

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 2017** is archived.

PARAGRAPH	EXPLANATION OF CHANGE/REVISION	PURPOSE
All	Updated hyperlinks and formatting to comply with current administrative instructions.	Revision
150201	Updated mailing address for the Report of Existence.	Revision
References	Changed the name from “Bibliography” to “References” to comply with new requirements.	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 payment instruments may not be negotiated after the retiree's death.

150102. Authoritative Guidance

The authoritative references are listed at the end of this chapter.

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 Indianapolis site. The ROE form, 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:

DFAS
U. S. Military Annuitant Pay
8899 East 56th Street
Indianapolis, IN 46249-1300

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 **proof** 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.

REFERENCES*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