

## FAQ about soldier's PAY

The following are some frequently asked questions and answers for soldiers in training. This is not an inclusive list.

### Q. When do I get paid?

A. The average processing time is 8-10 days from the Entered Active Duty Date (EAD) until the soldier's pay account is established. Providing all transactions were correctly processed and Sure Pay established, the soldier should have funds deposited in the account within 30-40 days after EAD.

### Q. My recruiter said that my Basic Pay would be \$1064.70, why was I paid \$887.25 (\$1,242.15)?

A. What date did the soldier enlist? If not on the 1st of the month, he/she would be paid for only the number of days on active duty. \$887.25 is 25 days of pay (35.49 per day). If the soldier came on active duty near the end of the month the 1st LES will pay for the days from the previous month as well. \$1,242.15 is 35 days of pay. **Look for the start accession date in the remarks area of the LES. The LES reflects pay period covered 1-30 of the month regardless of the accession date.** Reserve and National Guard (RC) soldiers LES's reflect check payment date and will show exact dates pay is computed for in the remarks area.

### Q. Did my pay go to the bank?

A. The first line of print in the remarks area of the LES reflects the name of the Financial Institution, type of account (checking/savings), and the account number to which the End of Month (EOM) pay was deposited. If there is no banking information annotated there, the **soldier did not get paid.** Action must be taken to ensure Defense Military Pay Office (DMPO) receives proper documentation to start Sure Pay for the soldier. The soldier must obtain SF1199A from his/her own bank or get soldier to establish an account at an Ft Jackson banking facility. RC soldiers will have a check mailed to their home address if no banking facility established.

### Q. Why did another soldier, same rank get more/less than I did?

A. The most common answer to this question is the difference in taxes withheld. The amount of Federal Income Tax Withheld (FITW) and State Income Tax Withheld (SITW) are based on the number of exemptions each soldier elects and/or other deductions elected. **DO NOT COMPARE YOUR PAY TO ANOTHER SOLDIER'S.**

### Q. What is the collection of Casual Pay of \$250.00 or \$300.00 for on my LES?

A. This is the collection of the Initial Advance Pay, the Stored Value Card (SVC) received at Reception Station. This payment is collected in full from the first available pay. It could result in a debt if the soldier has not accrued enough pay. The LES would then reflect a collection of the

whole amount and establish an Advance Debt for the balance due owed above the Net Pay amount. The Advance Debt amount will be collected from the next month's pay. RC will only collect what is available and have a Balance Due remark.

**Q. The collection of Soldiers Group Life Insurance (SGLI) is incorrect. \$200,000.00 coverage = \$16.25 premium payment.**

A. The collection of SGLI is automatically established at the \$200K for all soldiers beginning the first month on active duty. If soldier elected a lesser amount of coverage or no coverage, the change will be posted effective the second month of active duty. Verify accession date, deduction could be for a 2 month period as a full month deduction is made for even 1 day of active duty in a previous month. (RC soldiers will have SGLI deducted from the 1st available pay for the entire month and may have deductions for any previous month in the Reserves if no drill was performed with the parent unit).

**Q. Deduction for Family Member Dental Plan was not started.**

A. These deductions are manually coded after the soldier's pay account is established. Deductions should start the month that the document was signed. Delays in establishing the account or receiving the paperwork can result in 2 months deductions made at one time. If the soldier has more than one family member, he/she must enroll all. It is important to verify all family members are enrolled in DEERs.

**Q. The soldier is being paid at the wrong Pay Grade**

A. Were active duty orders correct? Was DA 4187 prepared at Reception Battalion to correct the discrepancy? Obtain proper documentation (i.e. enlistment contract, DA Form 4187 and a copy of MS 51 report from AG SIDPERS section ). The MS 51 report reflects basic information on SIDPERS, TAPD, and DJMS databases. If the rank is not the same on all 3 databases, transactions must be generated to correct the discrepancy. If SIDPERS and TAPD are correct and DJMS incorrect, the Review Section will post the transaction when the correct documents are received.

**Q. What is the Debt of \$27.10/\$54.20 for?**

A. This is collection of Government Laundry and Dry Cleaning (GLDC). The total collection of \$52.40 is established on all soldiers attending basic training prorated over a 2-month period. RC collections are made for a one-time deduction during month of accession.

**Q. Why is Montgomery GI Bill (MGIB) deducted? I enlisted for the Loan Repayment Plan (LRP) or declined this deduction.**

A. The MGIB is an automatic deduction from all Active Army soldiers. If the soldier enlisted for the LRP or declined the deduction, the DD Form 2366 document was removed from the accession packet upon receipt in the DMPO. The debt of \$1,200 is established to start deductions the month after the entered active duty month and can only be cancelled after it is has

been started. The soldier will get the \$100.00 refunded as MGIB -\$100.00 in the deduction column of the LES and taxes will be taken. RC MBIB will be collected from monthly Drill payments after completion of training.

**Q. Am I entitled to Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH)?**

A. To be entitled to BAH, the soldier must have provided proof of family members (i.e. Marriage Certificates, Birth Certificates, Divorce Decree, and be providing support to those family members. There are several types of BAH.

BAH is the combination of the old term Basic Allowance for Quarters (BAQ) and Variable Housing Allowance (VHA). This is paid only to married Active Army soldiers and based upon the Zip Code of the family members.

BAH II is the BAQ portion only. This is paid to married RC soldiers. RC soldiers are not paid the VHA portion of BAH.

BAH-DIFF is the difference of with dependent and without dependent BAH II and is paid to soldiers that have court ordered child support (divorcees or soldiers who legally grant custody of family members to another person) or single soldiers voluntarily supporting family members.

**Q. What documents do I need to start BAH?**

A. If married, soldier will need to provide copies of marriage certificate, birth certificate(s) of child(ren), and divorce decree for any divorces, (soldier or spouse). Divorced soldiers and soldiers claiming child(ren) will need to provide copies of birth certificates, court order and/or a divorce decree stating amount of monthly support. If not divorced or divorce decree is silent on the amount of support, soldier must provide a notarized statement from the custodial parent or custodian of child(ren) stating the amount of monthly support soldier is providing for the care of the child(ren).

**Q. Am I entitled to Family Separation Allowance FSA)?**

A. If soldier is married and BAH has been authorized, soldier is entitled to FS4 at the rate of \$100.00 per month. Soldiers supporting family members in the custody of someone else are not entitled to FSA.