

Membership Eligibility Dates



WORLD WAR I

APRIL 6, 1917, TO NOVEMBER 11, 1918

WORLD WAR II

DECEMBER 7, 1941, TO DECEMBER 31, 1946

KOREAN WAR

JUNE 25, 1950, TO JANUARY 31, 1955

VIETNAM WAR

FEBRUARY 28, 1961 TO MAY 7, 1975

LEBANON & GRENADA

AUGUST 24, 1982, TO JULY 31, 1984

PANAMA

DECEMBER 20, 1989, TO JANUARY 31, 1990

GULF WAR

AUGUST 2, 1990, TO CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES AS
DETERMINED BY THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

National Guard & Reserve Eligibility

The National Guard and Reserves are required to meet the same eligibility requirements as the full time federal active veterans.

To be eligible, the National Guardsman/Reservist **must have served at least one day on federal active duty during any of the delimiting periods** as set forth in Article IV, Section 1 of The American Legion National Constitution. The person must either have an honorable discharge or currently be serving either in the Guard/Reserve or on federal active duty.

The key to determining if a Guardsman/Reservist has been on or is currently serving on federal active duty is the “AUTHORITY LINE” on the activation orders of the Guardsman/Reservist.

In both cases “TITLE 10, SUBSECTION 672 OR 12301” are orders from the Secretary of Defense and are federal orders.

The authority the Governor uses to activate the National Guard as an individual or unit is “Title 32” orders, i.e. Weekend Drills and Annual Training. These are **not** federal orders. The Reserves have similar reserve orders which are “Title 10, Subsection 270.” This authority code gives the reserve component the authority to activate the reserves for Weekend Drills and Annual Training.

Use the chart below when determining eligibility for National Guard and Reserves.

	<u>ELIGIBLE</u>	<u>NON-ELIGIBLE</u>
NATIONAL GUARD	TITLE 10, SUBSECTION 672 or 12301*	TITLE 32
RESERVES	TITLE 10, SUBSECTION 672 or 12301*	TITLE 10, SUBSECTION 270

*This Subsection was created following Desert Storm to replace 672.

The above information was taken from Military Law Chapter 39.

Note: A DD-214 will be issued for the time on federal active duty or a DA-1059 for a completion of a school will be issued with a character type of discharge. All Reserve components send their service members to “Basic Training” using Title 10, Subsection 672/12301 orders.

Reconnect

Reconnecting America with her military was the driving force behind the Department of Defense establishing a Reconnect program several years ago. There was a perception America had lost touch with her fighting force of men and women. The American Legion was tasked with leading the way in rekindling that relationship.

Reconnect events can take many forms. Visiting Active Duty installations are the largest events, but simply visiting a local recruiting office, National Guard/Reserve unit, local military entrance processing station, or even a welcome home event, serves to reconnect local communities with their military.

The “Reconnect” program has been a great success in many Departments. Relationships are being formulated with many Active Duty, National Guard, and Reserve units. Visits and activities are continuing to flourish on active duty installations and with every conceivable portion of the total force. Local recruiting stations are still a viable source to get involved.

It is important to note that the Department of Defense has reconstituted the old “Reconnect” program and are now calling it “Operation Tribute to Freedom”. Information about the program can be found at their web site: http://www.defendamerica.mil/support_troops.html.

The American Legion has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the United States **Military Entrance Processing Command** (USMEPCOM). This will help to establish contact with the 62 Military Entrance Processing Stations around the country. A list of MEP stations, and a copy of this memorandum can be requested through the Department from the National Internal Affairs & Membership Division.

A Memorandum of Understanding with the United States **Army Recruiting Command** (USAREC) has now been in effect for several years. This memorandum informs all levels of USAREC and The American Legion about our partnership and details ways we can assist. A list of Army Recruiting Commands and stations, and a copy of this memorandum can be requested through the Department from the National Internal Affairs & Membership Division.

Lists of Active Duty installations, National Guard Headquarters and some Reserve Commands, and Marine for Life Hometown Links are also available.

If Posts wish to get involved with the "Reconnect" Program, and/or need assistance, contact the Department.

Reconnecting can have positive results - Service first, Membership second.

Additional Internet Information Links

<p>The American Legion - http://www.legion.org Corporate Gray - http://www.corporategray.com DoD Job Search - http://www.dod.jobsearch.org DoD Transportal - http://www.dodtransportal.org Marine for Life - http://marineforlife.com Military Children and Youth - http://mfrc.calib.com/mcy Military Family Resource Center - http://mfrc.calib.com</p>	<p>United States Department of Labor - http://www.dol.gov National Military Family Association, Inc. http://www.nmfa.org Transition Assistance Online (TAOnline) http://www.taonline.com United States Department of Veterans Affairs http://www.va.gov</p>
--	--

Adjutant

The Adjutant holds the same relative position in the Post as the secretary of any other organized body – and a little more. The Adjutant is the “1st Sergeant” of the company, around whom all Post activities revolve. Many Posts find it wise to retain a good Adjutant in office over a period of years. Likewise, a good Post will recognize when it is time to change Adjutants.

The Adjutant may well provide continuity in the Post. While the Commander's duties are largely inspirational and executive, an Adjutant's duties are administrative. The Commander navigates the ship but the Adjutant is the engineer who runs the ship's machinery.

The Adjutant is the personnel officer, the intimate contact with the individual member of the Post, who keeps the membership records, minutes of meetings, checks up and assists the work of other officers and committees, publishes official orders, announcements, and instructions.

Suggestions for the Adjutant

The only indispensable qualifications are honesty and willingness. The Adjutant should obtain a set of Post Account Books (consult your current *National Emblem Sales* catalog for description and prices). These books require no special knowledge of bookkeeping. The new Adjutant should go through all the Post records at the earliest opportunity. The constitution and by-laws, minutes of meetings, and reports of officers and committees will give an insight into the Post's policies and traditions. Communications from Department and National Headquarters will provide additional updates, information, and instructions.

For minutes of meetings, a loose-leaf binder that will hold letter-size sheets is recommended. This will permit the minutes to be neatly typewritten and then inserted in the binder. When the binder becomes filled, the contents should be kept as a permanent record of activities. All reports of officers and committees should be included in the minutes of the meeting to which they are submitted to assure their being made a part of the permanent record.

Bulletins & Periodicals

A complete file of *The American Legion Magazine* and the Department and Post periodicals, if any are published, should be kept. Bind them into annual volumes. The publication **DISPATCH** is sent to the Post Adjutant twice a month. Keep these for reference.

Bulletins are mailed periodically to Post Commanders and Adjutants. The Adjutant should forward applicable information to each Post committee chair. The only official contact the Department Headquarters has with the Post is through the Commander and Adjutant. The Adjutant should read all communications received from the Department or National Headquarters to keep abreast of what is going on.

Post Bulletins & Publications

A new Adjutant will soon learn the reasons for preparations. The members will inquire about everything that concerns their connection with The American Legion. Your job is to satisfy them. The Adjutant can convey information and instructions to them through a regular series of Post bulletins. This activity may be expanded into the publication of a Post paper. *Communicate, communicate!*

The Adjutant's office should be a clearing-house for all Post activities. The Adjutant should help new officers and committees get started with their work and provide direction to their endeavors while affording them all possible help. Help is not the same as interference.