

BEST BENEFITS BULLETIN

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Phones: 1-800-616-3775 / TDD 1-800-382-0893 or Coml (210) 565-2276

BEST Homepage: www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/dpc/best/menu.htm

EBIS: www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/dpc/BEST_GRB/EBIS.htm

Procedures for Claiming Retroactive Reimbursement for Federal Employees Health Benefits Premiums Paid While on Active Duty in Support of a Contingency Operation on or after 8 Dec 95

On 20 Apr 04, the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense issued procedures covering retroactive reimbursement to DoD civilian employees for premiums paid for their Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) coverage while on active duty in support of a contingency operation on or after 8 Dec 95. After a little fine-tuning between DoD Components and payroll offices, we are now ready to accept claims for retroactive reimbursement of FEHB premiums.

In order to be eligible for reimbursement of FEHB premiums, the employee or former employee must meet the following requirements:

- Must have been a civilian employee of the Department of Defense at the time called to perform active duty.
- Must have been enrolled in FEHB and paid the employee share of the premiums, either by payroll deduction after returning from active duty or by direct payments to the payroll office during the period of active duty.
- Must have been a member of a Reserve component of the U. S. Armed Forces.
- Must have been called or ordered to active duty (voluntarily or involuntarily) in support of a contingency operation as defined in section 101(a)(13) of title 10, United States Code.
- Must have been placed on leave without pay or separated from Federal civilian service to perform active duty.
- Must have served on active duty for a period of more than 30 consecutive days for each period for which reimbursement is claimed.

For more information and the procedures for filing a claim for retroactive reimbursement of FEHB premiums, visit the BEST Website at www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/dpc/best/res-emp-info.htm. The procedure provides information on eligibility, how and where to file the claim, required supporting documentation, as well as an actual claim form. Please read carefully.

Air Force-serviced appropriated fund civilian employees who have additional questions may contact a Benefits and Entitlements Service Team (BEST) counselor by calling 1-800-616-3775, Press 2 for Civilian, and then Press 2 for Benefits and Entitlements. Employees located in foreign areas will dial the toll-free AT&T direct access number for the country in which located, then 800-997-2378. Hearing impaired employees may reach a counselor by calling TDD 1-800-382-0893, or commercial 565-2276 if within the San Antonio area. Benefits counselors are available Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Central Standard Time.

Please share this information with anyone you know who may have been on active duty on or after 8 Dec 95.