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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

20 August 2015

(U) ANNUAL TRAINING (AT) AND INACTIVE DUTY TRAINING (IDT). (U) Army National Guard (ARNG) conducts AT and IDT as units and personnel organized, administered, armed, equipped, and trained to federal Army standards. Federal training requirements are accomplished by assembling for drill or instruction one weekend a month. Weekend drills (Saturday and Sunday) constitute two training periods (8 hours) per day or four periods per weekend. These periods are described in Department of Defense Instruction 1215.06 as IDT, also referred as Unit Training Assemblies (UTAs). Besides the traditional drill weekend of 4 IDTs or UTAs, ARNG units and personnel also train at encampments or other exercises for at least 15 days per year. These 15-day ATs are performed as a single exercise. Members performing AT are considered to be on a full-time status and, therefore, their performance is organized by days, not periods (IDT or UTA). Drills and ATs performed under Title 32, Section 502 United States Code must be performed within the United States. The statutory minimum training requirement, established since 1916, has incrementally increased to the current 15 days of AT and 48 IDT periods per year.

Considerations:

- What impact would increasing the statutory minimum training requirements have on ARNG units and personnel?

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INFORMATION PAPER

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SUBJECT: Annual Training (AT) and Inactive Duty Training (IDT) Requirements in the Army National Guard (ARNG)

1. Purpose: To provide background information on AT and IDT requirements.

2. Facts:

a. Army National Guard (ARNG) units and personnel are organized, administered, armed, equipped, and trained to federal Army standards. Typically, ARNG units and personnel accomplish their federal training requirements by assembling for drill or instruction one weekend a month. Such weekend drills (Saturday and Sunday) typically constitute two training periods (total 8 hours) per day or four periods per weekend. These training periods, which are described in DoD Instruction 1215.06 as IDT, are also commonly referred to as Unit Training Assemblies (UTA).¹ In addition to the traditional drill weekend (comprised of 4 IDTs or UTAs), ARNG units and personnel also train at encampments or other exercises for at least 15 days per year. Typically these 15-day AT days are performed as a single annual training exercise. Members performing AT are considered to be on a full-time status and therefore their performance is organized by days, not periods (IDT or UTA). Drills and AT performed under Section 502 of Title 32, United States Code must be performed within the United States.

b. The statutory minimum training requirement for members of the National Guard (NG) is 15 days of AT and 48 IDT periods per year.² This minimum requirement has been in place since 1916, though in subsequent years there has been some change in compensation, the definition of what constitutes a drill period, and how many drill periods may be conducted in a single day.

c. A brief timeline of the evolution of the AT/IDT requirement follows. A much more detailed discussion of the subject can be found in Reference 3.a, below.

(1) The Militia Act of 1903 (The Dick Act) established the first federal requirement for NG units to perform training in order to be eligible to receive federal funding. The Dick Act specified that units conduct practice marches or camps of instruction (later termed “annual training”) for five consecutive days a year and assemble in their armories for drill or instruction not less than 24 times a year. National Guardsmen were authorized federal compensation at the same daily rate as for active duty personnel for attendance at the camps of instruction, but compensation was not

¹ NGR 350–1, “Army National Guard Training,” 4 August 2009.

² See 32 USC 502(a). DoDI 1215.06 characterizes NG AT as “FTNGD-AT.”

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permitted for attendance at required drill periods. Up until the 1950s, Guard and Reserve units typically conducted drill on weeknights, one night per week.

(2) The National Defense Act of 1916 increased the AT requirement to 15 consecutive days and the drill requirement to not less than 48 drills per year, each a minimum of 1.5 hours in duration. It authorized federal pay for drills at a flat annual rate. In 1920, the flat annual rate was changed in law to the formula that is essentially in use today, where compensation for each drill attended is made at 1/30 of the monthly base pay for the Soldier's grade.

(3) DoD policy since 1955 has permitted the military departments to conduct multiple training periods consisting of more than one paid drill, each to be of at least four hours in duration, within one day. DoD limited the practice to no more than two drill periods per day (the Navy, as early as 1930, had permitted up to three drills to be conducted by Naval Reservists in a single day; the Army refused to permit multiple unit assemblies in a single day until after the DoD policy was issued).

(4) The practice of grouping drill periods together and holding them on a weekend became increasingly prevalent in the ARNG after 1955. In 1966 the National Guard Bureau (NGB) mandated weekend drill for all NG units.

(5) ARNG units today typically meet their federal training requirements by performing 15 days of AT and 48 IDT periods per year. ARNG members performing IDT (or UTA) periods are required by federal law to perform a minimum of 1.5 hours per period; however,³ DoD requires members who perform IDT to perform no less than 4 hours per period in order to accrue pay.⁴ There is no statutory ceiling for the maximum number of periods or days that a NG member must perform for IDT or AT for the ARNG. However, DoDI 1215.06 sets a regulatory ceiling on the maximum number of AT days and IDT periods.⁵

(6) In addition, they sometimes perform additional IDT periods, which can include accomplishing post-mobilization mission requirements (categorized under additional training periods (ATPs), additional flying and flight training periods (AFTPs), and Readiness Management Periods (RMPs)) - all of which are further described in DoDI 1215.06 and NGR 350-1. They also often exceed the minimum training standards through Combined Training Center (CTC) training, Exportable Combat Training Capability (XCTC) training, and overseas deployment training (ODT)

³ 37 U.S.C. §206, which authorizes the basic pay for members of the NG, requires two hours per period.

⁴ RC service members may also voluntarily perform IDT for retirement points only (without pay). The minimum number of hours for this voluntary IDT will be no less than 2 hours, with a maximum of 2 points authorized in any 1 calendar day.

⁵ For example, DoDI 1215.06 sets the maximum number of additional IDT periods, depending on the specific category of duty. With the exception of aircrew members, the combination of ATPs and RMPs will not exceed 72 periods in a fiscal year per person. DoDI 1215.06 also sets the maximum ceiling on AT per person at 30 days per year. If the ARNG seeks to accomplish training in excess of these ceilings, additional authorization from the Secretaries of the Military Departments or DoD would be required.

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opportunities. ODT occurs outside the continental United States (OCONUS) and U.S. territories or possessions. An ODT period of duty will not exceed 22 days for the main body of the unit. Advanced detachments and rear detachments will not exceed 29 days. Soldiers deploying OCONUS must be placed under the command of the gaining OCONUS command in accordance with Title 10, United States Code. ARNG soldiers must have a statement on their orders changing their status from Title 32 to Title 10.⁶

3. References:

a. USD (P&R) Military Compensation Background Papers: Compensation Elements and Related Manpower Cost Items - Their Purposes and Legislative Backgrounds, Seventh Edition, November 2011. Chapter II.C.1. – “Overview of Compensation for Non-Regular Service: Reserve Components Pay” and Chapter II.C.2. – “Compensation for Inactive-Duty Training.”

b. DoD Instruction 1215.06, “Uniform Reserve, Training, and Retirement Categories for the Reserve Components” 19 May 2015.

c. Doubler, Michael D. “I am the Guard: A History of the Army National Guard, 1636-2000.” DA Pamphlet No. 130-1, 2001.

⁶ AR 350-9, “Overseas Deployment Training”, 8 November 2004

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