

Words of Wisdom Wednesday 14 August, 2019

Questions and Answers

Q: Why is the most restrictive period for IDT Pay exactly when the Reservists are most active (4th quarter)?

A: The Personnel Support Command (RPM) sets policy for submission of IDTs. Commands should address this issue up the chain of command to PSC (RPM).

Q: Do all SPOs require the BAH worksheet before setting orders to En route status?

- Currently mobilizing members for the Southwest Border. The DOL, DXR and CMCs are telling SPOs to process the orders and start BAH without the BAH worksheet.
- The email would be justification for starting the orders only, at least this way the member is paid for their active duty. If the SPO would like to hold off on starting BAH then all agree the member needs to fill the BAH worksheet out. To not pay a member for duty performed is not legal. As for requiring a BAH worksheet to start BAH, I believe we are all on the same page.
- Putting orders in an En route status does not start BAH, only pay. Why should Reserve pay and allowances be held up due to the BAH worksheet? Direct Access is used as the source document for IDT drills, why can't the same "rule" be used for starting Active Duty orders?

A: Since the 14 August 2019 webinar, Commandant (CG-1) has released new policy on the use of the BAH/Housing Worksheet (CG-2025). See ACN 089/19 for specific details.

Q: Will you show metrics on member drills?

A: PPC Business Analysis Team has posted on the PPC Portal the link to view the IDT metrics.

[IDT Metrics](#)

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Q: We're having an issue with commands approving the drill, the drill being completed and getting a batch number, then going back to showing that it's not approved even though it has a batch number. It doesn't show on the SPO tree when it does this. Has anyone else ran into this?

The issue of drills reverting back to approved has been so well documented that I find it hard to believe that we are still having to screen shot. There still is no further progress on this?

A: This problem has been reported. The current workaround for this problem is to update the IDT to Complete again and save it and it should go to the SPO for approval. CG-631 (programmers) have asked for a screen shot of the DA page where the IDTs were marked completed, then again when they show reverted back to Scheduled/Approved, once again when updated to Completed with new batch number assigned, and finally a screen shot of the IDT page showing Completed with a new batch number. Since it appears that the status switching is random, there is no means for them to trouble shoot the issue without documentation.

Q: Will IDT drill pay performed in the same month be processed and paid on two different days/pay periods?

A: IDT Drills are processed in the pay cycle they are approved by the SPO. If two IDTs are approved in the same/current pay cycle, they will both be paid in the same cycle. Refer to the PPC (MAS) Payroll Processing Schedule for details on the Pay calendars.

Q: If an IDT's processing was missed and then the member came on active duty for 365 days, will PPC accept a help ticket to have the IDT processed for pay by PPC (MAS)?

A: No, PPC does not manually process IDTs for members in an active duty pay group. IDTs are paid in Direct Access as a One-Time-Positive-Input (OTPI). Members must be in a "Reserve" pay group for processing of IDT drills. When a member reports for Active Duty, Direct Access changes their pay group to an Active Duty pay group. If an IDT was not updated to a completed status prior to the member reporting for Active Duty, the IDT will not process for pay until the member returns to a reserve pay group (completion of Active Duty).

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Q: Can you talk about IDT drills for points only?

A: Reserve member may perform IDT Drills for “points only”, which means they are performed without pay, but earn reserve retirement points for the IDT. Many Reservists perform IDTs for points only, which will increase their multiple for retired pay calculations. There currently is no limit to the number of IDTs that can be performed for points only. However a reserve member may not earn more than 130 reserve retirement points for IDTs, membership, FHD and correspondence courses in any given Anniversary year. Or a maximum of 365 (366 for leap year) retirement points in any given anniversary year when adding active duty. The policy is outlined in the [Reserve Policy Manual – Chapter 8](#).

Q: Why can't the command edit the drill after it's approved? Why can't we go back to the way it was when commands had more control over drill scheduling? It is impossible to be flexible with drills. The 4th quarter when we drill the most is the most difficult and restrictive. For example, all IDTs must be entered and approved by May 1st. June-August, members need to support summer training. To clarify my point, a member enters all regular drills to May 1st. The command approves the drill, then in August the members wants to drill for qualifications. The SPO must cancel the IDT and enter a new drill. The member and command are unable to make the change. In the past these changes were done at the member and command level.

A: Commands may edit or withdraw an IDT drill up to and including the drill date. After the date has passed, only the command user/supervisor or SPO may edit, withdraw or change the status of an IDT. Review the IDT Drills (Command) user guide for further information on when an IDT may be edited, cancelled or deleted. Most of these changes are due to the audit that requires the segregation of duties.

Q: Has the CG considered investing some funds into user interface at every level?

A: PPC doesn't play a role in prioritizing system changes or the funding for those changes. Please voice your concerns up the chain of command.

Q: Why do some SPOs require ticket submission with batch numbers to process pay, and others process pay without any notification?

A: Current policy outlined in the Personnel and Pay Procedures Manual PPCINDSTM1000.2B, requires Commands to notify the SPO via email that a member has completed their IDT and include the batch number, member's name, employee ID and IDT date. [Personnel Pay and Procedures Manual - Chapter 12.B](#)

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Q: Is it the responsibility of District DXR or P&A office to inform the SPO when funding is authorized for AD orders to update the status to ready?

A: The Personnel Pay and Procedures Manual states the DXR or PAC-13 will email the SPO notifying them the orders have been authorized. SPOs then updated the orders to a “Ready” status. [Personnel Pay and Procedures Manual – Chapter 12.C](#)

Q: Will there be any training on Direct Access Mobilization in the near future? The messages released for DA Mobilization is very well outlined IAW policy.

A: PPC does not currently provide any Mobilization Training. However, the Personnel Pay and Procedures Manual provides checklists, guides and information required to complete reserve mobilization. Personnel and Pay Procedures Manual – Chapter 11

If you’re looking for the DA instructions for applying for Mobilization Opportunities, see the Self Service [Requesting Mobilization Volunteer Opportunities](#) user guide. If you are a command, see the Self Service for Command [Endorsing/Approving Mobilization Volunteer Opportunities](#) user guide. See [PPC Knowledge Base](#) for additional information concerning mobilization.