

TSGLI Expands Benefits for Traumatically Injured Servicemembers

Dec 02, 2008

WASHINGTON — More servicemembers may now qualify for Traumatic Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (TSGLI), because of newly expanded benefits resulting from a recent review by The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

The review was to determine whether additional injuries/losses should be covered, whether the program was operating effectively, and whether other improvements could be made that would allow more servicemembers to benefit from TSGLI.

Through the review's findings, the TSGLI Schedule of Losses was simplified, making it more usable for each branch of service and allowing for easier interpretation by the general public. Existing TSGLI qualifying loss definitions on the schedule, such as those for sight, burns and amputations were expanded and additional qualifying losses including uniplegia, limb salvage, facial reconstruction, and a 15-day hospital stay were added as well.

"The TSGLI benefit expansion helps us further the mission and spirit of the program – help traumatically injured servicemembers at their greatest time of need," says Col. John F. Sackett, chief of the Army's TSGLI Branch. "As stated by our prior Vice Chief of Staff, we need to 'do what is right for the Soldier.' With these changes we can offer assistance to even more men and women who have so bravely served our country."

Servicemembers that have already submitted a claim in the past do not need to resubmit. The VA and TSGLI offices for each service will conduct a reachback of previously denied claims to see if they qualify for payment under the new guidance. Notifications will be sent to the Service Member if an additional award is due.

TSGLI is a congressionally mandated program that applies to members of all branches of Service and all components—Active, Guard, or Reserve, who incur a traumatic, physical injury based on an external force of violence. TSGLI provides tax-free payments between \$25,000 and \$100,000 per traumatic event, which can be used to help with unseen expenses or provide a financial start on life after recovery.

The TSGLI program began Dec. 1, 2005, as a non-option selection attached to

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Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (SGLI). All servicemembers from that point forward who elected SGLI benefits pay \$1 towards this coverage each month. In addition, servicemembers who incurred a qualifying traumatic injury from 7 October 2001 through 30 November 2005 while on orders outside the United States in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) and Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF), or serving in a Combat Zone Tax Exclusion (CZTE) area are covered by TSGLI, regardless of whether they elected SGLI coverage or not.

For more information about TSGLI, including a complete list of the new schedule of losses, eligibility requirements, and claim submission instructions, servicemembers should contact their branch of service using the contact information below:

ARMY

Army Human Resources Command
Attn: TSGLI
200 Stovall Street,
Alexandria, VA 22332
Phone: 1-800-237-1336
Website: www.tsgli.army.mil

NAVY

Navy Personnel Command
Attn: PERS-62
5720 Integrity Drive
Millington, TN 38055
Phone: 800-368-3202
Website: www.npc.navy.mil/CommandSupport/CasualtyAssistance/TSGLI

MARINE CORPS

HQ, Marine Corps
Attn: WWR-TSGLI
3280 Russell Road
Quantico, VA 22134
Phone: 877-216-0825
Website:
https://http://www.manpower.usmc.mil/pls/portal/url/page/m_ra_home/wwr/wwr_a_command_element/wwr_d_regimental_staff/3_s3/wwr_tsgli

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