

VOLUME 7B, CHAPTER 15: “PROOF OF EXISTENCE”**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 [October 2022](#) is archived.

PARAGRAPH	EXPLANATION OF CHANGE/REVISION	PURPOSE
All	Replaced all references to Report of Existence and associated instructions with Foreign Address Update for Mailed Checks per section 605 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2022.	Revision
3.0	Stigmatizing language was modified in accordance with the Deputy Secretary of Defense memo, “Review of Policies to Eliminate Stigmatizing Language Related to Mental Health, “ dated November 7, 2022.	Revision
All	Updated hyperlinks, statutes, and formatting in compliance with current administrative instructions.	Revision

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CHAPTER 15

PROOF OF EXISTENCE

1.0 GENERAL

1.1 Purpose

For the protection of the U.S. Government, certain safeguards are required for retired military paychecks mailed through the international postal system. The proof of existence protects the U.S. Government from continuing to issue payments to deceased retirees. Military retired pay [and](#) Combat-Related Special Compensation payment instruments may not be negotiated after the retiree's death.

1.2 Authoritative Guidance

The pay policies and requirements established by the DoD in this chapter are derived primarily from, and prepared in accordance with the United States Code (U.S.C.), including Titles 31 and 37. 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 reference section at the end of the chapter.

2.0 COMPETENT RETIREE

2.1 [Annual Submission of Foreign Address Update for Mailed Check \(FAUMC\)](#)

In order to receive a paper military paycheck in a foreign country, through the international postal system, a retiree must submit [an annual FAUMC](#) to the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) Indianapolis site. The [FAUMC](#) may be submitted either electronically or by mail.

Note: [FAUMCs](#) are not required for military retirees who reside in the United States [or](#) whose military pay is directly deposited by electronic funds transfer.

2.1.1. [Electronic Submission](#). To submit the [FAUMC](#) electronically, the retiree may [upload the completed and signed form online using the askDFAS online upload tool](#).

2.1.2. [Mail Submission](#). The fully executed paper [FAUMC](#) should be mailed to the following address:

DFAS
U. S. Military Retired Pay
8899 East 56th Street
Indianapolis, IN 46249-1200

2.2 FAUMC Not Required

An FAUMC is not required when:

2.2.1. A retiree resides in the United States and their retired military paycheck is mailed to an address other than that of a financial institution;

2.2.2. The retiree's military paycheck is mailed to an Army/Air Post Office, Fleet Post Office, or a finance or disbursing officer at an overseas address; or

2.2.3. The retiree's military paycheck is mailed to a financial institution in the United States. The financial institution's endorsement constitutes proof of existence for the retiree.

2.3 Exceptions

The Director, DFAS, or designee may suspend FAUMC requirements when a Federal or State disaster, a pandemic, or any other natural emergency is declared. The Director, DFAS, or designee may also determine the amount of time of the suspension, not to exceed 90 days. Upon expiration of the 90-day term, the suspension may be reviewed for further extension, but in no instance may the suspension exceed one year. The action to suspend the FAUMC requirement should take into consideration audit and risk management protocols including the ability to validate the identity of the annuitant from other government sources.

2.4 Restriction

Retired military paychecks must not be addressed to a U.S. Consulate, Embassy, or Military Attaché unless the retiree is employed by that particular agency.

*3.0 RETIREES DETERMINED TO LACK DECISION MAKING CAPACITY DUE TO PHYSICAL OR MENTAL ILLNESS OR DISABILITY

3.1 Checks to retirees determined to lack decision making capacity due to physical or mental illness or disability.

In the case of a retiree who has been found to be incapable of managing their affairs due to a mental incapacity, the retiree may not receive the check. Instead, checks may be made payable to a legal guardian, trustee, or other legal representative after receipt of proper documentation verifying the authority of the guardian, trustee, or other legal representative to receive such payments. See Chapter 16 for appointment or designation of legal representatives.

3.2 Legal Representative Requirement

The retired military paycheck may be mailed to the legal representative or to a financial institution established by the legal representative for the retiree (ward).

3.3 Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Hospital Authority

In the absence of the appointment of a guardian, trustee, or other legal representative for a retiree determined to lack decision making capacity due to physical or mental illness or disability who is a patient of a VA hospital, payment may be made to the Administrator of the VA hospital to provide the retiree with health and comfort items. See Chapter 16.

4.0 MAILING OF RETIRED MILITARY PAYCHECKS

Retired military paper paychecks are normally mailed at the end of each month, provided a signed FAUMC, when required, has been received and certifies the retiree's continued existence. Failure to return the required FAUMC will result in suspension of retired pay.

*REFERENCES

CHAPTER 15 – PROOF OF EXISTENCE

1.0 – GENERAL

Comptroller General (Comp Gen) B-206129,
June 28, 1982
Title 31, Code Federal Regulations (CFR), section
240.15

2.0 –COMPETENT RETIREE

2.1 Comp Gen B-206129, June 28, 1982

3.0 – RETIREES DETERMINED TO LACK DECISION MAKING CAPACITY DUE TO PHYSICAL OR MENTAL ILLNESS OR DISABILITY

3.1 31 CFR 240.14
31 CFR 240.15
44 Comp Gen 208, October 12, 1964
3.2 37 U.S.C. § 602

4.0 – MAILING OF RETIRED MILITARY PAYCHECKS

44 Comp Gen 208, October 12, 1964
Comp Gen B-206129, June 28, 1982
37 U.S.C. § 602 Comp Gen A-3551 Decisions,
April 6, 1931; June 23, 1931; October 24, 1946;
March 9, 1951; and February 3, 1964