

## CHAPTER 15

PROOF OF EXISTENCE1501 GENERAL

For the protection of the government, certain safeguards are required for retired pay checks mailed through the international postal system or payable to legal representatives of mentally incompetent members.

1502 COMPETENT RETIREE

150201. When retired pay checks are delivered to the retired member through the international postal system to foreign countries, the retiree must furnish a report of existence (ROE) semiannually. The retiree does this by filling out a form provided by the Military Service or by letter over the retiree's signature.

150202. The ROE is not required when the retiree's check is mailed to a financial institution in the United States. The endorsement by the financial institution constitutes a certificate of the existence of the retiree.

150203. A competent retiree residing in the United States whose retired pay check is mailed to an address other than a financial institution is not required to submit an ROE.

150204. Retired pay checks mailed to an APO, FPO, or a finance officer or disbursing officer at an overseas address do not require submission of an ROE. Checks are not addressed to a United States Consulate, Embassy, or Military Attache unless the retiree is employed by that particular agency.

1503 MENTALLY INCOMPETENT RETIREE

Comptroller General decisions (66 C.G. 340, 65 C.G. 621, 62 C.G. 202, 51 C.G. 438) prohibit forwarding checks directly to retirees who are found mentally incompetent to manage their own affairs. Checks may be drawn payable to a legal guardian, trustee, or other legal representative after receipt of proper documentation of the authority of the guardian, trustee, or other legal representative to receive such payments. See Chapter 16 of this volume for appointment or designation of legal representatives.

150301. The legal representative must sign the monthly report of his or her ward's continued existence. The retired pay check may be mailed to the legal representative or to a financial institution established by the legal representative for the retiree (ward).

150302. In the absence of the appointment of a guardian, trustee, or other legal representative for an incompetent retiree, payment may be made to the Administrator of a VA hospital to provide the retiree with health and comfort items. See Chapter 16 of this volume.

1504 MAILING OF RETIRED PAY CHECKS

Retired pay checks are mailed at the end of each month, provided a signed ROE, when required, has been received that certifies the retiree's continued existence.