

EANGMT RESOLUTION 03-01

Pertaining to:

Double Retirement Points For Deployed Guard and Reserve Members

Background:

Members of the National Guard are proud to serve their country. They have provided a reserve force to the United States military and the citizens of this country for over 365 years. During the decade of the 90's, the active component military has become more reliant upon the National Guard and Reserve to accomplish their mission. As a result, the OPTEMPO increased ten-fold during that timeframe.

Recent worldwide situations have placed an ever-increasing demand on both the National Guard and Reserve. Deployment of National Guard and Reserve members has grown dramatically. Many of these deployments have been to regions of the world that are hostile to U.S. Military members. Combined with the previous decade of increased training requirements and real-world missions, our Guard and Reserve members are tasked to the maximum.

The use of stop-loss procedures has served to project an artificially high retention rate in the National Guard and Reserve. Meeting future end-strength goals in the Guard and Reserve will get more difficult as the United States continues their war on terrorism and Weapons of Mass Destruction. One unique and cost-effective option to promote the retainability of Guard and Reserve members deployed to hazardous or hostile duty areas lies in enhanced retirement benefits.

Guard and Reserve members who serve in a deployed location that is considered a hazardous or hostile area should be granted two retirement points for each day of duty performed during such deployments. One of those two points would be "banked" in an escrow retirement account. Those points would only be available to the member if they qualify for a non-regular military retirement (i.e. 20 years at age 60).

This bonus account, established upon the first deployment to a hazardous or hostile area, would provide the member an incentive to remain in service to their country until they qualified for non-regular retirement. Once qualified for retirement, the deployment points in the escrow account would be available for use for computation of their retirement annuity. If the member chooses to separate from the military prior to reaching the 20-year qualification, then the points in the escrow account would not have any fiscal impact on the DoD.

Recommendation:

That the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of Montana, in General Conference at Helena, Montana, this 25th day of January 2003, urge the Department of Defense to support double retirement point credit for deployed members of the guard and reserve.