

NCFA Staff Paper

Scope of Unit Off-Ramps from 2013-2015

WHAT THIS IS:

Unit off-ramps occur due to multiple reasons, including (1) theatre capability reductions, (2) personnel reductions for a specific Modified Table of Organization and Equipment (MTOE) or Deployment Manning Documents (DMD), (3) theater force cap reductions such as the mandated drawdown in Afghanistan, and (4) combatant command decisions. Off-ramps are received via redeployment orders (REDEPORD) from the combatant commands (CCMDs), typically in a classified document or email, and include all compositions for the affected Force Tracking Numbers (FTN).

In 2012, criteria was developed by the Headquarters, Department of the Army (HQDA) published in ALARACT 071/2012, HQDA EXORD 135-12 that stipulated off-ramps can occur outside of and including 180 days from mobilization without causing hardship to the affected Soldiers. However, off-ramps occurring within 180 days of a unit's mobilization date require HQDA to attempt to source the unit or Soldier against other requirements, or offer hardship assistance to impacted Soldiers.

The Fiscal Year 2014 (FY14) National Defense Authorization Act includes language prohibiting the cancelation of deployments ("off-ramps") for National Guard units in favor of active component units within 120 days from mobilization without the approval of the Secretary Defense, and notification of the committees of the armed services from the House and Senate.

BACKGROUND:

During the NGAUS Conference in Nashville the NCFA Commissioners were surprised that half of the 150 lieutenants and captains at the sensing session indicated they had personally been affected by a unit off-ramp. The information below provides quantitative data beyond the anecdotal evidence presented. The following definitions are used for the purposes of this paper:

TERMINOLOGY:

Curtailment – unit mission is shortened due to change to operational requirements after deployment.

Decrement – unit is directed to reduce the number of Soldiers required for mission.

Hardship – a negative impact on a Soldier and/or dependents resulting from early REFRAD due to change in operational requirements (unit curtailment, decrement, or off ramp).

Off Ramp – unit mission is cancelled due to change to operational requirements prior to mobilization or while at the mobilization station but not yet deployed.

Notification of Sourcing –

Re-mission – unit is given a new mission either intra-theater or from one theater to another after mobilization.

ARMY DATA BY COMPONENT:

Active Army

| | Unit Off-Ramp | Re-Mission | Curtailment | Decrement | Total Units | Total Soldiers | Hardships |
|-------|---------------|------------|-------------|-----------|-------------|----------------|-----------|
| FY 13 | | | | | | | |
| FY 14 | | | | | | | |
| FY 15 | | | | | | | |

Place holder table for Active Army data.

Army National Guard

| | Unit Off-Ramp | Re-Mission | Curtailment | Decrement | Total Units | Total Soldiers | Hardships |
|-------|---------------|------------|-------------|-----------|-------------|----------------|-----------|
| FY 13 | 68 | | 23 | | 225 | 19,940 | |
| FY 14 | 39 | | 30 | | 255 | 18,567 | |
| FY 15 | | | | | 99 | 7,180 | |

US Army Reserve

| | Unit Off-Ramp | Re-Mission | Curtailment | Decrement | Total Units | Total Soldiers | Hardships |
|-------|---------------|------------|-------------|-----------|-------------|----------------|-----------|
| FY 13 | 134 | 20 | 20 | 50 | 224 | 6805 | 3 |
| FY 14 | 109 | 20 | 39 | 22 | 190 | 5600 | 24 |
| FY 15 | 16 | 5 | 8 | 3 | 32 | 522 | 1 |

POSITION/PERSPECTIVE:

Off-ramps increased significantly in conjunction with the drawdowns in Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as the associated theater manning level caps. Decisions made at the highest levels of the United States government directly impact unit off-ramps that cause changes to theater force limits directly impacting Soldiers, families, and employers.

ALARACT 071/2012, DA EXORD 135-12, GUIDANCE FOR RESERVE COMPONENT (RC) FORCE UTILIZATION AND SOLDIER HARDSHIPS BASED ON CHANGES TO OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS (OFF RAMPS AND CURTAILMENTS)

DA EXORD 097-13 (OFF RAMP NLT 120 DAYS FROM MOB);

DA EXORD 098-13 (AC BEFORE RC)

NDAA for FY 2104

Subtitle B—Reserve Component Management

SEC. 511. MINIMUM NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR MEMBERS OF RESERVE COMPONENTS BEFORE DEPLOYMENT OR CANCELLATION OF DEPLOYMENT RELATED TO A CONTINGENCY OPERATION.

Section 12301 of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (e), by striking “The period” and inserting “Subject to subsection (i), the period”; and
(2) by adding at the end the following new sub section:

“(i)

(1) The Secretary concerned shall provide not less than 120 days advance notice to a unit of the reserve components that—

“(A) will be ordered to active duty for deployment in connection with a contingency operation; or

“(B) having been notified of such a deployment, has such deployment canceled, postponed, or otherwise altered.

“(2) If a member of the reserve components is not assigned to a unit organized to serve as a unit or is to be ordered to active duty apart from the member’s unit, the required notice under paragraph (1) shall be provided directly to the member.

“(3) If the Secretary concerned fails to provide timely notification as required by paragraph (1) or (2), the Secretary concerned shall submit, within 30 days after the date of the failure, written notification to the Committees on Armed Services of the House of Representatives and the Senate explaining the reason for the failure and the units and members of the reserve components affected.”