Senators seek Guard severance benefits

Immediate pension for 20 years' service should gain support of many reservists

Courtesy of National Guard magazine

Senators John Glenn (D-Ohio) and Sam Nunn (D-Georgia) have introduced Senate Bill 2711 that would provide transition benefits for National Guard and Reserve members leaving the Selected Reserve. And a provision of the bill would offer an immediate retirement annuity for reservists with 20 or more years of service before they reach age 60.

Sen. John McCain (R-Arizona), the ranking minority member on the Senate Armed Services Committee manpower and personnel sub-committee, introduced Senate Bill 2697, which would provide several similar benefits.

Glenn said: “We feel strongly that people who have served our country well and rely on the Guard and Reserve compensation as an important source of income should not be thrown empty-handed into an unstable job market. The least we can do is offer them a little breathing room.”

The main provision of S.2711 is a prohibition on deactivating any Selected Reserve unit or involuntarily separating any Selected Reserve member before the secretary of defense has “promptly, implemented and transmitted to the committees on Armed Services ... regulations that govern the treatment of members ... that are being subjected to such action.”

Secretary of Defense Dick Cheney believes that such a transition program for selected reservists is too expensive. No plan was ever submitted to Congress when the Cheney-Powell Guard and Reserve reductions were submitted to Congress.

Other provisions of S.2711 are an immediate retirement annuity for reservists with 20 or more years of service before they reach age 60, which would encourage early retirement and reduce involuntary separations. It would include the voluntary vesting in the reserve retirement program and receipt of retired pay at age 60 for members who have at least 15 but fewer than 20 years of service.

It would provide for severance pay for members with between six and 15 years of service. The plan would also continue Montgomery G.I. Bill benefits for personnel unable to complete the six years of service otherwise required. It would offer one-year transitional coverage under the Servicemen's Group Life Insurance program for personnel who are terminated.

The plan would also provide a one-year transitional commissary and exchange privilege for personnel who are terminated.

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Exchange privileges extended to reserves

Some Air Force reservists and their dependents may not know they are entitled to unlimited privileges at base exchanges and revenue-generating morale, welfare and recreation facilities.

National Guard and Reserve members in good standing and their dependents may use exchange and MWR facilities such as golf courses and temporary lodging facilities on the same basis as active-duty members.

The privileges also apply to "gray area" reservists — those with 20 "good" years of service but who can't retire until age 60 — and their dependents.

Modifying women's top coat is approved

Air Force Reg. 35-10 has been changed to allow women to convert the double-breasted top coat to single-breasted for wear during pregnancy. To modify the coat, remove the buttons on the coat front. Three buttons should then be attached to the left.

The top button should be sewn at the middle of the buttonhole, going around the buttonhole stitching. The other buttons should be sewn so they align vertically with the top button, about one and one-half inches from the front edge, and aligned with the buttonholes on the right side. The coat may be belted in the back.
Commander's Column

It's easy to forget the cost of freedom

In this day where peace seems to be the trend amongst the prominent nations of the world, it's easy to forget the dedication and sacrifice that it took to get us here.

Going through my files I found an article written by Lt. Col. Michael B. Larkin that I thought would be worth sharing with you.

"We all may know the value of a dollar or an ounce of gold, but what price do we place on the freedom of our nation?"

Our forefathers, of course, made the initial downpayment for us more than 200 years ago. However, on several notable occasions since then, we've had to pay some rather expensive and unexpected maintenance costs to protect that investment.

"While it is relatively easy to tabulate the monetary value expended throughout our history to achieve and maintain our freedom, the toll in terms of human sacrifice has been incalculable. All of us owe a great deal to those in the military who have gone before. Many of them paid the ultimate price so that future generations could prosper in a free nation."

As we enter an era of improved relations with our adversaries, and prospects for continued peace seem better than ever, it is all too easy to forget that freedom has never been free.

While we all hope and pray that we never will have to fight the conflict we have trained so hard to deter, we must be ready and willing, if called upon, to do so.

"We must also be prepared to make the supreme sacrifice if necessary. As members of the military, there is no greater obligation."

You and your neighbors should be proud of what you do and what you are prepared to do. We should all pray that the day never comes, but rest assured that you are ready.

Each drill weekend you take time from your busy schedule to come and prepare yourself to do your duty. Your dedication and commitment are what will keep this country free for future generations.

My hat's off to those of you who volunteered your time and talents to assist with the Vietnam Wall Memorial when it was in town last month. Your assistance helped us to remember those who sacrificed.

Chaplain's Comments

We all know that we cannot predict the future. Therefore, some would hibernate, worry, curl up, fold up or dry up. Others grab each day, handle life and accept each hour as a challenge.

Why do some see life as a challenge while others see it as something threatening? Perhaps this little poem can give us insight.

"How to Live"

Don't be basful. Rite in.
Pick it up with your fingers and let the juice run down your chin.
Life is ready and ripe NOW.
Whenever you are.
You don’t need a knife or a fork or spoon or napkin or tablecloth.
For there is no core, or stem, or pit, or seed, or skin to throw away.
Mills is pinned Guard’s first female general

The National Guard has its first female general officer. Ceremonies were conducted at the Pentagon in April for the pinning of Brig. Gen. Roberta Mills, a member of the Tennessee Air National Guard. Lt. Gen. John Conaway, chief of the National Guard Bureau and a former commander of the Kentucky Air National Guard, joined Mills’ husband in pinning the new general. Her husband, Dr. Dan Mills, is a retired Army National Guard major general.

A month later, a female colonel also was promoted to brigadier general by the Wisconsin Army National Guard, making her the first female general in that branch of service (See related story on Page 5).

Mills has been assigned to serve as the Air National Guard assistant to the chief, Air Force Nurses Corps. She was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Air Force Reserve in 1962 and joined the Tennessee ANG in 1956. Mills served most of her military career in the 164th Tactical Clinic at Memphis. In civilian life, she is director of nursing administrative services at Baptist Memorial Hospital in Memphis.

The general graduated in 1980 from Sacred Heart Dominican College and received her master’s degree in nursing from St. Louis University.

Promotions

The following members are promoted in the Kentucky Air National Guard and as a reservist of the U.S. Air Force. Congratulations for a job well done.

To Airman (E-2)
Matthew Bishop, 123rd RMS

To Airman 1st Class (E-3)
Paul Bowling, 123rd MAPS
John Price, 123rd MAPS
Joanna Wigginton, 165th TAS

To Senior Airman (E-4)
Keith Bailey, 123rd SPF
Steven Copas, 123rd SPF
Letitia Lundegard, 123rd MAPS
Anna Marie Smith, 123rd TAC HOSP

To Staff Sgt. (E-5)
Robert Charles, 123rd MAPS
Douglas Curtis, 123rd MAPS
Terry Rogers-Lackey, 123rd MSS
Christopher Lally, 165th TAS
Patrick Maloney, 165th TAS

Free-lance writers sought

The KyANG Public Affairs Office is always seeking news coverage from members with journalistic talent. With only a part-time staff here, the PA office relies on TDY personnel to report on unit deployments and to furnish photos of men and women of the 123rd. We want to tell their story.

If you are serving abroad or even at Standiford Field and would like to report on a newsworthy matter, contact Tech Sgt. Jeff Sansbury or Maj. Jeff Butcher at 339-9270 or ext. 431. As a public affairs representative, proper credit will be given to the author and photographer whose work is published in the Cargo Courier.

Next UTA is Sept. 12-13

The Cargo Courier
Aug. 1, 1992
Looking back 40 years ago

Men and Thunderjets: Standing on the flightline at Manton RAF Station in England, a KYANG squadron presented a sharp formation in its Air Force blues in 1952. The 165th Fighter Squadron deployed around the globe during the Korean War while flying F-84 Thunderjets.

Veterans memorial to be dedicated at Camp Atterbury

A Veterans Memorial will be dedicated Aug. 15 at 9 a.m. at Camp Atterbury in Southern Indiana.

Vice President Dan Quayle, who served as a Guard military journalist at the camp, and Indiana Gov. Evan Bayh will be the keynote speakers for the ceremony.

Following the dedication, an open house will be held at the camp.

“This is our 50th golden anniversary,” said Col. Jorg Stachel, the post commander. “We are remembering all the veterans who trained here during World War II, Korea, Vietnam and Operation Desert Storm.”

The day’s events will include flyovers by Indiana Army National Guard helicopters and F-16s from the Indiana Air National Guard.

Media exaggerated number of medals awarded to war vets, top military official claims

American Forces Information Service

“We have long recognized that a judicious use of military decorations and awards provides incentives to greater efforts and morale,” said Nicholas Timenes. He said recent news articles exaggerate the number of medals awarded following the Persian Gulf operations.

Awards are not being given out like candy, said Timenes, DoD’s principal director for military manpower and personal policy. Each individual and unit award recommendation is carefully reviewed to preserve the importance of military decorations.

What inflates the number of awards and may confuse the issue are two service medals authorized during the gulf crisis, Timenes added.

The new Southwest Asia Service Medal was given to the more than 500,000 military members who actually served in the designated war zone. The National Defense Service Medal was awarded to every active duty and Selected Reserve member who was on duty after Aug. 2, 1990 -- more than 2 million people are eligible. Both medals are considered individual awards.

Unit awards, which are service ribbons, commend an entire unit for heroism or achievement during the crisis.

“They are not intended to recognize individual actions but to acknowledge the combined efforts of the organization,” Timenes said. A 100-member company that receives a unit award issues 100 ribbons -- and the award tally goes up by 100 “awards.”

“Only those military organizations whose outstanding performance has clearly set them above and apart from similar units are receiving unit award honors,” he remarked.
Army names Vander Zyl as first female general

Col. Sharon Vander Zyl of Wisconsin will be the first female in the Army National Guard to be promoted to the rank of brigadier general. She has been selected as special assistant to the chief of the Army Nurses Corps for National Guard Affairs in Washington, D.C.

Vander Zyl, who currently is the chief nurse for the Wisconsin Army National Guard, will represent the National Guard on nursing matters which come before the Nurses Corps.

She plans to continue her civilian career as a nurse psychotherapist and board member for a counseling center in Madison. Her husband, Rolland, is a retired member of the Wisconsin Air National Guard.

Survey of airmen sheds light on women's role in combat

By Tech Sgt. Sarah Hood
Air Force News Service

Results of two Air Force surveys peg fighter aviators as the group least likely to accept women flying combat aircraft, while women aviators are the most supportive of the idea.

"The bottom line is equal pay, equal opportunity for equal ability," a surveyed female KC-135 pilot said.

But while an F-4 pilot who deployed to the Persian Gulf conflict believes women could do their job in combat, he said, "It's their effect on everyone else that should exclude them from combat duty in all-male units."

The surveys were prompted by the passage of the Department of Defense 1992 Authorization Act which repealed the exclusion for women flying combat aircraft. Following the repeal, a presidential commission was created to study the feasibility of putting women on the front lines of warfare.

One survey was directed at commanders while the other was distributed to a broad audience of males, females, officers and enlisted members. The specific subject area explored was assigning women to combat positions and the effect it may have on unit morale and cohesion.

Regarding combat performance, a female operations management staff officer expressed a positive view. "With our smaller, more global force, the luxury of having any non-combat airmen is gone. Everyone must be prepared to arm and fight responsibly," the officer said.

On the other hand, a male staff sergeant working in airlift aircraft maintenance was not convinced. "They were hurting our operations for sure," the NCO said. "We had to redo their work almost all of the time. Luckily, we were able to correct the problems quickly."

And a security policeman advocates individually over gender as the "determining factor when it comes down to 'who stays' and 'who goes.'" Survey results show an obvious difference in opinions between male fighter aviators and female aviators concerning the assignment of women to combat units.

Specifically, congress tasked the commission to determine the effect (women in combat) on unit morale and BT.
History of KyANG

Terrorist threat real in Germany, CES avoids danger at 1985 AFT

By Tech Sgt. John Martin
123rd Wing Historian

In 1961, 60 members from the KyANG participated in "Swift Strike" at Shaw AFB, S.C. during the period of Aug. 6-20. This exercise was a joint Air Force and Guard field training exercise where eight B-57 aircraft were flown to Shaw in order to fly a minimum of 12 reconnaissance sorties daily.

Nearly 30,000 Army personnel, supported by 400 aircraft, also took part in the operation which raged across North and South Carolina. Six airborne battle groups were dropped during the two-week mock battle designed to test the United States' effectiveness in fighting a "limited war."

On Aug. 5, 1965, news was revealed that the KyANG decided to stay home for its annual field training -- the first time since 1950. The reason for the change was that the Guard had recently switched to the new RF-101 "Voodoo" aircraft, and the training required to fly and maintain the planes was beneficial by staying at Standiford Field.

GO BIG BLUE!!! No, not Air Force blue, but the blue as in the University of Kentucky Wildcats. So, what does athletics have to do with the military? On August 15, 1981, a group of guardsmen from the KyANG attending a Red Flag training exercise at nellis AFB, Nev., saw an alumni basketball game between UK and UNLV at the latter's home court. UK won the game (of course) 127-121, and among the KyANG spectators was Col. John L. Smith, who was observed leading the KyANG personnel in rousing cheers for the UK team.

The local media did a feature on the game, even showing a close-up of Maj. Gary Taylor leading a cheer for the Kentucky boys. After the game, the team invited the entire KyANG group to a victory celebration at its hotel.

In case you were wondering, the alumni players included Dan Isell, Louis Dampier, Kevin Greer, James Lee, Jack Givens and Jimmy Dan Conner.

On Aug. 8, 1985, while on deployment to West Germany, members from the 123rd Civil Engineering Squadron experienced a real-world situation for which they were not prepared -- a terrorist bombing outside the U.S. military headquarters building at Rhein-Main Air Base in Frankfurt. A terrorist car bomb exploded, killing 2 Americans and wounding several others only 25 yards from the KyANG barracks.

Members of the 123rd CES heard the explosion as they were preparing to start their duty day, but no one was hurt from the group. Three days later, the CES members arrived back in Louisville, one guardsman going so far as to kiss the ground as he left the aircraft.

It was just two years ago this month that the KyANG placed an additional 1,000 man-days of voluntary labor as the unit began preparations for Operation Desert Shield. During August 1990, the 165th Tactical Air Refueling Squadron would fly more than 83 missions in support for Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

Photo is from the KyANG historical archive.
Stars and Stripes:
The next 50 years of news for GIs

By Rud Williams
American Forces Information Service

It all started on April 18, 1942, when a handful of journalists in uniform assembled in a cramped newsroom located in a private print shop in bomb-blighted London. Their mission: to put out the first four-page weekly edition of The Stars and Stripes newspaper.

This year marks the 50th year of continuous publication of the GI's newspaper. But Stars and Stripes' history can be traced back to the Civil War, when four Union Army soldiers published a one-shot sheet they called Stars and Stripes on Nov. 9, 1861, in Bloomfield, Mo.

The World War II paper can trace its lineage directly to World War I, where it first appeared Feb. 8, 1918, in Paris as a weekly put out by an all-military staff.

The newspaper folded after World War I, but the European edition was reborn 24 years later. The Stars and Stripes Pacific edition started publishing in Tokyo in 1945, as American troops began taking their posts in occupied Japan.

Now, some 50 years later, the once skimpy four-page "Authorized Unofficial Newspaper of the U.S. Forces in Europe, North Africa and the Middle East" has taken giant strides from four pages to 12, 16, 24 and 28 pages. It features international, national and local news, features, sports, movie reviews, letters to the editor and 16 pages of comics on Sunday. The Pacific edition is also 28 pages.

The papers hold the distinction of being one of the more economical chronicles of historical events in the world. They maintain their cost of 5 cents per copy for more than 20 years. Sunday papers — 44 pages with full-color comics — cost a dime. But inflation has hit the GI's hometown newspaper, too. Today, the papers cost 35 cents per day and 50 cents Sundays.

Some former staffers went on to journalistic fame, such as Andy Rooney of CBS' "60 Minutes"; Pulitzer Prize winning cartoonist Bill Mauldin; and author and former Stars and Stripes managing editor Ken Zumwalt.

Because of the military drawdown, the combined daily circulation of both papers has dropped from nearly 180,000 to about 125,000 in the past several years.

In addition to distributing papers to areas where there are heavy troop concentrations, the European edition covers such far-flung places as Madrid; Rome; Keflavik, Iceland; and Kuwait City, Kuwait. The Pacific edition has readers in Kwajalein, Hong Kong, Bangkok, Jakarta, Korea, Japan, Guam, New Zealand, the Philippines and Australia. Over the years, Stars and Stripes has been read in more than 50 nations, but copyright laws preclude it from being sold inside the United States.

The paper has been transported by truck, train, airplane; it was carried on mule back to remote points in Turkey.

In 1963, Stars and Stripes decided to raise money by opening a bookstore chain. The idea grew into a multimillion-dollar business. By the end of fiscal 1993, European Stars and Stripes bookstore revenue is expected to total $48.1 million, down from $52.9 million in fiscal 1991. Bookstore revenue in the Pacific is expected to drop from $18.5 million in fiscal 1991 to $15.9 million during fiscal 1993. Both are casualties of the military drawdown.

European Stars and Stripes will close nearly 30 bookstores during fiscal 1992, with another 15 shutting in fiscal 1993. The Pacific edition operates 33 stores and will lose five.

"The bookstores add significant revenues to the operation and help keep the papers economically sound," said Air Force Col. Marvin J. Harris, head of the office that sets the papers' plans and policies. Also, the Stars and Stripes have channeled several million dollars into military welfare funds.

But in spite of financial challenges, these papers are "fertile into the future with renewed vigor and enhanced freedom to do a better job," Harris said.

He added that both papers are expected to remain in business as long as large numbers of American troops are stationed overseas.
U.S. historical facts

It happened in August

**AUG 01**
Army's Aeronautical Division, forerunner of U.S. Air Force, established, 1907.

**AUG 02**
Iraq invades Kuwait, 1990.

**AUG 03**
USS Nautilus, world's first atomic submarine, makes world's first voyage to North Pole under polar icecap, 1958.

**AUG 04**
U.S. Revenue Marine (later, U.S. Coast Guard) founded, 1790.

**AUG 05**
Abraham Lincoln signs first federal income tax into law, 1861.

**AUG 06**
First atomic bomb dropped, Hiroshima, Japan, 1945.

**AUG 07**
Marines land on Guadalcanal during World War II, begins U.S. Solomons campaign, 1942.

**AUG 08**
Second atomic bomb dropped, Nagasaki, Japan, 1945.

**AUG 10**

**AUG 11**
Six days of riots begin in Watts area of Los Angeles; 94 people killed, 1965.

**AUG 14**
President Harry S. Truman announces unconditional surrender of Japan, ending World War II, 1945.

**AUG 15**
Final link in transcontinental railroad made at Strasburg, Colo., 1870.

**AUG 17**
Army Air Force conducts first U.S. bombing raid of Europe during World War II, 1942.

**AUG 19**
A coup attempt in the Soviet Union attempts to remove Mikhail Gerhachev from power, 1991.

**AUG 20**

**AUG 21**
Marines turn back first Japanese ground attack at Guadalcanal during World War II, 1942.

**AUG 22**
Germany begins offensive against Russian city of Stalingrad during World War II; more than 1 million killed or wounded during five-month siege.

**AUG 24**
First electrically powered Navy ship, collier Jupiter, launched, 1912.

**AUG 26**
First televised major league baseball game features Cincinnati Reds and Brooklyn Dodgers, 1939.

**AUG 28**
Martin Luther King Jr. gives "I have a dream" speech in Washington, D.C., 1963.

**AUG 29**
U.S. Red Cross announces Japan has refused safe passage for ships with supplies for prisoners of war, 1942.