

**UNIFORMED SERVICES EMPLOYMENT & REEMPLOYMENT RIGHTS
ACT OF 1994 (USERRA), PUBLIC LAW 103-353**

TECHNICIAN INFORMATION/NOTIFICATION AND BENEFIT ELECTION RIGHTS

1. USERRA (Public Law 103-353), enacted on 13 Oct 1994 and specifically 38 U.S.C. 2024, requires the Arizona National Guard to inform you of your rights and election opportunities prior to your entrance on active military service. Detailed information is contained in 5 CFR Part 353, Chapter 353 of the Federal Personnel Manual and related National Guard supplements.

2. Please read the following information concerning USERRA and your election rights and benefits. It is necessary that you complete the enclosed "USERRA Election Options" form and return it to HRO along with a Standard Form 52 (Request for Personnel Action), and a copy of your military orders. ***Your request cannot be processed unless this form is attached with your signature and date. Please understand that this is the responsibility of the employee.***

3. **NOTIFICATION** Public Law 103-353 became effective on 12 December 1994 and prescribes the employment and reemployment rights of permanent and indefinite technicians who apply for return to technician employment from Title 10 or Tile 32 active military service. ***You are required to provide advance verbal or written notification to your supervisor/employer before entering military duty. If notice is not given, reemployment rights may be denied.***

4. **REEMPLOYMENT RIGHTS.** Under the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994, you are entitled to retain employment rights to your technician position with the Arizona National Guard. USERRA revised the period of time a service member can be absent from his or her job with a civilian employer while retaining reemployment rights. Reemployment rights and benefits are limited to five (5) cumulative years of absence for military service from technician employment with the same employer (state), i.e. the Adjutant General of the Arizona National Guard. [***NOTE:*** Reemployment rights of temporary technicians are limited to the established not to exceed (NTE) date of the temporary appointment.] Reemployment is defined as a return to technician employment from Absent for Uniformed Services (AUS) ***OR*** reemployment after civilian service separation (SEPARATION-US) ***when the military service interrupted otherwise creditable federal civilian service.*** USERRA also clarified that all periods of service are cumulative with respect to the maximum absence from a position of employment, except for specified types of service which are exempt by the Act. Some exceptions to this 5 year limit include active duty (other than training) in time of war or national emergency (voluntary or involuntary); and active duty (other than for training) in support of operational missions activated under 10 U.S.C. 673b(12304) (voluntary or involuntary); and certain critical missions and requirements (voluntary and involuntary). ***If you reemploy under USERRA, you are entitled to be treated as if you had never left for purposes of seniority, status, and pay as well as other rights and benefits determined by seniority (i.e. credit for trial period completion, within grade increases, cost of living increases, and leave category (SCD).***

5. The Office of Personnel Management (OPM) and the National Guard Bureau (NGB) regulations authorize you to select from the options available to you concerning your status while

on active duty. **Under the provisions of USERRA, you will be carried on AUS and may elect to use other available leave as appropriate. You may also request to be separated from your technician position.**

NOTE:

• *FERS employees who elect to SEPARATE instead of AUS WILL NOT be entitled to the FERS BASIC Employee Death Benefit payable to the spouse of a deceased FERS employee who meets certain eligibility requirements at the date of death. Also, would not receive Survivor (spouse) and/or Child Annuity and if not eligible for any of the above, a Lump Sum Benefit. To be eligible: Spouse must have been married to the employee for least 9 months at the time of death or be the natural parent of the deceased's child. Employee must have completed 18 months of creditable civilian service, and completed at least 10 years total of civilian and military service, and died subject to FERS. For 2014 the FERS Death Benefit is \$31,786.21 (which is the \$15,000 plus COLA amount), plus 50% of the employee's final salary (or high 3 average salary, if higher).*

• *CSRS employees who elect to separate verses AUS WILL NOT be entitled to the Survivor (Spouse) Annuity and/or Child Annuity, and if not eligible for any of the above, a Lump Sum Benefit.] To be eligible: Spouse must have been married to the employee for 9 months at the time of death or have a child born of the marriage and employee must have completed at least 18 months of creditable civilian service and died while subject to CSRS deductions.]*

The two reasons why a FERS employee would elect Separation-US is to withdraw FERS Retirement Contributions or to withdraw TSP Contributions. A civilian technician must be separated from their civilian technician position to make these two type of withdrawals.

a. If you elect to be placed on AUS, you must complete a SF-52. Attach the USERRA Election Options form, a copy of your military orders, and forward it to the Human Resources Office (HRO) PRIOR to departing on active duty.

b. If you elect to be separated from your technician position, you must provide written notice of your intent to this agency. The SF-52 may be used for this purpose. Attach the USERRA Election Options form, a copy of your active duty orders, and forward it to the HRO PRIOR to departing on active duty.

Separation-US does not effect your statutory reemployment/restoration rights. The absence is considered to be a leave of absence whether it is AUS or Separation.

6. LEAVE STATUS:

*a. You have the option of using **military leave** (LM) 120 hours of military leave each fiscal year and may have up to 240 hours of military leave for use during any one fiscal year, **annual leave** (LA) may be retained in your account until you return to technician status or if requested may be paid to you in a lump sum, and/or **leave without pay** (KG) to cover the period of active duty. Preferably, leave should be taken in the following order:*

Military Leave and Annual Leave.

Sick leave may be used as appropriate while absent to perform duty with the uniformed services. Supervisor may request doctors documentation for verification. Any sick leave balance will be re-credited to your account upon reemployment.

Due to dual compensation laws, NGB has gotten permission from OPM to delay start of AUS for compensatory time (COMP time) must be taken prior to start of AUS.

b. You may use paid leave intermittently with leave without pay (LWOP) throughout your active duty period. However, one personnel action (SF-50) will be processed to document the AUS to perform duty with the uniformed services. The effective date of the AUS is the same day as your orders begin. The fact that you elect to use paid leave intermittently will not change this non-pay status. A second personnel action will be processed to document your “official return to duty when you are released from active duty. It will be effective the first day you are back to work at your technician position or when you start your Presidential Leave. [**NOTE:** The HRO does not physically return you to duty to withdraw intermittent leave. Please have timekeeper record intermittent leave on your time card.]

c. You are **NOT** authorized holiday pay while in AUS status unless you are taking paid leave before or after the federal holiday.

d. **Annual Leave.** If you elect not to use your annual leave to cover the period of active duty, then you may choose to have your annual leave remain to your credit until you return to your technician position; **OR** you may request a lump-sum payment for all accrued annual leave. This provision applies whether or not you are placed on AUS or Separate.

e. **Sick Leave.** Any sick leave balance will be re-credited to your account upon reemployment. Under current regulations, you may use sick leave while on orders under appropriate circumstances (Supervisor may request medical documentation).

f. **22 DAYS ENTITLEMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT LEAVE** each calendar year for **employees who perform military duties of civil authorities in the protection of life and property or who perform full-time military service as a result of a call to active duty in support of a contingency operation** as defined in 10 U.S.C. 101(a) (13). The military pay received by an individual who has been activated in support of a contingency operation must be credited (less any travel, transportation, or other per diem allowances) against any federal civilian pay the employees received during the 22 workdays of military leave provided by U.S.C 6323(b). **An employee is entitled to the greater of his or her civilian or military pay, NOT BOTH. This includes all military entitlements (i.e. basic pay, BAS, & BAH).** However, an employee may choose to take annual leave instead of military leave in order to retain both civilian and military pay. A technician would want to use this 22-day military leave only if military pay is less than civilian pay for offset of technician pay. **If elected, technician would be responsible for paying FEHB & FEGLI which under contingency orders are free for up to 12 or 24 months. This amendment applies to military service performed on or after November 24, 2003. A copy of his/her military orders, a certificate of attendance, and a leave and earnings statement(s) must be provided by the technician to their local payroll office.**

f. **5 DAYS ADMINISTRATIVE LEAVE (CODE LV):** Employee activated for military service in connection with Operation Noble Eagle, Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom, or any other military operation subsequently established

under Executive Order 13223 for a minimum of 42 consecutive days is entitled to 5 days or 40 hours of excused absence in a 12 month period, upon employee reporting back for federal civilian duty or notify the agency (HRO) of his or her intent to return to civilian duty on a specific date. Employee may receive 5 days or 40 hours of excused absence, regardless of the number of military activations. The 5 days or 40 hours of excused absence is a continuous period of paid time off.

g. **44 DAYS MILITARY LEAVE (OCONUS ONLY):** Under Public Law 104-106 you may be entitled to an **additional 44 days of military leave in a calendar year while on active duty without pay for participation in operations outside the United States, its territories and possessions under Title 10 12301 (b) or (d).** National Guard Bureau (NGB) has determined that technicians in this status are authorized military pay on technician non-duty days while technician duty days are in a without military pay status on weekends and holidays. Leave is charged in hourly increments. Non-workdays and holidays are not charged to leave. Only workdays in the regularly scheduled work week from which absent, are charged to leave. The 44-day special military leave entitlement is on a calendar year basis (not a fiscal year basis), and there is no roll-over of unused leave into the subsequent calendar year. Per diem is paid while utilizing 44-day leave, based on military rates. There is no entitlement to comp time earned for overtime hours worked (night differential or hazardous duty pay). However, if night differential and hazardous duty pay are part of a technicians regular basic civilian pay, this would continue. Technicians do not receive holiday premium pay because they are in a Title 10 status. Technicians will earn one (1) retirement point for each day while in 44-day status. Technicians must elect prior to deployment and signed by the employee and the supervisor. Request is sent to the timecard keeper, units order clerk, military personnel and the HRO. Military Orders must be cut and issued for all Title 10 pay status when the 44-days are being used. If separated, the effective date of your separation as a technician will be close of business on the last day of your paid leave status. Details regarding these various types of leave may be obtained from the Human Resources Office or your local payroll office. You must submit your request for any paid leave usage to your timekeeper on a SF-71.

7. EMPLOYEE BENEFITS. [NOTE: Please be advised that deductions continue to be taken from your pay for employee benefits – health/life insurance, TSP, and retirement contributions when you elect to be covered by any paid leave.] HRO recommends all leave be taken at the beginning of active duty service or at the end of active duty service. See *Effects of Intermittent Leave on Federal Benefits information paper.*

a. **Federal Employee Health Benefits (FEHB).** Whether you are on AUS or Separation-US, your FEHB coverage will continue for up to 24 months **unless** you elect to terminate the coverage. If you do not take action to terminate the coverage, your enrollment will continue and you will be responsible for the premiums or will incur a debt to be paid upon return. The 24-month period begins the day you are separated or placed on a leave of absence (regardless of pay status) from your technician position to perform the active duty.

(1) **Continuing Enrollment:** You will be liable for the employee share of the premium for the first 12 months; and for 102% of the full FEHB rate (employee and government share plus a 2% administrative charge) for the additional twelve months

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UNLESS YOU SIGN THE PRE-TAX WAIVER WITHIN 60 DAYS OF MILITARY ORDERS. (NOTE: To be entitled to the additional twelve-month coverage, you must continue to be eligible for reemployment rights.) Payment for coverage may be made while on non-pay status or when you return to technician status:

(a) If you elect to pay the premiums while on non-pay status, you will be provided with the payroll office address of where to send your check. The minimum payment will be the employee's share of the premium for two pay periods.

(b) If you elect NOT to pay the premiums while on non-pay status, the payroll office will begin to deduct two employee premiums each pay period (one for the current payment and one towards the debt) until the debt is repaid.

- After the 24-month period, your coverage will be terminated. You will be entitled to a 31-day extension of coverage (at no cost to you) during which you may convert to an individual policy offered by the carrier of your health plan. **FEHB coverage will be reinstated on the day you return to technician status, unless you complete the FEHB Waiver Request Form, provided as an enclosure to this letter, to exercise Transitional TRICARE PRIOR to HRO receiving a Return- To- Duty SF-52. You must state the date your Transitional TRICARE ends, the date you wish your FEHB to be reinstated, and sign and date.**

(2) **Terminating Enrollment:** If you elect to terminate your enrollment before you go on active duty, the termination will be effective at the end of the day before you separate or are placed on a leave of absence (paid/unpaid leave). Requesting termination during the 24-month period will depend on whether or not you are participating in the FEHB's premium conversion. Employees must go to <https://www.abc.army.mil> **within 60 days of AUS or QLE to terminate FEHB.**

(a) If you are **not** participating in premium conversion, you have the option to terminate your health coverage at anytime during the 24-month period. The effective date of the termination will be at the end of the pay period in which you input the change in EBIS at <https://www.abc.army.mil>.

(b) If you are **participating in premium conversion**, you **may not terminate** your coverage at **any time during the 24-month period**. However, the start or end of an unpaid leave of absence by you or your spouse is a qualifying life event (QLE) for premium conversion. This means that within 60 days of beginning your AUS, you have the option to terminate your coverage and/or waive your participation in premium conversion at <https://www.abc.army.mil>.

- *If you waive participation in premium conversion within this 60-day timeframe, you may then terminate your health coverage at any time during the 24-month period and it will not be considered a break in coverage.*

- If you don't waive participation in premium conversion within the 60-day timeframe, you must wait for a Qualifying Life Event (QLE) or the next open season to terminate your coverage at <https://www.abc.army.mil>.
- Termination is subject to a 31-day temporary extension of coverage (at no cost to you) and the right to convert your coverage to a non-group plan offered by the carrier of your plan. Termination is not considered a break in service for continuing FEHB coverage into retirement. However, the period during which the termination is in effect is not counted towards the five-year participation requirement. However, if enrolled in Tricare while on active military duty, service **does** count toward the 5-year participation requirement. In addition, you are **NOT** eligible for Temporary Continuation of Coverage (TCC). Terminated FEHB coverage will be restored on the day you return to technician status if you input the restoration at <https://www.abc.army.mil>.

(3) **Active Duty In Support of Contingency Operations**. Department of Defense (DOD) **will** pay the employee share of the FEHB premiums for any covered technician who is called to active duty in support of a contingency operation for **up to 24 months**. On October 28, 2004, Public Law 108-375, The National Defense Authorization for Fiscal Year 2005, amended title 5 U.S.C., section 8905(a) to provide an extension of continued coverage for **FEHB from 18 to 24 months**. Also amended was 5 U.S.C. 8906 (e) (3), which provides that the agency (DOD) will pay the full FEHB premium for a period of service **not to exceed 24 months** for any employees meeting **ALL** the following eligible criteria:

- Be enrolled in the FEHB and elect to continue that enrollment.
- Be a member of a reserve component of the armed forces
- Be called or ordered to active duty (voluntarily or involuntarily) in support of a contingency operation as defined in section 101(a)(13) of Title 10, USC (i.e., Operations Joint Endeavor, Joint Guard, Southern Watch, Northern Watch, Enduring Freedom, Noble Eagle, etc)
- Be placed on leave without pay or separated from service to perform active duty.
- Serve on active duty for a period of more than 30 consecutive days.

90-day Pre-Mob Tricare is not considered a QLE and therefore, you **cannot** terminate your FEHB to use only Tricare. Change in employment Status (Orders) is the only QLE.

b. **Federal Employees Group Life Insurance (FEGLI)**.

(1) If you are placed on AUS to perform military service, FEGLI coverage (Basic and all Optional Coverage) continues for up to 12 months at no cost to you. The coverage will then terminate, subject to a 31-day temporary extension of coverage with a right to convert to an individual policy unless you elect to continue FEGLI coverage under Public Law 110-181. The Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, enacted January 28, 2008, authorizes the continuation of FEGLI

coverage for an additional 12 months, up to a total of 24 months, for Federal employees called to active duty in the uniformed services. Please read and sign attached FELI Election Form

(2) If you separate to perform military service, you can keep your FEGLI coverage for up to 12 months or until 90 days after your military service ends, whichever date comes first. When the coverage terminates, you will be entitled to a 31-day extension of coverage and right to convert.

(3) If you are killed on active duty, death benefits are paid to your beneficiaries. Accidental Death and Dismemberment (AD&D) benefits are also payable under Basic Life and Optional A coverage, unless you were in actual combat (or unless nuclear weapons are being used) at the time of the injury that caused your death. Accidental death benefits are in addition to regular death benefits. Even if accidental benefits are not payable, the regular death benefits are payable.

(4) **Your FEGLI coverage will be reinstated on the day you return to technician status.** There is no opportunity to elect additional coverage unless you are separated for at least 180 days.

c. **National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS) Insurance Trust.**

(1) **Disability Coverage.** If you are on leave without pay status for 30 days or less, coverage will continue at no cost to you. However, if the non-pay extends beyond 30 days, the coverage will be suspended until you return to technician status. Upon return to duty, you must submit a letter to your Customer Service Representative (Payroll Office) to request reinstatement. If coverage is not restarted within 30 days of your return to duty, you will have to reenroll; which will require approval of the insurance company. If you elect to separate to perform the military service, the disability coverage will terminate. You may reenroll upon returning to technician status.

(2) **Life Insurance Coverage.**

(a) **TermLife and GuardLife.** The insurance administrator (ReliaStar) will waive the premium for the first 90 days on leave without pay status. If death occurs during this 90-day period, ReliaStar will honor the claim. There will be no lapse in coverage and you will not need to repay the premiums when you return to technician status. If the non-pay status extends beyond 90 days, ReliaStar will begin to direct-bill you. You will be responsible for keeping the coverage in force by ensuring that the premiums are paid (i.e. have a spouse make payment). Should you elect to separate, you have the option to terminate the coverage or continue it on a direct-billed basis with the insurance company.

(b) **ValueLife and Universal Life**. There is **no waiver** of premium should you elect to go on leave without pay status. The coverage will be direct-billed by the insurance company. You are responsible for keeping the coverage in force by ensuring that the premiums are paid (i.e. have spouse make payment. Should you elect to separate, you have the option to terminate the coverage or continue it on a direct-billed basis with the insurance company.

NOTE: On August 1, 2005 NGAUS began an ongoing open enrollment for technicians returning from active duty. Technicians are eligible to enroll within 31 days of resuming normal technician duties even if not previously enrolled. There is **guaranteed issue of Disability Insurance with no health questions or exams required.** There is also a **guaranteed issue up to \$50,000 for Life Insurance (technician only).** **Life coverage is not guaranteed issue over \$50,000 for technician or any amount on spouse.** Technician must complete a fully underwritten application. An Open Enrollment Form may be obtained in the Human Resources Office.

d. **Thrift Savings Plan (TSP).**

(1) No contributions can be made to the TSP while on non-pay status or separation from your technician position, retroactive contributions and TSP elections may be made to cover the period of service. ***To make up missed TSP contributions, you must request to make retroactive contributions to EBIS at <https://www.abc.army.mil> within 60 days of the date of your reemployment/restoration to civilian service.*** [NOTE: If you contribute to a Military TSP account while on active duty, those contributions will reduce/offset the amount of your retroactive contributions that can be made to your Civilian TSP account.]

(a) ***Please complete the attached TSP form “Technician Request For Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) Contributions” even if you are not making retroactive payments. FERS employees will be eligible to receive government matching contributions (the automatic 1% matching contributions, plus up to 4% matching contributions which is based on contributions made to your Uniformed Services TSP account during the period you were AUS.***

(b) ***If you want to make TSP retroactive payments, attach a copy of all military and civilian technician LESs and send to <https://www.abc.army.mil> to 1) estimate of amount eligible for make-up contribution, 2) possible entitlement of 1% up to 4%, with lost earnings, and 3) entitlement to Agency 1%, with lost earnings.***

(c) ***Public Law 108-469, signed into law December 21, 2004 eliminated TSP Open Seasons and the restrictions on contribution elections which are tied to open seasons, effective July 1, 2005. The law to eliminate the waiting period that FERS employees must serve before they can begin to receive agency contributions was passed in June 2009. You can complete TSP-1 at any time while on active military orders or AUS. Upon return to duty, please see the***

HRO for information on how to make retroactive contributions, change election, or continue TSP contributions as elected at the time you entered into active military service.

(2) **TSP LOANS:**

(a) If you elect to be placed on AUS, your loan payments will be suspended until you return to a pay status. Although the loan payments will not be due before then, interest will continue to accrue for the entire period. You cannot repay your Civilian TSP loan by making loan allotments from your uniformed services pay. The maximum time limits for repayments (five years for general purpose loans or 18 years for residential loans) will be extended by the length of your military service. In order for these rules to apply, the TSP Service Office must be notified with the beginning and ending dates of your non-pay status. If the TSP Service Office is not notified of your non-pay status, your loan payments can only be suspended for up to one year due to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) requirements. If no payments are made at that time, the TSP Service Office will request that you repay your loan in full or you will be liable for income tax on the outstanding balance of your loan. ***If you have a TSP loan, please complete the attached form TSP-41 and forward it to HRO along with your SF-52 and orders. HRO will process the form and fax it to the TSP Service Office.***

(b) If you elect to separate to perform the military service, you will be required to repay your loan in full, including interest, or the loan will be declared a taxable distribution. An outstanding loan may delay the processing of a withdrawal from your TSP account if you have requested to separate, you must repay any outstanding loans in full in the account that you will be closing, before the two accounts can be combined.

(3) **TSP Catch-Up Contributions.** On November 27, 2002, Public Law 107-304, permitted eligible Thrift Savings Plan participants to make catch-up contributions into their TSP accounts beginning in or after the year in which the employee turned age 50. Participant ***must be in a pay status*** and be ***contributing the maximum*** to TSP contribution percentage allowed by his or her retirement coverage (2006 - CSRS 10% & FERS 15%) or contributing an amount that will cause him or her to reach the Internal Revenue Service elective deferral limit by the end of the year. Because catch-up contributions are supplemental, they ***do not count against either the regular TSP contribution limits or the IRS elective deferral limit.*** (2011 Regular Contributions **\$16,500 + \$5,500** 2011 Catch-up Contributions = **\$22,000**). If you are enrolled in TSP Catch-up Contributions as a civilian employee, you can elect to make up contributions to your civilian TSP account when you return from active duty. You would need to submit a new TSP-1-C. Also, while on active duty you may contribute to your uniformed services TSP account by submitting a TSP-U-1-C to your military personnel office. [NOTE: Regular Contributions and Catch-up contributions for civilian TSP and uniformed services TSP must ***not exceed the \$22,000 IRS Limit for 2011.***

e. **Flexible Spending Account (FSA)**. If you are enrolled in The Health Care Flexible Spending Account (HCFSA) and go on AUS, the National Guard will not contribute to the allotments during the AUS period.

You can elect to:

(a) Prepay the allotments, which will increase the per pay amount.

(b) If you *do not prepay* your election, your FSA account will be frozen and you will not be eligible for reimbursement for any expenses incurred during that period until the Plan Year ends or you return to active status and begin making allotments again. When you return your allotments will be made on a “catch-up” basis, which means your allotment will be doubled until such time you are current. If doubling the amount is not sufficient to “catch-up” by the end of the Plan Year, your allotment will be increased proportionately over the pay dates remaining in the Plan Year; **OR**

(c) Pay the allotments directly on an after-the-tax basis.

[NOTE: AUS is not a Qualified Status Change and you will not be permitted to change your election amounts upon return to service].

f. **RETIREMENT—Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) OR Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS)**

(1) Your active duty military service does not automatically count towards retirement service credit. For the period to be creditable, you will need to make a military service deposit upon reemployment/restoration. The only exception to this is if you were first employed under CSRS prior to 1 October 1982. For these technicians, the active military service is creditable for retirement. However, if the deposit is not made and the technician is eligible for Social Security benefits at age 62, the retirement annuity will be recomputed to remove the active duty service.

(2) Title 32 active duty National Guard service (other than when ordered to active duty in the service of the United States) is creditable for retirement under CSRS or FERS, subject to the same Title 10 military deposit rules, **ONLY** when the service meets the following: **1) Military Service interrupts civilian service creditable under CSRS or FERS 2) Military service must be followed by reemployment** in accordance with Chapter 43 of Title 38 **that occurs on or after August 1, 1990. 3) Military service must be full-time** (and not inactive duty). **4) Military service must be performed by a member of the Army or Air National Guard of the United States, State or Territory, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, or the District of Columbia. 5) Military service must be under Section 316, 502, 503, 504, or 505 of Title 32. 6) Individual must be entitled to pay from the US. Or have waived pay from the U.S. for their service.**

(2) Under USERRA provisions, the military service deposit will be the **LESSOR** of:

(a) Seven (7) percent (CSRS technicians) or three (3) percent (FERS technicians) of the estimated *military* earnings during military service; **OR**

(b) The CSRS or FERS employee contributions that would have been withheld from your Federal *civilian* pay had you not left to perform military service (CSRS – 7%, FERS (.80%).

- If the military deposit is paid before the interest accrual date (within three (3) years of returning to a covered position), no interest is charged on the military deposit.

(c) If you wish to make a military deposit, please complete form RI 20-97 “Estimated Earnings During Military Service” and Fax RI 20-97 along with DD Form 214 to DFAS- Denver (Army) or DFAS-Pensacola (Air) to obtain military earnings. Please provide the HRO with all forms after receipt of estimated earnings from DFAS.

(3) Under AUS, **there is no provision for a refund of retirement contributions. If you elect to separate, you may receive a refund of your retirement contributions.** However, taking a refund will void all rights (to include survivor’s benefits) to the retirement system. In addition, FERS technicians who take a refund will never be able to make a redeposit, and will never receive credit for the refunded period.

(4) Upon reemployment/restoration previous retirement coverage continues.

(5) **Active Duty Retirement.** Military members who will accumulate 7300 active duty points may qualify for a regular military retirement. A member who has accumulated 7300 active duty points cannot qualify for both an Active Duty (regular) retirement and a Non-Regular (reserve) retirement. The Active Duty service **cannot be counted** towards a civil service retirement and military retirement simultaneously. The member must either waive civil service retirement to accept Active Duty retirement, or waive/defer military retirement to return to duty to Civil Service employment.

(6) **Retirement Refunds.** Under certain circumstances you may withdraw your retirement contributions. Please contact the Employee Relations Section of the HRO for specific information. Under FERS rules, contributions may not be deposited to reclaim service covered by the refund.

8. **RETURN TO CIVILIAN DUTY.** A technician who enters active military duty (voluntarily or involuntarily) from any position, including a temporary position, has full job protection, provided he or she applies for re-employment within the following time limits:

a. If on active duty for less than 31 days, you must report back to work at the beginning of the next scheduled workday following release from active duty and the expiration of eight hours after a time for safe transportation back to your residence.

b. If on active duty for more than 30 days, but less than 181 days, you must apply for reemployment within 14 days of release by the military service.

c. If on active duty for more than 180 days, you have 90 days in which to apply for re-employment.

- If your active duty service is less than 91 days, and you request reemployment, you will be placed in the position for which you qualify and would have attained if not for the interruption by military service.

- If your active duty service is for more than 90 days, and you request re-employment, you will be placed in the position for which you qualify and would have attained if not for the interruption by military service **or** one of like seniority, status, and pay.

- Upon reemployment/restoration, a technician generally is entitled to be treated as though he or she had never left for the purpose of rights and benefits based upon length of service. This means that the technician must be considered for career ladder promotions, and the time spent in the military service will be credited for seniority, successive within-grade increases, probation, career tenure, annual leave, accrual rate, and severance pay. ***(A technician who is on a temporary appointment serves out the remaining time, if any, left on the appointment. The active duty period DOES NOT extend the temporary appointment.)***

- A technician performing active military duty is also protected from reduction-in-force (RIF) and may not be discharged from employment for a period of one year following separation except for poor performance, conduct, or for the suitability reasons.

IMPORTANT: Technicians whose 5 year re-employment right is due to expire must contact the HRO (Employee Relations) within 60 days prior to expiration to inform the HRO whether you will be exercising your 5 year restoration right under OR if you do not intend to exercise your 5 year restoration right, per P.L. 103-353. A courtesy letter from the HRO will be mailed within 60 days of expiration of your reemployment rights.

9. **JOB APPLICATIONS**. If you wish to apply for vacant positions while you are on active duty orders you may submit applications/resumes and all required documentation per the vacancy announcement by the closing date. Deployed active duty members may email their applications/resumes to the HRO office if they are out of the country for any positions advertised through the HRO. All applications for any position vacancies posted through USAJOBS have to be submitted through their website and process.

10. **PERSONNEL FILES**. Your Official Personnel File, Employee Performance File and Supervisor's Record Folder will be retained by this agency until the expiration of your reemployment rights.

11. **BENEFICIARY FORMS**. Please update beneficiary forms if needed (**FGLI: SF 2823, TSP: TSP 3, Unpaid Compensation: SF 1152, CSRS: SF 2808; FERS: SF 3102.**

[NOTE: If there is no designated beneficiary living, benefits payable after the death of an employee will be payable to the first person(s) below who are alive on the date title to the payment arises:

- a. To the widow or widower.
- b. If none, to the child or children in equal shares, with the share of any deceased child distributed to the descendants of that child
- c. If none, to any surviving parents.
- d. If none, to the executor or administrator of the estate.
- e. If none, to the next of kin who is entitled under the laws of the state in which the deceased employee was domiciled on the date of death.

12. Good luck and please ***keep us informed of your current address***. If you need further clarification on any of your rights or benefits, please call our office at **602-629-4822/4806 or (DSN 853-4822/4806)**. Questions on reemployment/restoration should be directed to the HRO Staffing Section at **(602) 629-4834/4809 (DSN 853-4834/4809)**. **Please remember you are required to process out through the HRO when leaving on an extended active duty tour.**

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TSgt Stacey A. Mitchell
Human Resources Specialist

6 Encls

1. "USERRA Election Options Form"
2. TSP-41 Notification of Non-Pay Status
3. TSP Request to Make Retroactive Contributions ABC-C Instruction Sheet
4. TSP FACT SHEET "TSP Benefits That Apply to Members of The Military Who Return to Federal Civilian Service"
5. Payment of FEHB Form for **Contingency Operations Only** (24 month of agency paid health benefits)
6. FEHB Waiver to Exercise Transitional Tricare
7. ABC-C Information sheet for Military Deposits