

VOLUME 7A, CHAPTER 38: “SERVICE ACADEMY CADETS, MIDSHIPMEN, AND SERVICE ACADEMY PREPARATORY SCHOOL STUDENTS”

SUMMARY OF MAJOR CHANGES

Changes are identified in this table and also denoted by [blue font](#).

Substantive revisions are denoted by an asterisk (*) symbol preceding the section, paragraph, table, or figure that includes the revision.

Unless otherwise noted, chapters referenced are contained in this volume.

Hyperlinks are denoted by [bold, italic, blue, and underlined font](#).

The previous version dated [April 2022](#) is archived.

PARAGRAPH	EXPLANATION OF CHANGE/REVISION	PURPOSE
Table 38-1	Updated the rations rate for the calendar years 2023 and 2024 in accordance with the “Food Service Charges at Appropriated Fund Dining Facilities and the Military Academies” as listed on the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller) website.	Revision
Table 38 -1	January 2025. Added the rations rate for the calendar year 2025 in accordance with the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller) memo, dated December 20, 2024.	Addition
References	Updated statutes and supporting references.	Revision

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CHAPTER 38

**SERVICE ACADEMY CADETS, MIDSHIPMEN, AND
SERVICE ACADEMY PREPARATORY SCHOOL STUDENTS**

1.0 GENERAL

1.1 Purpose

This chapter establishes policy pertaining to the pay and allowances for cadets at the U.S. Military Academy, the U.S. Air Force Academy, the Coast Guard Academy, and midshipmen at the U.S. Naval Academy.

1.2 Authoritative Guidance

The pay and allowances policies and requirements for cadets and midshipmen established by DoD in this chapter are derived primarily from, and prepared in accordance with Title 37, United States Code (U.S.C.), section 203(c) ([37 U.S.C. § 203\(c\)](#)). Due to the subject matter in this chapter, the list of authoritative sources is extensive. The specific statutes, regulations, and other applicable guidance that govern each individual section are listed in a reference section at the end of the chapter.

2.0 ENTITLEMENTS

2.1 Monthly Pay

Cadets at the U.S. Military Academy, the U.S. Air Force Academy, the Coast Guard Academy, and midshipmen at the U.S. Naval Academy are entitled to pay at the monthly rate of 35 percent of the basic pay of a commissioned officer in the pay grade O-1 with less than 2 years of service. This monthly rate is prescribed in Chapter 1, Table 1-7. Note: The actual monthly pay rate for cadets and midshipmen are set by Executive Order.

2.2 Rations

Cadets and midshipmen are entitled to commuted rations while on leave, on temporary duty or temporary assigned duty at the daily rate established by the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller) as prescribed in Table 38-1.

2.3 Incentive and Special Pays

Cadets and midshipmen are not entitled to incentive pay for hazardous duty or special pay for duty subject to hostile fire or imminent danger.

2.4 Start and Stop Dates

See Table 38-2.

2.5 Continuance of Pay and Allowances

Pay and allowances continue to accrue to cadets or midshipmen while they are absent in an official missing or missing-in-action status. See Chapter 34. Cadets and midshipmen also are entitled to full pay while traveling under orders.

2.6 Death Benefits

Death gratuity entitlement and settlement of unpaid pay and allowances instructions are contained in Chapter 36.

2.7 Settlement for Unused Accrued Leave

Since cadets and midshipmen do not earn leave, they are not entitled to lump-sum leave benefits.

3.0 OTHER STUDENTS

3.1 Service Academy Preparatory School Students

3.1.1. A student at the U.S. Military Academy Preparatory School, the U.S. Naval Academy Preparatory School, or the U.S. Air Force Academy Preparatory School, who was selected to attend the preparatory school from civilian life, is entitled to monthly student pay at the same rate as provided for cadets and midshipmen.

3.1.2. A student at the U.S. Military Academy Preparatory School, the U.S. Naval Academy Preparatory School, or the U.S. Air Force Academy Preparatory School, who, at the time of the student's selection to attend the preparatory school, was an enlisted member of the uniformed services, will receive the monthly basic pay at the rate prescribed for the student's pay grade and years of service as an enlisted member or at the rate provided for cadets and midshipmen under section 2.0, whichever is greater.

3.2 Foreign Cadets and Midshipmen

Persons from a foreign nation, who are receiving instruction at the Military Service academies are entitled to the same pay, commuted rations, and travel and transportation allowances as authorized for U.S. cadets and midshipmen.

4.0 DEDUCTIONS FROM MONTHLY PAY

4.1 Allotments

The Military Department concerned determines whether cadets and midshipmen may register allotments of pay.

4.2 Collections of Indebtedness

For general policies and requirements relating to the collection of indebtedness, see Volume 16. Private indebtedness for services (e.g., laundry, dry cleaning, shoe repair) is not an indebtedness collectible under Volume 16.

4.3 Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (SGLI)

Academy cadets and midshipmen are eligible for SGLI coverage while on full-time duty as a cadet or midshipman at a Service academy. See Chapter 47. Details covering the administration of the SGLI program for cadets or midshipmen are contained in the pay procedural instructions of the Military Service academy concerned.

4.4 Taxes

The basic pay of cadets and midshipmen is subject to federal and state withholding tax (Chapter 44) and Federal Insurance Contribution Act tax (Chapter 45).

5.0 ADVANCE PAY FOR CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT PURCHASES

5.1 General

The Secretary of the Military Department concerned prescribes the amount to be advanced each new cadet or midshipman to cover the cost of initial clothing and equipment. The amount advanced is deducted in regular installments from the cadet's or midshipman's monthly pay until fully collected.

5.2 Discharge

Any cadet or midshipman who is discharged (whether voluntarily or involuntarily) before graduation and before the total amount has been repaid, must turn in as much of the clothing and equipment of a distinctive military nature as is necessary to liquidate the balance owed. If a cadet or midshipman is discharged and the value of the turned-in clothing and equipment does not cover the balance owed, then the value of the turned-in clothing and equipment is applied to the balance owed and the remainder of the advance owed is cancelled, regardless of reason for discharge.

6.0 TRAVEL AND TRANSPORTATION ALLOWANCES

The travel and transportation allowances payable to cadets and midshipmen are prescribed in the Joint Travel Regulations.

*Table 38-1. Ration Rates

Effective	Breakfast	Lunch	Dinner	Total
October 1, 1999	\$1.05	2.15	2.15	\$5.35
October 1, 2000	\$1.05	2.20	2.20	\$5.45
October 1, 2001	\$1.10	2.25	2.25	\$5.60
October 1, 2002	\$1.15	2.30	2.30	\$5.75
October 1, 2003	\$1.20	2.35	2.35	\$5.90
October 1, 2004	\$1.25	2.55	2.55	\$6.35
October 1, 2005	\$1.30	2.60	2.60	\$6.50
October 1, 2006	\$1.30	2.65	2.65	\$6.60
October 1, 2007	\$1.35	2.80	2.80	\$6.95
October 1, 2008	\$2.10	3.85	3.85	\$9.80
January 1, 2009	\$2.30	4.25	4.25	\$10.80
January 1, 2010	\$2.30	4.25	4.25	\$10.80
January 1, 2011	\$2.30	4.25	4.25	\$10.80
January 1, 2012	\$2.45	4.55	4.55	\$11.55
January 1, 2013	\$2.50	4.60	4.60	\$11.70
January 1, 2014	\$2.55	4.65	4.65	\$11.85
January 1, 2015	\$3.45	5.55	4.85	\$13.85
January 1, 2016	\$3.05	4.90	4.30	\$12.25
January 1, 2017	\$3.05	4.90	4.30	\$12.25
January 1, 2018	\$3.05	4.95	4.30	\$12.30
January 1, 2019	\$3.05	4.95	4.30	\$12.30
January 1, 2020	\$3.05	5.00	4.35	\$12.40
January 1, 2021	\$3.20	5.20	4.50	\$12.90
January 1, 2022	\$3.40	5.40	4.75	\$13.55
January 1, 2023	\$3.75	6.00	5.25	\$15.00
January 1, 2024	\$3.85	6.15	5.35	\$15.35
January 1, 2025	\$3.90	6.20	5.45	\$15.55

NOTE: If current year is not listed, see [Reimbursable Rates](#) in Tab G at the Office of the Under Secretary Defense (Comptroller) website.

Table 38-2. Dates to Start and Stop Pay and Allowances

R U L E	When a cadet or midshipman	then cadet and midshipmen pay and allowances
1	has been admitted officially to one of the Service academies	start on the day of admission (note 1).
2	has been discharged and later reappointed to one of the Service academies	are stopped on date of discharge and start again on day of reappointment (note 1).
3	has been dismissed by sentence of court-martial	stop on the date of termination of service as specified in orders directing dismissal.
4	has been dismissed from the academy by other than court-martial action before graduating	stop on date of dismissal.
5	dies before graduation	stop on the date of death.
6	is appointed a second lieutenant in the Army or Air Force upon graduation	stop on the day before the date of graduation.
7	is commissioned in the Regular Navy or Marine Corps	stop on the day before the date of formal acceptance of appointment.
8	is placed voluntarily in a leave without pay status	stop on the day before the member enters a leave without pay status. If the member is readmitted to the academy, then the pay and allowances start again, on the day of readmission.
9	is not appointed a second lieutenant in the Army or Air Force immediately upon graduation	continue until the member is appointed a second lieutenant or is discharged (note 2).

NOTES:

1. An Oath of Allegiance must be taken before first payment is made.
2. In case of appointment, active-duty pay is payable from date of graduation (Chapter 1, Table 1-3, Rule 5); therefore, an adjustment is necessary between cadet pay received and active duty pay due.

*REFERENCES

CHAPTER 38 – SERVICE ACADEMY CADETS, MIDSHIPMEN, AND SERVICE ACADEMY PREPARATORY SCHOOL STUDENTS

2.0 – ENTITLEMENTS

2.1	37 U.S.C. § 203(c)
2.2	37 U.S.C. § 422(b)
	43 Comptroller General (Comp Gen) 94
2.3	30 Comp Gen 31
	47 Comp Gen 781
2.6	26 Comp Gen 373
2.7	37 U.S.C., § 504

3.0 – OTHER STUDENTS

3.1.1.	37 U.S.C. § 203(e)(1)
3.1.2.	37 U.S.C. § 203(e)(2)
3.2	10 U.S.C. § 347(a)(5)

4.0 – DEDUCTIONS FROM MONTHLY PAY

4.3	38 U.S.C. §§ 1965 (5)(a), 1968(a)(2)
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5.0 – ADVANCE PAY FOR CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT PURCHASES

10 U.S.C. §§ 7450, 8460, 9450
 Defense Finance and Accounting Service - Denver Memo,
 May 21, 2002

Table 38-1

Office of Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller) Memo,
 December 12, 2022
 Office of Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller) Memo,
 December 13, 2023
 Office of Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller) Memo,
 December 20, 2024

Table 38-2

Rule 6	37 U.S.C. § 204(f)
Rule 8	46 Comp Gen 261