

**VOLUME 7B, CHAPTER 15: “PROOF OF EXISTENCE”****SUMMARY OF MAJOR CHANGES**

All changes are 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 [January 2015](#) is archived.

PARAGRAPH	EXPLANATION OF CHANGE/REVISION	PURPOSE
All	Updated formatting to comply with current administrative instructions.	Revision
150102	Added “Authoritative Guidance” paragraph.	Addition
150202.C	Moved information from paragraph 150203 to this subparagraph for clarity.	Revision
Bibliography	Updated references.	Revision

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## CHAPTER 15

**PROOF OF EXISTENCE**

## 1501 GENERAL

## 150101. Purpose

For the protection of the U.S. Government, certain safeguards are required for retired military paychecks mailed through the international postal system or payable to legal representatives of mentally incompetent members. The proof of existence protects the U.S. Government from continuing to issue payments to deceased retirees. Military retired pay, Combat-Related Special Compensation and/or Concurrent Retired and Disability Pay payments may not be negotiated after the retiree's death.

## \*150102. Authoritative Guidance

The bibliography at the end of this chapter lists the authoritative references.

## 1502 COMPETENT RETIREE

## 150201. Semiannual Submission of Report of Existence (ROE)

In order to receive a military paycheck in a foreign country, through the international postal system, a retiree must submit semiannual ROEs to the Defense Finance and Accounting Service Cleveland (DFAS-CL). The ROE, formally indexed as "DFAS-CL 1800/100," is available at <http://www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary/forms.html>. To submit the ROE electronically, the retiree must log in to the myPay system with his or her assigned login ID and password (<https://mypay.dfas.mil/mypay.aspx>). If the retiree does not have a myPay account, he or she may utilize the instructions on the website to create one. If not submitting electronically, fully executed paper ROEs should be mailed to the following address:

Defense Finance and Accounting Service  
U. S. Military Annuitant Pay  
P. O. Box 7131  
London, KY 40742-7131

## \*150202. ROE Not Required

An ROE is not required when:

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

B. 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

\* C. The retiree's military paycheck is mailed to a financial institution in the United States. The financial institution's endorsement constitutes a certificate of existence for the retiree.

150203. 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.

1503 MENTALLY INCOMPETENT RETIREE

150301. Checks to Mentally Incompetent Retirees

Forwarding checks directly to retirees who are found mentally incompetent to manage their affairs is prohibited. In the case of a mentally incompetent retiree, 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.

150302. Legal Representative Requirement

The legal representative must sign and return the semiannual report of his or her ward's continued existence to the address listed in paragraph 150201 **in order** to continue receiving the member's retired military paycheck. 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).

150303. **Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)** Hospital Authority

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 the **VA** hospital to provide the retiree with health and comfort items. See Chapter 16.

1504 MAILING OF RETIRED MILITARY PAYCHECKS

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

## \*BIBLIOGRAPHY

## CHAPTER 15 – PROOF OF EXISTENCE

## 1501 – GENERAL

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

## 1502 – COMPETENT RETIREE

150201                      Comp Gen B-206129, June 28, 1982

## 1503 – MENTALLY INCOMPETENT RETIREE

150301                      31 CFR 240.14  
                                 31 CFR 240.15  
                                 44 Comp Gen 208, [October 12, 1964](#)  
150302                      [Title 37, United States Code \(U.S.C.\)](#), section 602

## 1504 – 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