

VOLUME 7A, CHAPTER 30: “OFFICERS’ UNIFORM AND EQUIPMENT ALLOWANCE”

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 [March 2021](#) is archived.

PARAGRAPH	EXPLANATION OF CHANGE/REVISION	PURPOSE
6.3.1	Extended authorization date to September 30, 2023 per the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023.	Revision
References	Updated to reflect current statutes and other supporting references.	Revision

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CHAPTER 30**OFFICERS' UNIFORM AND EQUIPMENT ALLOWANCE**

1.0 GENERAL

1.1 Purpose

In accordance with guidance contained in this chapter, officers of the Armed Forces of the United States may be entitled to an initial uniform allowance and/or an additional active duty uniform allowance as reimbursement for the purchase of required uniforms and equipment.

1.2 Authoritative Guidance

The pay policies and requirements established by DoD in this chapter are derived primarily from, and prepared in accordance with Title 37, United States Code, sections 415, 416, and 417 (37 U.S.C. §§ 415, 416, and 417). 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 INITIAL UNIFORM ALLOWANCE

2.1 General

Officers of the Armed Forces of the United States are entitled to an initial uniform allowance as provided in this section.

2.2 When Payable

2.2.1. Except as provided in subparagraph 2.2.2, the initial uniform allowance is payable only once to an officer upon:

2.2.1.1. First reporting for active duty (other than for training) for a period of more than 90 days. A member entering active duty as an officer in a Regular Component or upon Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) graduation is considered to have entered into active duty for more than 90 days;

2.2.1.2. Completing at least 14 days of active duty or active duty for training as a member of a Reserve Component;

2.2.1.3. Completing 14 periods of inactive duty training as a member of the Ready Reserve. Each period of inactive duty training must be of at least 2 hours duration; or

2.2.1.4. Reporting for the first period of active duty required of a member of the Armed Forces Health Professions Scholarship Program.

2.2.2. In the case where a Reserve officer transfers to another Reserve Component that requires a different uniform, that Reserve officer may receive another initial uniform allowance.

2.3 Amount Payable

All officer personnel, commissioned or appointed in the Regular or Reserve Components of the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps, are authorized \$400 as reimbursement for the purchase of uniforms and equipment, regardless the source of commission or previous enlisted status.

2.4 Restrictions

2.4.1. If a member has received an initial uniform allowance in any amount as an officer, under conditions other than those listed in subparagraph 2.2.1, then the member cannot again be entitled to the initial uniform allowance.

2.4.2. Regular officers may not receive this allowance when transferring to another Military Service.

2.4.3. Only periods of duty that require wearing of the uniform are counted for entitlement to the initial uniform allowance.

2.4.4. An officer must be determined physically qualified for active duty before entitlement to an initial uniform allowance accrues.

3.0 ADDITIONAL ACTIVE DUTY UNIFORM ALLOWANCE

3.1 General

Officers of Reserve Components, officers of the Army or Air Force of the United States without specification of component, and ROTC graduates appointed in the Regular Components are entitled to an additional active duty uniform allowance as provided in this section.

3.2 When Payable

3.2.1. The additional active duty uniform allowance is payable for each instance of entry or reentry into active duty, or active duty for training (including authorized travel time) for more than 90 days. The period served may be under orders specifying active duty for more than 90 days, or under two or more orders requiring a continuous period of more than 90 days active duty.

3.2.2. An officer commissioned in a Regular Component, upon ROTC graduation, accrues entitlement to the allowance on commencement of duty as a Regular officer. The officer is considered to have entered on active duty for more than 90 days.

3.3 Amount Payable

The additional active duty uniform allowance is payable, to qualified officers in the amount of \$200, as reimbursement for the purchase of required uniforms and equipment.

3.4 Restrictions

3.4.1. The additional active duty uniform allowance is not payable if the officer has received an initial uniform allowance of more than \$400 during the current tour of active duty, or within 2 years prior to entering the current tour.

3.4.2. The additional active duty uniform allowance is not payable when the tour of duty for which payment is being considered began within 2 years after the end of a previous period of active duty, or active duty for training, of more than 90 days. This applies whether or not a uniform allowance was paid for the previous tour of duty. It applies only if the prior service was performed as a Reserve officer, as an officer of the Army or Air Force of the United States without specification of component, or as a Regular officer commissioned upon ROTC.

3.4.3. An officer of a Reserve Component or of the Army or Air Force of the United States, without specification of component, is not due this allowance solely because of appointment in or transfer to the Army, Air Force, or another Reserve Component.

3.4.4. A Reserve officer ordered to an indefinite tour of active duty, or active duty for training, is not entitled to this allowance until the member completes more than 90 days of that tour.

3.4.5. Only periods of duty requiring the wearing of the uniform are counted for entitlement to the allowance prescribed in this paragraph.

3.4.6. To be entitled under this paragraph, an officer must be determined physically qualified for active duty.

3.5 Computation of 2-Year Period

Compute the 2-year period during which no active duty or active duty for training was performed as follows:

3.5.1. When an officer is ordered to active duty, or active duty for training, for a period of more than 90 days, the 2-year period begins on the day following the day of release from active duty or active duty for training.

Example 1: A Reserve officer was ordered to active duty for training under orders specifying a 92-day tour of duty to begin March 1, 2016, and to end May 31, 2016. The officer actually was released from active duty for training May 31, 2016. The 2-year period began on June 1, 2016. Entitlement to the next additional active duty uniform allowance accrues if the officer is called to active duty, or active duty for training, for a period of more than 90 days on or after June 1, 2018.

Example 2: If the officer in Example 1 served 35 days of a tour of active duty under orders specifying duty of more than 90 days, and was released from active duty for training April 4, 2016, then the 2-year period started April 5, 2016. Entitlement to the next additional active duty uniform allowance accrues if the officer is called to active duty, or active duty for training for a period of more than 90 days, on or after April 5, 2018. Refund of allowance or any portion thereof is not required since entitlement was based on reporting for active duty for a period of more than 90 days.

3.5.2. When an officer is ordered to active duty for training for an indefinite period, and serves more than 90 days, the 2-year period begins on the day following the day of release from active duty.

Example 1: A Reserve officer was ordered to active duty for training for an indefinite period to begin March 1, 2016. The officer was released from active duty July 1, 2016. On the 91st day of duty (May 30, 2016), the officer was entitled to the allowance as of the first day of duty (March 1, 2016) if other conditions of entitlement were met. The 2-year period starts July 2, 2016. Entitlement to the next additional active duty uniform allowance accrues if the officer is called to active duty, or active duty for training, for a period of more than 90 days on or after July 2, 2018.

Example 2: If the Reserve officer in Example 1 (subparagraph 3.5.2) was released from active duty on April 4, 2016 after serving only 35 days, then he or she would not be entitled to the additional active duty uniform allowance for that period of active duty for training.

3.5.3. When an officer is separated from a Regular Component and is later appointed as an officer in a Reserve Component and ordered to active duty, or active duty for training, for more than 90 days, the 2-year period restriction in subparagraph 3.4.2 does not apply. Exception: Regular officers appointed upon completion of ROTC training after October 12, 1994, are subject to the 2-year restriction.

Example: An officer was separated from a Regular Component on June 30, 2016, and was appointed an officer in a Reserve Component on July 1, 2016. The member reported for active duty for more than 90 days on May 1, 2018. The member was entitled to the additional active duty uniform allowance when reporting on the present tour of active duty, since the previous tour was as a Regular officer.

4.0 DETERMINATIONS

4.1 First Time Reporting for Active Duty and Allowances

An officer reporting for active duty for the first time, who meets the requirements for entitlement to the initial uniform allowance and the additional active duty uniform allowance, is entitled to receive both allowances subject to the restrictions of paragraphs 2.4 and 3.4.

4.2 Received Initial Uniform Allowance

An officer who receives, or has previously received, an initial uniform allowance as an officer, under any conditions other than those listed in subparagraph 2.2.1, is not eligible to receive the initial uniform allowance upon transfer to, or appointment in, another Reserve Component or the Army or Air Force of the United States, without specification of component.

4.3 Reserve Officers' Uniform Allowance Entitlements

A Reserve officer who receives, or has previously received, an initial uniform allowance, under the conditions listed in subparagraph 2.2.1, and again qualifies for the initial uniform allowance and/or the additional active duty uniform allowance by meeting the basic requirements, is eligible to receive the initial and/or the additional allowance upon transfer to, or appointment in, another Reserve Component or the Army or Air Force of the United States, without specification of component, if the wearing of a different uniform is required.

4.4 Reserve Officers' Additional Allowance Entitlement

If otherwise eligible, a Reserve officer is entitled to be paid the additional active duty uniform allowance, even if the member has not received an initial uniform allowance.

5.0 CIVILIAN CLOTHING MONETARY ALLOWANCE

5.1 Officers' Civilian Clothing Allowance

Officers assigned to a permanent duty station outside the United States, who are required to wear civilian clothing all or a substantial portion of the time in the performance of official duty, may be authorized an allowance for civilian clothing.

5.2 Entitlement and Rate for Civilian Clothing Allowance

Entitlement criteria for civilian clothing allowances are specified in Chapter 29, paragraph 5.3 and allowance rates are at [DFAS.MIL](#).

6.0 ONE-TIME UNIFORM ALLOWANCE FOR OFFICERS WHO TRANSFER TO THE SPACE FORCE.

6.1 General

The Secretary of the Air Force may provide an officer who transfers from the Army, Navy, Air Force, or Marine Corps to the Space Force an allowance of not more than \$400 as reimbursement for the purchase of required uniforms and equipment.

6.2 Relationship to Other Allowances

The allowance under this section is in addition to any allowance available under any other provision of law.

*6.3 When Payable

The authority for an allowance under this section shall apply with respect to any officer described in paragraph 6.1 who transfers to the Space Force:

6.3.1. During the period beginning on December 20, 2019, and ending on September 30, 2023; and

6.3.2. On or after the date the Secretary of the Air Force prescribes the official uniform for the Space Force.

*REFERENCES

CHAPTER 30 – OFFICERS’ UNIFORM AND EQUIPMENT ALLOWANCE

2.0 – INITIAL UNIFORM ALLOWANCE

2.2	37 U.S.C. § 415(a)
2.2.2.	37 U.S.C. § 417(b)
2.3	37 U.S.C. § 415(a)
2.4.1.	37 U.S.C. § 415(b)
2.4.3	37 U.S.C. § 417(c)
2.4.4.	33 Comptroller General (Comp Gen) 250

3.0 – ADDITIONAL ACTIVE DUTY UNIFORM ALLOWANCE

3.2.1.	33 Comp Gen 250
3.3	37 U.S.C. § 416(a)
3.4.1.	37 U.S.C. § 416(b)
3.4.2.	43 Comp Gen 265
3.4.4.	33 Comp Gen 242
3.4.5.	37 U.S.C. § 417(c)
3.5	42 Comp Gen 550

4.0 – DETERMINATIONS

4.3	37 U.S.C. § 417(b)
4.4	43 Comp Gen 729

5.0 – CIVILIAN CLOTHING MONETARY ALLOWANCE

37 U.S.C. § 419

6.0 – ONE-TIME UNIFORM ALLOWANCE FOR OFFICERS WHO TRANSFER TO THE SPACE FORCE

Public Law 116-283 § 606
Public Law 117-263 § 616