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NDAA 2013 Authorizes Transition Assistance Advisors

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9.0—Miscellaneous

On January 2, 2013, President Obama signed into law the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 (NDAA 2013). Section 513 of this new law authorizes the creation of a program of transition assistance advisors, to assist Reserve Component (RC) members who have served on active duty for more than 180 consecutive days. Section 513 is reprinted in its entirety, below.

This program will be established and administered by the Chief of the National Guard Bureau, but all eligible RC members should benefit, not just members of the Army National Guard and Air National Guard. The seven Reserve Components are the Army Reserve, Army National Guard, Air Force Reserve, Air National Guard, Navy Reserve, Marine Corps Reserve, and Coast Guard Reserve.

SEC. 513. AVAILABILITY OF TRANSITION ASSISTANCE ADVISORS TO ASSIST MEMBERS OF RESERVE COMPONENTS WHO SERVE ON ACTIVE DUTY FOR MORE THAN 180 CONSECUTIVE DAYS.

(a) TRANSITION ASSISTANCE ADVISOR PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.— The Chief of the National Guard Bureau may establish a program to provide professionals (to be known as Transition Assistance Advisors) in each State to serve as points of contact to assist eligible members of the reserve components in accessing benefits and health care furnished under laws administered by the Secretary of Defense and benefits and health care furnished under laws

administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

(b) ELIGIBLE MEMBERS.—To be eligible for assistance under this section, a member of a reserve component must have served on active duty in the Armed Forces for a period of more than 180 consecutive days.

(c) DUTIES.—The duties of a Transition Assistance Advisor include the following:

(1) To assist with the creation and execution of an individual transition plan for an eligible member of a reserve component and dependents of the member for the reintegration of the member into civilian life.

(2) To provide employment support services to the member and dependents of the member, including assistance with finding employment opportunities and identifying and obtaining assistance from programs within and outside of the Federal Government.

(3) To provide information on relocation, health care, mental health care, and financial support services available to the member and dependents of the member from the Department of Defense, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and other Federal, State, and local agencies.

(4) To provide information on educational support services available to the member, including Post-9/11 Educational Assistance under chapter 33 of title 38, United States Code.

(d) TRANSITION PLANS.—The individual transition plan referred to in subsection (c)(1) created for an eligible member of a reserve component shall include at a minimum the following:

- (1) A plan for the transition of the member to civilian life, including with respect to employment, education, and health care.
 - (2) A description of the transition services that the member and dependents of the member will need to achieve their transition objectives, including information on any forms that the member will need to fill out to be eligible for such services.
 - (3) A point of contact for each agency or entity that can provide the transition services described in paragraph (2).
 - (4) Such other information determined to be essential for the transition of the member, as determined by the Chief of the National Guard Bureau in consultation with the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.
- (e) FUNDING.—Funding for Transition Assistance Advisors for a fiscal year shall be derived from amounts authorized to be appropriated for operation and maintenance for the National Guard for that fiscal year.
- (f) STATE DEFINED.—In this section, the term “State” means each of the several States of the United States, the District of Columbia, and any territory of the United States.