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COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

U.S. House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-6035

ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH CONGRESS

October 4, 2013

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ROBERT L. SIMMONS, II, STAFF DIRECTOR

The Honorable Chuck Hagel
Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1000

Dear Secretary Hagel:

As you are well aware, the Pay Our Military Act, H.R. 3210, was signed into law and provides an appropriation for the pay and allowances of members of our Armed Forces, our defense civilians and contractors, who sacrifice so much in the defense of our country.

I know you have made the legal review of the legislation a top priority, but I am very concerned that further delays may interrupt essential pays and allowances. For example, it has come to my attention that the Department of Defense is not currently paying several critical allowances earned by members of the Armed Forces that have made the ultimate sacrifice. These include, the Death Gratuity, which is payable to a designated beneficiary, in a lump sum of \$100,000, for a death on active duty or inactive duty training and Burial Benefits which provide up to \$10,500 to survivors to cover expenses related to the burial of the service member. We cannot in good conscience deny these benefits to the survivors of deceased members.

Attached you will find a summary of pays and allowances taken from the November 2011, Seventh Edition of the Military Background Papers published by the Undersecretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness. I request that you provide me a summary of which of the pays and allowances on that list that will not be paid and the rationale for non-payment. If there are other pays and allowances not on the attached list, I ask that you identify them in your response with an explanation of whether they will be paid or not.

I look forward to your update on pays and allowances no later than Thursday, October 10, 2013.

Sincerely,



Joe Wilson
Chairman
Military Personnel Subcommittee

AGW:dg

Pays and Allowances Summary

Title	Compensation Range	Initial Date	Last Change
Acceleration subject duty pay	\$150 per month	1955	1998
Assignment incentive pay	Up to \$3,000 monthly; varies by service and assignment.	2003	2008
Aviation career continuation pay	Up to \$25,000 per year if officer agrees to remain on active duty to complete 14 years of commissioned service	1980	2004
Aviation career incentive pay	\$125 to \$840 per month	1974	1999
AWACS flight pay	\$150 to \$350 per month	1981	1997
Basic allowance for housing (BAH)	Formula provided in 37 USC §403(b)	1878	2009
Basic allowance for subsistence	Formulas provided in 37 USC §402	1808	2009 ¹
Basic pay	\$1,294.50 to \$14,750.10 per month	1790	2009
Career sea duty	Maximum \$750 per month	1835	2001
Career sea pay premium	Up to \$350 per month	1980	2001
Chemical munitions exposure pay	\$150 per month	1981	1998
Clothing basic replacement allowance	\$266.40 to \$460.80 per year; varies by service and gender	1949	2009
Combat pay (also known as hostile fire pay or imminent danger pay)	Permanent increase for imminent danger special pay to \$225 and family separation allowance to \$250	1952	2005
Combat-related rehabilitation pay	Replaced by pay and allowance continuation	2006	2008
CONUS COLA	Varies with duty station and location of dependents	1995	2009
Critical skills retention bonus	Maximum total of \$200,000 (\$100,000 for reserves on active duty)	2001	2006
Dangerous organisms exposure pay	\$150 per month	1981	1998
Death gratuity	\$100,000	1908	2006
Deceleration subject duty pay	\$150 per month	1955	1998
Demolition duty pay	\$150 per month	1949	1998
Dental officers special pays		1967	2008
• Variable special pay	\$3,000 to \$12,000 per year	1985	1998
• Additional special pay	\$10,000 to \$15,000 per year	1985	2008
• Board-certification pay	\$2,500 to \$6,000 per year	1985	1997
• Accession bonus	Up to \$150,000	1997	2007
• Critical skills accession bonus	Up to \$400,000	2007	2007
• Retention bonus (multiyear)	Up to \$50,000 per year	1998	2003
Dependency and indemnity compensation	\$967 to \$2,211 per month for surviving spouse plus additional amounts for dependent children	1956	2003
Disability retired pay	Up to 75% of basic pay at time of retirement for disability	1861	2008
Dislocation and departure allowance	2 ½ months' BAH	1955	2009
Diving duty pay	Up to \$240 (officers) and \$340 (enlisted members) per month	1886	2000
Engineering and scientific career continuation pay	Up to \$3,000 per year for each year of an extension agreement	1981	1986
Enlistment bonus	Up to \$40,000	1791	2006
Enlistment referral bonus	Up to \$2,000	2006	2008
Experimental stress duty pays	\$150 per month	1955	1998
Family separation allowance	FSA I: 1 month's BAH (without dependents rate) FSA II: \$250 per month	1963	2009
		1963	2005

Pays and Allowances Summary

Title	Compensation Range	Initial Date	Last Change
Flight deck duty pay	\$150 per month	1965	1998
Flight pay (aviation career continuation pay)	Up to \$25,000 per year if officer agrees to remain on active duty to complete 14 years of commissioned service	1980	2004
Flight pay (aviation career incentive pay)	\$125 to \$840 per month	1974	1999
Flight pay (AWACS flight pay)	\$150 to \$350 per month	1981	1997
Flight pay (crew member)	\$150 to \$250 per month	1913	1999
Flight pay (non-crew member)	\$150 per month	1934	1998
Foreign language proficiency pay	Up to \$12,000 per year	1986	2009
Glider duty pay	Authority terminated 1984	1944	1984
HALO parachute duty pay	\$225 per month	1985	1998
Hardship duty pay	Up to \$1,500 per month	1900	2008
Hazardous duty incentive pay for air weapons controller crew members (AWACS flight pay)	\$150 to \$350 per month	1981	1997
High-deployment allowance	\$1,000 per month	2000	2004
High pressure chamber duty pay	\$150 per month	1983	1998
Hostile fire pay (also known as combat pay or imminent danger pay)	\$225 per month	1952	2005
Inactive-duty training pay	1/30 th of a month's basic pay per unit training	1916	1996
Leprosy duty pay	Authority terminated 1984	1949	1984
Low pressure chamber duty pay	\$150 per month	1983	1998
Medical officers special pays		1947	2008
• Variable special pay	\$1,200 to \$12,000 per year	1947	1990
• Additional special pay	\$15,000 per year	1947	1990
• Board-certification pay	\$2,500 to \$6,000 per year	1947	1990
• Incentive special pay	Up to \$75,000 per year	1947	2008
• Retention bonus (multiyear)	Up to \$75,000 for each year of a 4-year active-duty commitment	1989	2008
• Critical skills accession bonus	Up to \$400,000	2005	2007
MOS conversion bonus	Maximum lump sum not to exceed \$4,000 (\$2,000 for reserves)	2004	2009
Nonphysician health-care providers special pay	Up to \$5,000 per year	1991	1996
Nuclear career accession bonus	Up to \$30,000 per year	1976	2007
Nuclear career annual incentive bonus	\$14,000 to \$22,000 per year	1976	2006
Nuclear officer continuation pay	Up to \$30,000 per year	1969	2009
Nuclear-trained and -qualified enlisted members	Up to \$15,000 for a reenlistment	1972	1972
Nurses special pays		1989	2006
• Accession bonus for registered nurses	One-time payment up to \$30,000	1989	2005
• Incentive special pay for certified registered nurse anesthetists and nurses serving in other critical nursing specialties	Up to \$50,000 per year	1989	2003

Pays and Allowances Summary

Title	Compensation Range	Initial Date	Last Change
• Special pay for board-certified nurses with post-baccalaureate degrees who are health-care providers	Up to \$5,000 per year	1996	1996
• Critical skills accession bonus for persons enrolled in senior reserve officers' training corps obtaining nursing degrees	Up to \$5,000	2006	2006
Operational submersible duty pay	\$75 to \$835 per month	1960	2003
Optometrists special pay		1971	2003
• Regular special pay	\$100 per month	1971	1980
• Retention special pay	Up to \$15,000 per year	1991	2003
Overseas cost of living adjustment	Varies by country	1942	2009
Overseas duty extension pay	Up to \$80 per month, annual bonus not to exceed \$2,000	1980	1998
Parachute duty pay	\$150 per month (\$225 HALO)	1941	1998
Pay and allowance continuation	All pay and allowances received at time of hospitalization for wound, injury, or illness sustained in a hostile-fire event for up to 12 months	2008	2008
Personal exposure pay (toxic pesticides, etc.)	\$150 per month	1981	1998
Personal money allowance	Up to \$500 to \$4,000 per year for officers (\$2,000 enlisted)	1922	2001
Pharmacists retention special pay	Up to \$15,000 per year	2001	2003
Psychologists special pays		1987	2009
• Special pay	Up to \$5,000 per year	1987	1990
• Retention bonus (incentive)	Up to \$25,000 per year	1987	2009
• Critical skills accession bonus for licensed psychologists	Up to \$400,000	2009	2009
Responsibility pay	\$50 to \$150 per month	1958	1992
Retired and retainer pay (nondisability)	Currently 50% to 75% of basic pay or monthly retired pay base	1861	2000
Selective reenlistment bonus (SRB)	Up to \$90,000	1795	2006
Separation pay (nondisability)	10% of product of years of active service and 12 times terminal monthly basic pay	1800	1994
SGLI (Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (SGLI))	Up to \$400,000 for survivors	1917	2005
Severance pay (disability)	Up to 2 years' basic pay at time of separation	1949	1994
Special duty assignment pay (formerly, proficiency pay)	Up to \$600 per month	1958	2001
Special position allowance for certain Navy personnel	\$400 to \$5,200 per year	1946	1946
Special survivor indemnity allowance	Up to \$310 per month	2009	2009
Submarine duty incentive pay	\$75 to \$835 per month	1901	2003
Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP)	Up to 55% of retired or retainer pay	1953	2009
Thermal experiment subject pay	\$150 per month	1957	1998

Pays and Allowances Summary

Title	Compensation Range	Initial Date	Last Change
Toxic fuels and propellants exposure pay	\$150 per month	1981	1998
Toxic pesticides exposure pay	\$150 per month	1981	1998
Transfer between armed forces (incentive bonus)	Up to \$10,000	2006	2007
Traumatic injury coverage (under SGLI)	\$25,000 to \$100,000	2005	2005
Veterinarians special pay	\$100 per month	1953	1980

¹ The formula for officers was established in 1998, that for enlisted members in 2001.