

VOLUME 7A, CHAPTER 59: “PAYMENT TO MEMBERS OF THE SENIOR RESERVE OFFICERS’ TRAINING CORPS (SROTC)”

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 2019](#) is archived.

PARAGRAPH	EXPLANATION OF CHANGE/REVISION	PURPOSE
All	Updated hyperlinks and formatting to comply with current administrative instructions.	Revision
590102	Updated the “Authoritative Guidance” paragraph to comply with administrative instructions.	Revision
590203	Deleted the “SROTC Graduates Ordered to Active Duty” paragraph and renumbered subsequent paragraphs.	Deletion
590203.A	Updated the subparagraph on Army’s “Commutation in Lieu of Uniforms” in accordance with Army Regulation 700-84, Chapter 10, dated July 14, 2014.	Revision
References	Updated supporting statutes and references.	Revision

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CHAPTER 59

**PAYMENT TO MEMBERS OF THE SENIOR RESERVE
OFFICERS' TRAINING CORPS (SROTC)**

5901 GENERAL

590101. Purpose

This chapter establishes policy pertaining to the pay and allowances for members of the SROTC.

*590102. 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 5, 10, 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 a reference section at the end of the chapter.

5902 ENTITLEMENTS

590201. Pay While Attending Training

Under Title 37, U.S.C., section [203\(c\)](#), pay for cadets and midshipmen at the U.S. Military, Naval, and Air Force Academies is authorized at a prescribed rate. The rate for a cadet or midshipman, who is a member of the regular component of an Armed Force, will be at the rate of basic pay applicable to the member. These rates apply for:

A. A cadet or midshipman in the SROTC, while attending training or practice cruises, if the training or cruise is of at least four weeks duration and is completed before the cadet or midshipman is commissioned; or

B. An applicant for membership in the SROTC program, while attending field training or practice cruises to satisfy the requirements for admission to advanced training.

NOTE: A member or applicant for membership in the SROTC program is not entitled to longevity increases or basic pay while performing authorized travel to or from a training site.

590202. Advance Pay

See Chapter 32, paragraph 320210.

590203. Commutation In Lieu of Uniforms

* A. Army. See Army Regulation (AR) [700-84](#), Chapter 10.

B. Navy. See Regulations for Officer Development, Naval Service Training Command (NSTC) Manual [NSTC M-1533.2D](#) Series.

C. Air Force. See Holm Center Instructions 65-101.

NOTE: The Air Force ROTC Cadet Payment Programs (Holm Center Instructions 65-101), is available via the Air Force Portal.

590204. Textbook Allowances, Scholarship Cadets, and Midshipmen

A. Army. The Commander, U.S. Army Cadet Command prescribes the rates.

B. Navy. See Naval ROTC (NROTC), NSTC Manual 1533.2D Series.

C. Air Force. See Holm Center Instructions 65-101.

NOTE: The Air Force ROTC Cadet Payment Programs (Holm Center Instructions 65-101), is available via the Air Force Portal.

590205. Restrictions

A. Travel Allowances. A member or applicant for membership in the SROTC program is not entitled to travel allowances while performing field training or at-sea training, except as authorized in section 5908.

B. Special and Incentive Pay. A member or applicant for membership in the SROTC program is not entitled to special or incentive pay, except as provided in section 5904.

C. Navy Reserve Drill Pay. Drill payments to Navy SROTC members are authorized only for students selected for advanced training in their freshman and sophomore years, and who specifically request continuation in a drill status.

5903 SUBSISTENCE ALLOWANCE

590301. Scholarship Cadets or Midshipmen

Except as prescribed in paragraph 590307, a member of the SROTC program, selected for advanced training, is entitled to a monthly subsistence allowance; see the [SROTC Monthly Subsistence Allowance Table](#). Entitlement begins on the day the cadet or midshipman starts advanced training and ends upon the completion of their instruction. In no event, however, will any member receive such pay for more than 30 months.

590302. SROTC Members Appointed In Reserves

Except as prescribed in paragraph 590307, a member of the SROTC, enrolled in the first two years of a four-year program, is entitled to a monthly subsistence allowance as provided in the

[SROTC Monthly Subsistence Allowance Table](#) when appointed for a maximum of 20 months. A member, enrolled in the advanced course, is entitled to subsistence as prescribed in paragraph 590301.

590303. Non-scholarship SROTC Members Not In Advanced Training

A member of the SROTC, who has entered into an agreement under 10 U.S.C. § [2103a](#), is entitled to a monthly subsistence allowance at the rate provided in the [SROTC Monthly Subsistence Allowance Table](#). That allowance may be paid to the member by reason of such agreement for a maximum of 20 months.

590304. Non-scholarship Cadets or Midshipmen

Non-scholarship cadets and midshipmen are not entitled to subsistence allowance, except as noted in paragraph 590407.

590305. Subsistence Allowance for Marine Corps Platoon Leaders Class

Except while serving on active duty, members of the Marine Corps Platoon Leaders Class program are entitled to subsistence allowance at the rates provided in the [SROTC Monthly Subsistence Allowance Table](#). Only members in the sophomore, junior, and senior class (Levels II, III, and IV) are entitled to a subsistence allowance. Members of the freshman class are not entitled to a subsistence allowance. Detailed instructions, governing the payment of the subsistence allowance, are in the Marine Corps Total Force System Personnel Reporting Instructions Manual.

590306. Accelerated Completion of Military Instruction

A cadet or midshipman participating in advanced training, at an institution that has withdrawn from the program, may complete the third and fourth year (or the fourth and fifth year of a five-year program) of military training in the third year (or the fourth year of a five-year program) and be paid subsistence allowance during the fourth academic year (AY) (or the fifth year of a five-year program), as though enrolled for training in the fourth year (or the fifth year of a five-year program).

590307. Limitations

A. Deduction for Field Training and At-Sea Training. A cadet or midshipman is not entitled to subsistence allowance while performing field training or at-sea training. During the period of field training or at-sea training, the cadet or midshipman is entitled to basic pay as specified in paragraph 590201.

B. Vacation Periods

1. A cadet or midshipman, enrolled in the first 2 years of the program is not entitled to subsistence allowance for any period(s) between academic school years, such as

for summer vacations between academic school years. Holiday breaks do not interrupt the entitlement.

2. A cadet or midshipman, enrolled in the advanced course, is entitled to subsistence allowance uninterrupted by any periods between academic school years, subject only to the overall 20 months (30 months in an approved five-year program) of entitlement limitation and subject to deduction for any periods of field training or at-sea training.

C. Government Meals Furnished Without Charge. SROTC members will have deducted from their subsistence allowance, on a per-meal basis, the charge for government meals furnished without charge. The total deduction for any day will not exceed 1/30th of the subsistence allowance. This recoupment provision does not apply, when meals are furnished, while participating in training events conducted during the AY.

590308. Payment Procedures

Detailed instructions governing the payment of subsistence allowance to the respective SROTC members are contained in:

- A. Army. See AR [145-1](#);
- B. Navy. See NROTC, NSTC Manual [1533.2A](#) Series; and
- C. Air Force. See Holm Center Instructions 65-101.

NOTE: The Air Force ROTC Cadet Payment Programs (Holm Center Instructions 65-101), is accessible via the Air Force Portal.

5904 SROTC SKILL PROFICIENCY BONUS (SPB)

590401. Eligibility

The Secretary of the Military Department concerned may pay an SROTC SPB under this section and the DoD Instruction (DoDI) [1340.27](#), Military Foreign Language SPB, to a cadet or midshipman of SROTC who:

A. Is enrolled as a cadet or midshipman of SROTC, as determined in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Secretary of Defense;

B. Participates in a language immersion program approved for the purposes of SROTC, or in study abroad, or is enrolled in an academic course that involves instruction in a foreign language of strategic interest. A foreign language of strategic interest includes a language listed on the DoD Strategic Language List, or other foreign language of strategic interest, which may be designated by the Secretary of the Military Department concerned as critical for purposes of foreign language SPB to the DoD, as designated by the Secretary of Defense for purposes of this section;

- C. Enters into a written agreement under paragraph 590403;
- D. Pursues a course of study to acquire a critical foreign language as defined by the Secretary of the Military Department concerned; and
- E. Satisfactorily completes the course. To satisfactorily complete the course, a contracted cadet or midshipmen must attain a letter grade of “B” or higher to warrant the SPB payment.

NOTE: An SROTC member may be paid an SROTC SPB if the student is enrolled in SROTC, even though the student may not have completed the first year of a four-year SROTC course or has become an obligated member under the SROTC program.

590402. Limitations

- A. SROTC SPB will not be paid retroactively for courses completed at another institution in the event a newly contracted cadet or midshipman transfers from that institution to a ROTC affiliated college, university, or ROTC consortium.
- B. SROTC SPB will not be paid to cadets or midshipmen who take the College Level Examination Program test, distance learning, or on-line courses to receive college credit for foreign language or cultural studies classes.

590403. Written Agreement

The Secretary of the Military Department concerned will require a contracted cadet or midshipmen to enter into a written agreement. The written agreement will specify:

- A. The required SROTC SPB critical skill course of study;
- B. The amount of the SROTC SPB;
- C. The academic period(s) in which the SROTC SPB will be paid;
- D. The required SROTC SPB course of study; and
- E. That the cadet or midshipman will be paid the SPB after satisfactory completion of the SROTC SPB course.

590404. Amounts

- A. An SROTC SPB will not exceed \$3,000 for each 12-month period that follows a qualifying academic period in which a cadet or midshipmen satisfactorily completes a course of study to develop an SROTC SPB critical skill.
- B. Any SROTC SPB payments for summer language immersion or study abroad programs, combined with any previous SPB payments for that AY, must not exceed the

12-month (full AY) SROTC SPB entitlement (summer immersion payment plus previous SPB payments) limit of \$3,000.

NOTE: The Secretary of the Military Department concerned may change the start and end dates of this 12-month period, to accommodate different schedules, for their ROTC affiliated colleges, universities, and ROTC consortiums, provided that the newly defined 12-month period reflects a minimum of 365 consecutive days.

590405. Method of Payment

The SROTC SPB, for a qualifying course(s) or immersion training, will only be paid in a lump sum payment, following the satisfactory completion of that course or immersion training.

590406. Certification of Proficiency and Waiver

The DoD may waive the annual proficiency certification requirement for an SPB. In order for the DoD to waive this requirement, the contracted cadet or midshipman must satisfactorily complete the course of study, during the qualifying academic period or year, preceding the payment of the SPB.

590407. Monthly Subsistence Allowance

During the period covered by the SROTC SPB, the student is entitled to a monthly subsistence allowance as detailed in section 5903, even though the student has not entered into an agreement under 10 U.S.C. § 2103a. If paid, the monthly subsistence allowance will be as authorized in the [SROTC Monthly Subsistence Allowance Table](#). An SROTC cadet may only receive a single monthly subsistence allowance.

590408. Repayment

A member, who is paid a proficiency bonus under this section but does not satisfactorily complete participation in the language program or study as described in paragraph 590401 (or does not complete the requirements of the SROTC, as applicable), may be subject to the repayment provisions of Chapter 2. SROTC SPB must not be calculated in the cost of advanced education, should the Secretary of the Military Department concerned choose to exercise his/her written agreement option to seek reimbursement of the cost of a former student's advanced education.

590409. Duration of Authority

Unless extended by the authority of the Congress, no agreement may be entered into for the SROTC SPB under this section after the date on the [Duration of Authority](#) table.

5905 DEDUCTIONS

590501. General

The basic pay of a member or applicant for membership in the SROTC program is subject to Federal Income Tax Withholding and Federal Insurance Contributions Act taxes. See the Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service Publication [15-A](#) and Chapter 45, Table 45-1, for tax withholding rates.

590502. Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (SGLI)

SGLI is authorized for SROTC members. Cadets and midshipmen are provided SGLI coverage while [attending field training or practice cruises](#). They are also covered while proceeding directly to or returning from the place where duty is performed. (See the [Servicemembers' and Veterans' Group Life Insurance \(VGLI\) Handbook, Appendix G](#)). The following duty conditions apply:

A. Chapter 47 applies to members, cadets, or midshipmen of SROTC performing full-time duty while attending field training or practice cruises under calls or orders for 30 days or more.

B. Chapter 58, section 5808 applies to members, cadets, or midshipmen of SROTC performing full-time duty while attending field training or practice cruises under calls or orders for 30 days or more.

590503. Allotments

A member or applicant for membership in the SROTC program is not authorized to register allotments

5906 DISABILITY BENEFITS

590601. Entitlements for Cadets and Midshipmen Disabled While En Route To or From Field or At-Sea Training

A cadet or midshipman, who is disabled en route to or from field or at-sea training, and is otherwise entitled to a subsistence allowance described in section 5903, is entitled to a subsistence allowance for the day of incurrence of the disability and continuing thereafter, subject to the provisions of section 5903.

590602. Entitlement for Cadets and Midshipmen Disabled While Attending Field or At-Sea Training

A cadet or midshipman, who is disabled while attending field or at-sea training, is entitled to the monthly cadet rate of pay prescribed in the [Military Pay Tables](#) through the last day of the

ordered training period. If the disability continues beyond the ordered tour, the cadet or midshipman, if otherwise entitled, is entitled to a subsistence allowance described in section 5903.

5907 PAYMENTS ON BEHALF OF DECEASED MEMBERS

Beneficiaries, of any member or applicant for membership in the SROTC program who dies under the conditions specified in paragraph 590602, are entitled to Death Gratuity under the provisions of Chapter 36, section 3602, and unpaid pay and allowances under section 3603.

5908 TRAVEL AND TRANSPORTATION ALLOWANCES

The travel and transportation allowances payable to SROTC cadets and midshipmen are prescribed in the [*Joint Travel Regulations*](#).

*REFERENCES

CHAPTER 59 – PAYMENT TO MEMBERS OF THE SENIOR RESERVE OFFICERS’
TRAINING CORPS (SROTC)

5902 – ENTITLEMENTS

590201	37 U.S.C. § 203(c) 10 U.S.C., Subtitle A, Part III, Chapter 103 10 U.S.C. § 2104(b)(6)(A) and (B)
590201.A & B	37 U.S.C. § 209(d)
590203	DoDI 1215.08, January 19, 2017, Incorporating Change 1, effective March 7, 2018, paragraph 3.9

5903 – SUBSISTENCE ALLOWANCE

590301	37 U.S.C. § 209(a) Assistant Secretary of Defense Memo, July 24, 2001 Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel & Readiness) Memo, August 22, 2005
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5904 – SROTC SPB

590401	37 U.S.C. § 353(i) DoDI 1340.27, May 21, 2013, Incorporating Change 1, effective April 27, 2020
590408	10 U.S.C. § 2005(a)(3)
590409	Public Law 116-92 , section 611(d)(8), December 20, 2019

5905 – DEDUCTIONS

590502	Servicemembers’ and Veterans’ Group Life Insurance Handbook, November 2002, revised August 2019
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5906 – DISABILITY BENEFITS

590601	10 U.S.C. § 2109
590602	5 U.S.C. § 8140

5907 – PAYMENTS ON BEHALF OF DECEASED MEMBERS

10 U.S.C. §§ 1475-1480

5908 – TRAVEL AND TRANSPORTATION ALLOWANCES

37 U.S.C. § 422