterparts, while still being required to perform the same requirements and being subject to the same risk.

UPDATE: In February 2020, Sen. Kevin Cramer (R-ND) and Sen. Joe Manchin (D-WV) Steve Daines and Rep. Trent Kelly (R-MS) introduced S.3308/H.R. 5887 to allow Guard and Reserve members to be awarded HDIP at the same rate as their Active Component counterparts. This legislation can help increase retention in hazard duty fields critical to the readiness of all of our Armed Forces.

4. ***Provide for military retirement equity for State Active Duty Service:*** National Guard members currently only receive credit towards military retirement for National Guard training and federal active duty, NOT when activated for State Active Duty (SAD). This fails to recognize the significance of this mandatory service and highlights a benefits disparity in the National Guard pension system.

UPDATE: This issue was introduced to the attention of Wisconsin's Congressional Delegation in 2019. WINGA members can provide vital support by contacting their federal representatives.

5. *Protect full-time National Guard (FTNG & AGR) benefits:* Full-time National Guard members – AGR & FTNG – risk losing their federal benefits when the Governor orders them to State Active Duty (SAD) longer than 72 hours because their federal order must be terminated and a state order issued for them to continue their SAD mission. Alternatively, these full-time Guard members do not participate in the SAD mission and critical leadership roles that contribute to the cohesive and high-performing teams go unfilled and the deploying units are less capable.

UPDATE: This issue was introduced to the attention of Wisconsin's Congressional Delegation in 2019. WINGA members can provide vital support by contacting their federal representatives.

**Col Erik Peterson
Co-Chair
WINGA Legislative Committee**

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