



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY AND AIR FORCE  
ILLINOIS ARMY AND AIR NATIONAL GUARD  
1301 N. MACARTHUR BOULEVARD  
SPRINGFIELD IL 62702-2317

September 5, 2014

Adjutant General's Office

Fellow Illinois Guardsmen:

You continue to serve our State and Nation with dedication as we grow from Strong to Stronger. I thank you. Our Illinois Army Guard is better trained, better equipped, and better prepared to 'answer the call' - than ever before.

Yet, today we face an unprecedented challenge affecting our near-term training, our drill schedules, our ATs, and our schools. September drills and training missions are rescheduled due to a budget shortfall at the National Guard Bureau. This impacts Guardsmen in every state and territory.

We are changing most of our drill dates to 27-28 September, and in many cases cancelling non-critical training. We are meeting this challenge, and Commanders are planning meaningful training for you. We are adapting training, adjusting schedules, and we will overcome. Above all, we will maintain our readiness.

The source of this fiscal shortfall is being reviewed internally at NGB. In the meantime, our 'Guard Nation' is adjusting-fire until Congress reprograms funding.

The strength of our Guard is our ability to flex, react, and still respond when needed. Our Nation needs us to be ready and available - now.

Attached are Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) regarding our current budget constraints. The video of Thursday's town hall discussion is on our webpage ([www.il.ngb.army.mil/](http://www.il.ngb.army.mil/)) and Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/illinoisnationalguard](http://www.facebook.com/illinoisnationalguard)). The town hall may lend clarity to the current situation, and how you may be affected. If you have questions beyond what is included, please be sure to use your chain of command.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Daniel M. Krumrei".

Daniel M. Krumrei  
Major General, ILARNG  
The Adjutant General

## **FAQs September 2014 IDT rescheduling, funding constrains**

### **Q1. Is there a chance September's drill could be cancelled altogether?**

*A1: Yes. If Congress does not approve the request to re-program funds, we will have to cancel September's drill. We would not have the IDT pay and allowance available to conduct September drill.*

### **Q2. Can you split out of drill if you had something planned? Why not?**

*A2: All units are encouraged to apply a liberal use of the "Excused/Absent" coding option due to the change. If a SM had previously made plans, commanders should excuse them from IDT. The ability to split for the September drill is significantly restricted at this time. We cannot authorize pre-IDT splits prior to the last weekend of September. NGB Legal review is ongoing to determine if personnel can "make-up" the missed IDT in FY15. That decision hinges on our ability to fund select personnel for 52 UTAs.*

### **Q3. If Congress does not reprogram money to get us through, will the money to pay for September's drill come out of next fiscal year's budget? Will that leave us short again next year?**

*A3: Fiscal year 2014 ends September 30, and any duty performed after that date will utilize FY 15 funds. If we do not conduct our IDT in September and move it to October, there is the possibility this could leave us short IDT funds in FY 15 due to funding an extra IDT.*

### **Q4. I was counting on my drill check to arrive before October 1 so I could pay my bills, are we authorized a pay advance or is there any assistance available to me?**

*A4: No. IDT pay does not allow for advances, however Soldiers or families who may need financial assistance can call our Family Assistance Centers at 800-832-9225 and our specialists will try to provide helpful resources.*

### **Q5. Considering the government shutdown and furloughs last year, is this something to expect every September/ October going forward?**

*A5: We continually monitor the fiscal situation within the Department of Defense, the Budget Control Act and the debt ceiling will continue to have an impact on available funds in the out years. Due to these factors, it will be prudent for us to plan for those events to potentially impact each fiscal year. In order to anticipate this in the future, we will work closely with the G3 and commanders to avoid conducting major training events in October and September when possible.*

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**Q6. If September drill does happen at the end of the month, will we be paid just as timely as we are every other month?**

*A6: Yes. Units will submit IDT pay per normal operating procedures and pay will disburse just like any other drill weekend.*

**Q7. Will there be an opportunity to make up the MUTAs if we cannot make it to the new September drill date?**

*A7: As of now, the split window will only be open from September 26<sup>th</sup> through the 30<sup>th</sup>. However, Commanders will work with their Soldiers to consider excused absences as needed.*

**Q8. How will meals work for the September 27-28 IDT Period?**

*A8: Due to the funding, we are working to minimize the use of catered rations with on-hand Tailored Operational Training Meals (TOTM's) for those units that will remain at armories. We are working with the commands to consolidate unit food service between commands at our larger facilities such as Camp Lincoln, North Riverside, and Crestwood Readiness Centers. These locations will provide unit prepared rations. Meals, Ready to Eat (MREs), will be used for those units that have scheduled field training exercises, such as the BCT TOW LFX at Fort Knox and the field training planned for the 2-106 CAV and 1-178 IN BN. The CAV will have priority to use available stock of UGR rations as D FSC/634 BSB is providing support food service, maintenance and transportation support if they are still able to train at Fort McCoy. The remaining units will subsist using on-hand TOTMS and MREs.*

**Q9. Can units still use tactical vehicles for training/maintenance?**

*A9: Yes. Ground OPTEMPO funds remain available for the maintenance of equipment. Wright Fuel Express cards should be limited to emergency purchases only. The ILARNG has enough on-hand fuel to support unit movements, road tests and motor stable requirements.*

**Q10. Why did we move drill to the end of the month instead of cancelling it like other states?**

*A10: We expect to get the reprogrammed funds back from NGB before the end of the month, and want to still conduct training, and ensure our Guard members get their drill check for this month's drill. If we cancel drill entirely, it would be even more confusing to attempt to 'turn it back on' when we get the funding.*

**Q11. If September drill is cancelled, will we not get a good year toward retirement?**

*A11: For the vast majority of soldiers, they will still get a good year, as it is based on their service date, not fiscal year, and Soldiers only need 50 points for a good year. There are a few soldiers*

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*(less than 10) who would not receive a good retirement year due to the drill move. However, we are working with those Soldiers on their individual situations.*

**Q12. I have already split September drill and performed my duty, will I be paid?**

*A12: Yes.*

**Q13. Originally we were scheduled to have a MUTA 6 out of state, will the new drill date be only a MUTA 4 at the armory?**

*A13: No. If a MUTA 6 was scheduled, then the new drill period will also be a MUTA 6 in order to meet the statutory requirements of 48 periods. The ability of units to perform their duty at the Out of State Training Area is the responsibility of the units. If the space is available and the unit has the ability to self-transport, then they can execute their training plans. If funding is not available for transportation, units will have to perform drill at home station.*

**Q14. Is IDT lodging still provided for the new September drill weekend?**

*A14: Yes. IDT lodging is unaffected and will still be available according to our standard SOP.*

**Q15. Will this affect any other training dates for the next year?**

*A15: The FY15 training plan remains in effect. There are no changes at this time, however we will look at our planned training based on next year's budget, once approved, and will notify Soldiers as soon as possible if we have to make additional changes.*

**Q16. What happens if we have a state emergency, can we still be activated?**

*A16: Yes. State Active Duty is paid for out of state funds, which are unaffected by the financial issues at NGB. So, if needed by the State of Illinois, we can support the state, and the state would pay Soldiers as normal.*

**Q17. I was supposed to go to a school in lieu of AT, but my school was cancelled. Can I still perform a home station AT?**

*A17: All Soldiers are entitled to 15 days of active duty training during an FY. If a Soldier has already completed 15 days of active duty training (schools, NET, conferences), even if this was not part of AT, then they will not be allowed to do a home station AT. If the Soldier has not completed 15 days of active duty training this FY, they will be able to do a home station AT.*

**Q18. Can units still use GSA vehicles?**

*A18: Yes. GSA transportation resources remain available for unit use.*

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### **Q19. Why was my P3 school cancelled and will I get to go next year?**

*A19: The priority for schooling is duty MOSQ schools (P1) and then professional education (OES/NCOES) (P2). To mitigate the negative effects of the funds recall, we focused on funding all P1 / P2 schools to avoid delays to these Soldier's careers. However, there are not enough funds to cover P3 schools, so regardless of status (AGR, Tech, or M-day) these schools are cancelled. Depending on available funds next year, you may have the opportunity to apply again next year, but the priority will still be P1 and P2 schools.*

### **Q20. With the new drill occurring during the Anaconda Sabre exercise, I am going to lose the MUTAs if I am not able to split prior to going to Anaconda Sabre. Why can't I split early for drill if I am attending?**

*A20: Due to available funding, we can only authorize certain events for split prior to the last weekend of the month. In order to ensure funding for the actual Anaconda Sabre exercise, we have to minimize additional splits. All Soldiers will be coded C for September IDT period who are at Anaconda Sabre because they are covered under a different order, and will be on duty during the drill weekend. There will not be a loss of retirement points as this event is being funded with additional AT days and Soldiers will receive 10 retirement points for this FY as opposed to the 4 they would have earned with the normal IDT period.*

### **Q21. Since Soldiers are only authorized 48 UTAs per year, if September drill is moved to October, crossing fiscal years, will the UTAs count toward FY14 or FY15? If September's drill is moved to FY15, what do we gain by having a "makeup" drill at all if we cannot exceed 48 UTAs?**

*A21: Any IDT performed after October 1 will be FY15 UTAs. We have an ability to go into the system and increase authorized UTAs to 52, and NGB has a process to request authorization in a case like this. We do something similar for Road-To-War units that perform additional UTAs.*

### **Q22. Do you foresee future budget difficulties getting Soldiers access to required military schooling, particularly junior NCOs?**

*A22: No. Required Professional Military Education (PME) is the primary training effort for all units in conjunction with their unit's ARFORGEN cycle aim points. This may be in lieu of annual training, instead of additional annual training, in the future depending on the budget.*

### **Q23. Does the current budget difficulty affect the Army and Air Guard the same?**

*A23: No. The current budgetary shortfall only affects the ARNG.*

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**Q24. Are these budgetary constraints pay and allowance-centric or will this also impact maintenance and facilities spending?**

*A24: No. Operational funds, which include maintenance and facilities, fall under the 2065 appropriation and are unaffected by the current budget shortfall.*

**Q25. Can you address how the Illinois National Guard transmits expected/anticipated unit participation rates to NGB in order to identify how much money is needed to support the drill weekend?**

*A25: Illinois communicates our previous year's participation rates to NGB for budgeting purposes.*

**Q26. Because units have ran out of IP addresses during an average drill weekend previously, do we have enough G6/IT support? Will units have issues with IT support and/or network connectivity during the rescheduled drill weekend?**

*A26: There will be help desk support during drill weekend minus any mandatory training JFHQ requires. Network connectivity should not be an issue for RCAS users. Bandwidth utilization is monitored throughout the year and we do not foresee an impact. Units that have commercial wireless installed may run out of IP addresses because we are limited with our current architecture. Once Metro-Ethernet is installed (early FY15), this will not be an issue. In regards to Mobile Labs, all have been accounted for- 1644th, JFHQ, 661st ENG, and 444th CHEM. No other requests have been made.*

**Q27. What will happen for a Soldier's good year if their school was cancelled and the school was in lieu of their AT?**

*A27: A good year only requires 50 points. A Soldier earns 78 points in a normal year. (breakdown: membership = 15 points, 48 UTAs = 48 points, Annual Training = 15 points). Without AT, a Soldier will still receive 63 points, so, as long as the Soldier completed all scheduled IDT periods, he/she will receive a good year.*

**Q28. Will 'my unit pay' be able to keep up with all 54 states and territories drilling on the same weekend?**

*A28: NGB has indicated that states should not expect additional delays in My Unit Pay (MUP), processing outside of the normal latency experienced on a routine drill weekend. However, NGB will run three additional daily processing cycles on September 29 and 30, and on October 1 (if need be) to push pay transmittals through the system and anticipates these additional cycles will alleviate the overall burden on MUP. If UAs are experiencing long delays in processing IDT pay, then we recommend they re-try processing during non-peak hours.*

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*NGB does not think this will help, but we have experienced success with this in other Web-Based Systems such as DTS and GFEBs. Once the full October DFAS production schedule publishes, we will be able to send this info to the field so they know the processing deadlines as well as pay dates for their Soldiers.*

### **Q29. My Soldier's ADOS ends Sept 12th, will he be required to drill?**

*A29: Yes. Once the ADOS orders end, that Soldier will return to normal drilling status. If the Soldier is unavailable for drill on that weekend, they can request an excused absence. Having been on ADOS, they will certainly have enough duty points to ensure a good year.*

### **Q30. Can you confirm the split status and options for Soldiers? Is the split window only 26-30 Sept? Can we request splits prior to September drill at all?**

*A30: Currently the split window is only September 26-30. Splits prior to September drill will have to be worked on an individual basis*

### **Q31. With consolidated units all drilling at Camp Lincoln, can we open another gate?**

*A31: Yes. We will look at how to use additional gates, and staggered start times, to avoid congestion.*

### **Q32. Is anyone looking at cost-saving approaches with units/drills by consolidating these at one location/armory?**

*A32: Yes. By consolidating, we will be able to use mess and maintenance personnel, and equipment that would normally not be available to units without those assets in Crestwood, North Riverside and Springfield.*

### **Q33. Will Soldiers with currently scheduled training and travel in DTS for September still be good?**

*A33: Travel in September is limited to only those events approved by the Chief of Staff.*

### **Q34. Can Soldiers drill for retirement points only?**

*A34: Yes. If approved by the commander, Soldiers may voluntarily perform special additional duties such as IDT periods for retirement points only. When utilizing voluntary IDT, Soldiers will perform duty in connection with prescribed training or maintenance activities of the units assigned. Periods performed for retirement point only (without pay) will not be less than 2 hours, with a maximum of 2 points authorized in any 1-calendar day.*