



## Military Community and Family Policy Fact Sheet

### Data

- ✓ *The death gratuity is a lump sum, tax-exempt payment of \$100,000 made by the Department of Defense to eligible survivors identified by the service member prior to death.*
- ✓ *The service member may designate up to 10 beneficiaries in increments of 10 percent.*

### Additional information

#### Death Gratuity eTutorial

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=71tHZhnjstA&feature=youtu.be>

#### Military Compensation Death Gratuity

<http://militarypay.defense.gov/Benefits/DeathGratuity.aspx>

#### DD Form 93, "Record of Emergency Data"

<http://www.dtic.mil/whs/directives/forms/eforms/dd0093.pdf>

#### A Survivor's Guide to Benefits on Military OneSource

<http://download.militaryonesource.mil/12038/MOS/ResourceGuides/A-Survivors-Guide-To-Benefits.pdf>

#### Casualty Assistance on Military OneSource

<http://militaryonesource.mil/family-and-relationships/casualty-assistance-and-surviving-loss>

## Death Gratuity

### Background

Through Casualty, Mortuary Affairs and Military Funeral Honors, the Department of Defense supports families of missing, ill, injured and deceased service members and Department of Defense 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 if the death is due to a service-related disability.
- 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 to update DD Form 93, "Record of Emergency Data," which ensures that death gratuity and other important benefits reach intended beneficiaries in a timely fashion.
- The Record of Emergency Data 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 birth of a child

