



Data

The death gratuity is a lump sum, tax-exempt payment of \$100,000 made by the Department of Defense to eligible survivors designated by the service member prior to death.

The service member may designate up to 10 beneficiaries in increments of 10%.

Additional information

Completing the DD93

https://millifelearning.militaryonesource.mil/MOS/f?p=SIS:9:0:::P9_ID:5

Military Compensation Death Gratuity

<https://militarypay.defense.gov/Benefits/Death-Gratuity/>

DD Form 93, “Record of Emergency Data”

<https://www.esd.whs.mil/Portals/54/Documents/DD/forms/dd/dd0093.pdf>

A Survivor’s Guide to Benefits: Taking Care of Our Families on Military OneSource

<https://www.militaryonesource.mil/products/a-survivors-guide-to-benefits-taking-care-of-our-families-149/>

Survivor and Casualty Assistance — Benefits

<https://www.militaryonesource.mil/family-relationships/survivor-casualty-assistance/survivor-casualty-assistance-benefits>

Death Gratuity

Background

Through the Casualty Assistance Program, the Department of Defense supports families of missing, ill, injured and deceased service members and DOD civilians by providing them with accurate and compassionate services to help them cope with their loss and address all questions and actions related to the casualty. This program includes the death gratuity, which provides a critical financial resource to survivors of service members who die while serving in the military.

Highlights

- The death gratuity is paid when the service member dies on active duty, active duty for training, inactive duty for training or within 120 days of release from active duty under honorable conditions if the death is determined to be the result of an injury or disease incurred or aggravated during duty.
- The death gratuity is usually paid within 72 hours of notification and provides financial assistance to the military member’s designated beneficiary or beneficiaries before other survivor benefits, if any, become available.
- In order to designate beneficiaries, it is important for the service member to update the DD Form 93, “Record of Emergency Data,” which ensures that the death gratuity and other important benefits reach intended beneficiaries in a timely fashion.
- The “Record of Emergency Data” form should be updated as follows:
 - During initial entry into the service or employment review
 - Upon reporting to a new duty station
 - When ordered to periods of temporary duty in excess of 30 days
 - Prior to all deployments, regardless of length
 - Prior to departure on permanent change of station orders
 - Following a life-changing event such as marriage, divorce, or the birth or adoption of a child

