

NGB J1 Policy White Paper with Q&A

COVID-19 – T32 IDT/AT Personnel Impacts

- COVID-19 presents unique Title 32 personnel challenges for NG training and assemblies. Protection of NG members, our workforce, their families and communities is a critical priority.
- Title 32 authorities prescribed in law, policy and regulation afford TAGs and commanders maximum flexibility and authority in cancelling or rescheduling assemblies, prescribing alternate training plans or changing training schedules based on military necessity and force protection. Additional training guidance is anticipated for alternate and online training options. ANGI 36-8001 provides current policy on distance/telework for ANG members.
- State National Guard Units must ensure that NGR 350-1 and ANGI 36-2001 are followed with regard to changes or amendments to their training plan. DoDI 1215.06 limits rescheduling and performance of AT for the purpose of domestic incident response—but there is not a prohibition on rescheduling based on force health protection.
- In the event a Service Member (SM) is experiencing cold, fever, or COVID-19 symptoms, a commander has the authority to excuse the SM from IDT or AT. If the SM begins to experience symptoms while at IDT or AT, the SM should seek medical care at a Military Treatment Facility (MTF) or urgent care and should not return to duty until asymptomatic. For AGRs, Technicians, Civilians and ADOS: normal sick leave procedures apply. CDC and DoD guidance on travel, social distancing, and to avoid large gatherings is evolving.
- Commanders should ensure accountability of affected personnel is maintained and force monitoring and protection CCIRs are reported. CCIRs include: cases (tested and confirmed positive COVID-19), hospitalized cases, recovered, and deaths.
- Commanders may seek advice or guidance from the State Surgeon or Medical Detachment on specific questions or concerns.
- No policy changes or unique guidance relating to LODs has been issued by DoD at this time.
- DoDI 6200.03 Public Health Emergency Management delineates a commander's emergency health powers and restriction of movement roles and responsibilities. *Restrictions of movement, including isolation, quarantine, conditional release, or any other measure necessary to prevent or limit a SM transmitting a communicable disease and enhance public safety may be implemented. In the U.S., restriction of T32 NG movement should be considered in coordination with the local CDC quarantine officer and state health officials.*
- Commanders cannot limit the movement of NG personnel when NOT serving in a duty status. NG personnel that have travelled to, or are returning from an area where they may have been exposed to a confirmed case of COVID-19, or been in contact with individuals who may have been exposed to a confirmed case of a COVID-19 should contact their chain of command prior to reporting for a training assembly to assess their drilling options. Commanders should ask unit members to report travel to restricted areas to assist in IDT attendance decision making.

Questions and Answers (IDT & Alternate Training)

Question: With the risks of COVID-19, my state has decided to cancel or reschedule Drill Weekend (IDT/RST). I am worried about unit members incurring an SGLI debt and or being unable to pay their Tricare medical or dental premiums. What options can I review with my A3/G3 and A1/G1?

Answer: Adjutants General and commanders have broad authority to adjust their training plans. One option is to authorize alternate training. If a unit assembly is cancelled due to COVID-19, a commander could authorize individual members to train at an alternate location, such as their home. Training could also occur in the form of partial drills, such as one or two unit training assemblies. Make up for a cancelled IDT should occur within 90 days, defer to G3/A3 for additional guidance.

Remember the Purpose:

The purpose of IDT is to train. If the commander can supervise that training and individual tasks are being accomplished through alternate training methods—even remotely, then the member can be compensated for that period of IDT/RST. Force health protection and compensating members for training can be balanced through strong leadership and agile planning.

Question: If my TAG or A3/G3 approves alternate training as an option for commanders to utilize, what type of activities would be considered training?

Answer: Numerous individual and annual mandatory training tasks are prescribed by the services and accessible via online/distributed learning sites. Examples include the cyber awareness course, training prescribed in command policy, safety courses, military education, and professional development. Additional training and tasks could include: updating automation and communication systems such as MilConnect, MilSuite, ADPAAS/AFPASS accountability, and completing evaluations. Maintaining accountability and communications with social distancing is critical during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Question: My unit members are concerned about earning enough retirement points this year if they miss too many IDTs and Annual Training. How many points are needed for a ‘good year’? (*DODI 1215.07, Service Credit For Non-Regular Retirement*).

Answer: Members of the National Guard require 50 or more retirement points each year to receive credit for that year toward non-regular retirement. For example, if a member completed five IDT/RST weekends with four UTAs per weekend, that would equate to 20 points. With their 15 membership points, 15 more points would be needed to reach 50. This could be in the form of IDT/RST or AT.

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References:

- a. Title 32 U.S.C. §502 (a) and (b).
- b. DoDI 1215.06, Uniform Reserve, Training, and Retirement Categories for the Reserve Components, 11 Mar 14, Change 1, eff. 19 May 15.
- c. DoDI 1215.07, Service Credit For Non-Regular Retirement, 30 Jul 19.
- d. DoDI 6200.03, Public Health Emergency Management, 28 Mar 19.
- e. NGR 350-1, Army National Guard Training, 4 Aug 09.
- f. ANGI 36-2001, Management of Training and Operational Support Within the Air National Guard, 30 Apr 19.