Transition Assistance Program

National Guard and Reserve Components

# Background

The Department of Defense Transition Assistance Program helps separating and retiring service members and their families make a smooth transition from a military career to the civilian sector. In order to address the unique needs of the National Guard and Reserve Components and to facilitate a smooth transition, DoD has developed the Transition Assistance Program for demobilizing National Guard and Reserve Component service members.

# Program highlights

The DoD Transition Assistance Program for demobilizing National Guard and Reserve Components consists of four components:

* DoD preseparation counseling is congressionally mandated and must be completed before a service member can separate or retire. It can commence 12 months prior to separation and 24 months prior to retirement. Service members leaving for deployments should consider completing preseparation counseling prior to deployment if they have 90 days or less remaining on active duty upon their return from deployment. All separating and retiring service members who have unanticipated separation dates for administrative discharges, medical separations and discharges, etc. should begin the process as soon as possible. Service members must serve a minimum of 180 continuous days on active duty to be eligible for the preseparation counseling.
* Department of Labor Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act briefingis for members of the National Guard and Reserve Components on the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act prior to release from active duty. Once home, members of the National Guard and Reserve Components seeking employment opportunities or a career change can contact the Department of Labor CareerOneStop Center in their community to receive employment assistance.
* Department of Veterans Affairs benefits briefing is a half-day briefing where demobilizing members of the National Guard and Reserve Components learn about Department of Veterans Affairs benefits, the procedures for applying for benefits, the Montgomery GI Bill® and locating Department of Veterans Affairs assistance once they return home. Commanders in charge of demobilization coordinate with the local Transition Assistance Program manager and regional director for the Department of Veterans Affairs to ensure this briefing occurs.
* Department of Veterans Affairs Disabled Transition Assistance program briefing normally occurs as part of the Department of Veterans Affairs benefits briefing and is for service members who have or suspect that they have a service-connected disability. During this briefing, participants will learn about eligibility for Chapter 31, Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Service benefits. They will also receive information on the application process including when to start the process and all the required application documents.

# Eligibility

Transition services are available to all service members and their family members who are retiring or separating from active duty military service.

# Program availability

The Transition Assistance Program is available on major military installations. Transition Assistance offices are typically located at Army Career and Alumni Program centers and Family Centers for the Marine Corps, Navy and Air Force.