

# Stop Loss implemented

By Judy James

*Director, personnel program management*

Approximately 34,000 Ready Reserve members, to include 5,300 individual mobilization augmentees, are impacted by an Assistant Secretary of the Air Force (Manpower and Reserve Affairs) decision to implement Stop Loss effective May 2.

Forty-three officer and 56 enlisted specialties across the total force (active duty, Air Force Ready Reserve and Air National Guard) are affected by Stop Loss in order to retain specific skills needed to meet national security objectives.

## Affected AFSCs

Stop-loss will be implemented on the following Air Force specialty codes (regardless of prefix/suffix except where indicated) beginning May 2:

### Officers

11AX	11BX	11EX	11FX	11GX
11HX	11KX	11RX	11SX	11TX
12AX	12BX	12EX	12FX	12GX
12KX	12RX	12SX	12TX	13BX
13DXA	13DXB	13MX	14NX	31PX
32EX	43EX	43HX	43TX	44EX
44MX	45AX	45BX	45SX	46FX
46MX	46NXE	46SX	48AX	48GX
	48RX	51JX	71SX	

### Enlisted

1A0XX	1A1XX	1A2XX	1A3XX	1A4XX
1A5XX	1A7XX	1A8XX	1C0X1	1C1XX
1C2XX	1C3XX	1C4XX	1C5XX	1N0XX
1N1XX	1N200	X1N2XX	1N3X4	1N3X5
1N3X6*	1N3X7*	1N3X8*	1N3X9*	1N4XX
1N5XX	1N6XX	1S0XX	1T1XX	1T2XX
2E2X1	2F0X1	2T3X2A	2T3X2B	3C0X1
3C2X1	3E000	3E0X2	3E4X1	3E4X2
3E5X1	3E7X1	3E8X1	3E9X1	3H0X1
3N0XX	3P0XX	4A1XX	4A2XX	4B0XX
4E0XX	4H0XX	5J0X1	7S0X1	8D000
9L000				

*\*Apr 03 Conversions*

“We do not take this action lightly,” said Secretary of the Air Force Dr. James Roche. “Stop Loss is designed to preserve critical skills essential to supporting the Global War on Terrorism, while ensuring we’re prepared to meet other contingencies.”

“We’ve implemented Stop Loss to ensure we have the necessary skilled personnel to conduct operations,” said Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John Jumper. “We’ll use it only as long as necessary to accomplish our mission.”

Stop Loss policy will be reviewed on a 60-day cycle. As operational requirements change, AFSCs and/or other categories of personnel may be released from or added to Stop Loss.

“We will continue to carefully reevaluate the scope of Stop Loss as dynamics of operational requirements evolve,” said Lt. Gen. James Sherrard, chief of Air Force Reserve and commander, Air Force Reserve Command.

“When feasible, we will release the maximum number of reservists possible and allow significant time -- at least 45 days -- to ensure smooth transition.”

Both the secretary and chief of staff are acutely aware that the Air Force is an all-volunteer force and that this action, while essential to meeting the service’s worldwide obligations, is inconsistent with the fundamental principles of voluntary service.

“We take Stop Loss seriously and are working hard to ensure the lives of our airmen, their families and their civilian employers are not disrupted any longer than is necessary to meet our national commitments,” Jumper said.

The Air Reserve Personnel Center will send notification letters to affected IMAs

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## PA supports Operation Eagle Eyes

By Brig. Gen. Tim White

*MA to the Director of Public Affairs*

An urgent opportunity exists for public affairs professionals to play a key role in protecting Americans from terrorist attacks.



Air Force White public affairs is being called on to work with their local detachment of the Air Force Office of Special Investigations and help them promote the Air Force’s Eagle Eyes anti-terrorism program via civilian news media.

Eagle Eyes is a major information/education campaign that teaches airmen, citizens, family members, contractors, merchants—everyone, on base and off—how to recognize the planning steps of terrorists and what to do if they see something suspicious.

From the program’s inception in April 2002 through December 2002, 1,200 tips of suspicious activities have poured in to AFOSI detachments worldwide. These activities were investigated and disrupted, and commanders around the globe have enacted

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## SGLI provides war-related coverage

**SAN ANTONIO** -- Military members covered by the Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance are covered in the event of death in a military conflict. But surviving family members of those who choose commercial life-insurance policies instead of SGLI coverage may not be so lucky.

Many commercial life insurance policies carry what is called a "war clause" or "military service exclusion," a provision that excludes coverage for death or injury caused by acts of war, according to the National Guard Bureau staff judge advocate. If the policy has a "war clause" or "exclusion," the life insurance company is not required to pay the full face value of the policy to beneficiaries.

SGLI does not have a war clause. People maintaining SGLI and their families are covered in these cases.

The important thing, according to the judge advocate is for military members — active, Guard or Reserve — to read their policies carefully and maintain insurance for themselves to ensure coverage and benefits during times of conflict.

Also, SGLI premium rates will be reduced July 1. This is an automatic decrease and no update action is required.

Members who previously elected to decline or reduce coverage must complete a certification of good health, SGLV 8285, before restoring or increasing SGLI coverage.

## TSP open season underway

Reservists can sign up for or make changes to Thrift Savings Plan, or TSP, accounts during "open season" which runs through June 30.

During this open season, servicemembers may elect to contribute up to 8 percent of their basic pay earned each pay period. Members may also contribute from incentive or special pay, to include bonuses, provided they are contributing from basic pay.



Members of the Ready Reserve in any pay status may elect to participate in the program. Additionally, members of the Ready Reserve who are called to active duty for a period of more than 30 days may elect to contribute to the program within 60 days of the change in status.

Military members can enroll through the Defense Finance and Accounting Service Web site at [www.dfas.mil/emss/](http://www.dfas.mil/emss/). They can also enroll by filling out a Form TSP-U-1 at local military personnel flights, finance offices and family support centers.

People can choose which fund to contribute to by calling the TSP automated ThriftLine at (504) 255-8777 or on the TSP Web site at [www.tsp.gov](http://www.tsp.gov). Military members with general TSP questions can call the AFPC contact center at DSN 665-5000 or toll-free (866) 229-7074.

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force-protection measures accordingly.

Bottom line: Eagle Eyes works and has quite possibly saved lives.

But there's much work to be done. With Operation Iraqi Freedom under way, all AFOSI detachments have been advised by their headquarters to redouble their efforts to engage news media around their installations.

That's where PA comes into play. Public affairs troops have all the news media contacts. AFOSI troops have all the "Eagle Eye" information. We need to marry up our two communities to maximize effectiveness of the Eagle Eyes program.

Wherever this effort has been undertaken, news media have been

quite eager to engage and tell the Eagle Eyes story. It's an easy sell to just about any newspaper, television station and radio station in a local community.

Air Force people live in their communities, and editors, publishers and assignments editors are quite willing to do their part in educating their communities about the suspicious activities that everyone should look out for.

PA offices that haven't already made contact with their local AFOSI detachment should take the initiative and do so.

Now is the hour to bring the power of public affairs to the fight!

I thank you in advance for your contributions to the war on terrorism.

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in the next few weeks.

Those with unique circumstances may apply through a waiver process. The ARPC Directorate of Personnel Program Management manages this process. However, IMAs must first go through their chain of command, to include their program manager, with any requests for waiver.

"We are doing our best to minimize this disruption," Roche said. "And we will look at unique circumstances on a case-by-case basis and do all we can to offer appropriate relief."

For more information about Stop Loss, IMAs should contact the Air Reserve Personnel Center Customer Service Branch at 1-800-525-0102, Ext. 71388 or DSN 926-6528/6730. (AFNS contributed to this article.)

## Briefs

### PHAs can affect participation

More than 70 percent of IMAs are in jeopardy of being ineligible to participate for points and pay because they have not completed their annual health assessment.

The annual requirement for a Reserve Component Periodic Health Assessment, or RCPHA, replaced the five-year physical Oct. 1, 2001.

Low compliance rates have forced senior leaders to take a stronger approach.

"Failure to accomplish the required examinations by May will affect a member's participation, pay and points for all training and their ability to complete a satisfactory year," said Col. K.C. McClain, ARPC commander. "However, failure to accomplish the exams does not prevent you from being mobilized."

### Emergency data now online

The Virtual Record of Emergency Data, or, vRED, allows members 24-hour

access to their emergency data from anywhere there is a computer terminal with Internet access.

A new feature of the Virtual Military Personnel Flight, or vMPF, vRED replaces the Form Flow version of the DD Form 93, *Record of Emergency Data*, and provides real time central data storage and backup capabilities.

Reservists are encouraged to visit the vMPF Web site to update their vRED information as soon as possible.

Completion of the vRED will be mandatory for all Air Force members. The vMPF can be accessed at [www.afpc.randolph.af.mil](http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil) and then clicking on the vMPF logo in the center of the page.

Individuals are encouraged to establish a vMPF account by logging onto the vMPF Web site and following the directions.

### Site has ways to support troops

The Air Force Link Web site has a new link listing ways people can support our

troops. Any suggestions for improvement, additions, etc. can be directed to Cynthia Minnick, chief, community relations and civic outreach, SAF/PAN, at DSN 227-7926. The link is at [www.af.mil/news/opscenter/troop\\_support.shtml](http://www.af.mil/news/opscenter/troop_support.shtml).

### Secure e-mail for loved ones

A secure and reliable e-mail program offered by Air Force Crossroads helps families keep in touch with deployed airmen through Global Internet Mail. Registration for GI Mail is free for those eligible through Air Force Crossroads — the official Air Force community Web site — at [www.afcrossroads.com](http://www.afcrossroads.com).

Eligible users include active duty, Reserve, National Guard, retired or civil service employees and their authorized family members.

Airmen can log in to the Web-based system from any computer with Internet access. (Courtesy USAF Commander's Call Topics for April)

## Opportunities

### Writers needed for wargame

Organizers of a two-week wargame called Solo Challenge are looking for five to eight augmentees to role-play media April 30 through May 9 at Maxwell AFB, Ala.

The augmentees need writing skills and can be any rank. They will produce an abbreviated version of the *Early Bird* and role-play media in news conferences for the Air War College students each afternoon.

A secret clearance is required.

For more information and a fund cite, members can contact Lt. Col. Robin Grantham at DSN 493-8523, commercial (334) 953-8523 or [robin.grantham@maxwell.af.mil](mailto:robin.grantham@maxwell.af.mil); or TSgt. Cathy Sevier at DSN 493-1234, commercial (334) 953-1234 or [nannette.sevier@maxwell.af.mil](mailto:nannette.sevier@maxwell.af.mil).

### AMC funding various TDYs

Air Mobility Command is looking for 5-levels and above and captains and above for stateside temporary duty through May at Charleston AFB, S.C.; Dover AFB, Del.; Fairchild, AFB, Wash.; and Travis AFB, Calif. AMC will provide funding and mandays.

For more information, members can contact CMSgt. Janice Conner, HQ AMC/PA, at DSN 779-7815 or commercial (618) 229-7815.

### Vance AFB looking for temporary editor

The public affairs office at Vance AFB, Okla., has manday funding for an enlisted PA to perform editor duties June through August.

Members can obtain more information from MSgt. George Jozens at DSN 448-7374 or commercial (580) 213-7374.



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