

How Have Reserve Call Ups Affected Police and Sheriff's Departments Across New York?

According to a new Schumer survey of more than 25 police and sheriff's departments across New York, reserve call ups resulting from the war in Iraq will cost these agencies millions of dollars in salary and benefit expenses as well as overtime pay required to replace activated personnel. Although activated reservists receive military pay for their service, police and sheriff's departments pay the difference between their military pay and regular pay, as well as continuing their benefits, so that reservists are not penalized for active duty service.

The departments surveyed pay more than \$20,000 per week in salary and benefit expenses or over \$1 million dollars per year. These agencies have also incurred over \$1 million in overtime expenses in just the last nine months alone to replace the manpower lost to the reserve call ups. The New York State Police alone has 40 officers on active military duty, costing the agency an estimated \$39,320* per week in salary and benefit expenses. If the call up lasts for one full year, the salary and benefit expenses would cost the State Police approximately \$2 million. **For a regional breakdown of how reserve call ups are affecting police and sheriff's departments across New York, please see the following report.**

**The "cost per week in salary and benefits" is determined by subtracting the weekly average reservist salary of \$765 from the weekly expense incurred by a department in covering the wages and fringe benefits of the specific department's typical officer. If more than one officer is activated, the weekly cost number reflects the sum of the cost for the individuals activated.*

In the **Capital Region**, reserve activations of nine officers have cost various police departments more than \$253,000 in overtime charges and generate an estimated \$3,116 per week in salary and benefit expenses or about \$162,000 for a whole year:

- The **Schenectady Police Department** has three officers on active military duty, costing the agency \$115,200 in overtime expenses and an estimated \$590 per week in salary and benefit expenses. If the call up lasts for one full year, the salary and benefit expenses would reach \$30,660.
- The **Albany Police Department** has five officers on active military duty, costing the agency over \$94,000 in overtime expenses and an estimated \$2,137 per week in salary and benefit expenses. If the call up lasts for one full year, the salary and benefit expenses would reach \$111,100.

- The **Troy Police Department** has one officer on active military duty, costing the agency \$44,000 in overtime expenses and an estimated \$389 per week in salary and benefit expenses. If the call up lasts for one full year, the salary and benefit expenses would reach \$20,220.

In **Rochester and the Finger Lakes**, reserve activations of 15 people cost various police and sheriff's departments an estimated \$3,525 per week in salary and benefit expenses or about \$183,000 for a whole year:

- The **Monroe County Sheriff's Department** has nine officers on active military duty, resulting in the loss of 1,250 man hours per month. The department pays these reservists an estimated \$1,769 per week in salary and benefit expenses. If the call up lasts for one full year, the salary and benefit expenses would reach about \$92,000.
- The **Rochester Police Department** has six officers on active military duty, resulting in fewer officers on the beat and increased workload for other law enforcement personnel. The department pays these reservists an estimated \$1,756 per week in salary and benefit expenses. If the call up lasts for one full year, the salary and benefit expenses would reach over \$91,000.
- The **Greece Police Department** had two officers on active reserve, both of whom have now returned to full time duty. While away, the department paid these reservists an estimated \$780 per week in salary and benefit expenses.

In **Central New York**, reserve activations of 13 people cost various police and sheriff's departments more than \$300,750 in overtime expenses and an estimated \$2,881 per week in salary and benefit expenses or about \$150,000 for a whole year:

- The **Onondaga County Sheriff's Department** has five people on active military duty, although as many as 12 have been activated previously, resulting in more than \$10,000 in overtime costs this year. The department pays an estimated \$983 per week in salary and benefit expenses for the five currently on active duty. If the call up lasts for one full year, the salary and benefit expenses would reach about \$51,100.
- The **Syracuse Police Department** has four officers on active military duty, although as many as 16 officers have been activated previously, resulting in \$267,750 in overtime costs this year. The department pays an estimated \$1,509 per week in salary and benefit expenses for the four on current active duty. If the call up lasts for one full year, the salary and benefit expenses would reach about \$78,500.
- The **Utica Police Department** has one officer on active military duty, although another had been activated earlier. The department pays an estimated \$389 per week in salary and benefit expenses for the reservist currently on active duty. If the call up lasts for one full year, the salary and benefit expenses would reach about \$20,220.
- The **Oswego Police Department** has three people on active military duty with a fourth activation expected, costing the department \$23,000 in overtime for this year. The Oswego police department does not pay salary or benefit expenses for activated reservists.

In the **North Country**, three reserve activations have cost various police and sheriff departments more than \$10,000 in overtime expenses and an estimated \$1,280 per week in salary and benefit expenses or about \$66,560 for a whole year:

- The **Jefferson County Sheriff's Department** has two people on active military duty, resulting in a 30% increase in the number of caseloads handled by its detectives. The department pays an estimated \$1,258 per week in salary and benefit expenses for the two reservists currently on active duty. If the call up lasts for one full year, the salary and benefit expenses would reach about \$65,500.
- The **Watertown Police Department** has one officer on active military duty costing the department over \$10,000 in overtime for this year. The department pays an estimated \$22 per week in salary and benefit expenses for the reservist currently on active duty. If the call up lasts for one full year, the salary and benefit expenses would reach about \$1,120.

In the **Hudson Valley**, ten reserve call ups cost various police and sheriff departments more than \$425,500 in overtime expenses and an estimated \$4,641 per week in salary and benefit expenses or about \$241,000 for a whole year:

- The **Yonkers Police Department** has four officers on active military duty although as many as nine officers have been activated, costing the department 800 man hours or over \$418,000 in overtime for this year. The department pays an estimated \$3,125 per week in salary and benefit expenses for the reservists currently on active duty. If the call up lasts for one full year, the salary and benefit expenses would reach about \$162,500.
- The **Newburgh Police Department** has two officers on active military duty costing the department about \$7,500 in overtime for this year. The department pays an estimated \$1,162 per week in salary and benefit expenses for the reservists currently on active duty. If the call up lasts for one full year, the salary and benefit expenses would reach over \$60,000.
- The **Dutchess County Sheriff's Department** has three people on active military duty. The department pays an estimated \$157 per week in salary expenses for the reservists currently on active duty. If the call up lasts for one full year, the salary expenses would reach about \$8,160.
- The **Ulster County Sheriff's Department** has one officer on active military duty. The department pays an estimated \$203 per week in salary and benefit expenses for the reservist currently on active duty. If the call up lasts for one full year, the salary and benefit expenses would reach about \$10,500.

In the **Southern Tier**, four reserve call ups cost various police and sheriff departments about \$15,000 in overtime expenses and an estimated \$507 per week in salary and benefit expenses or about \$26,364 for a whole year:

- Neither the **Binghamton Police Department** nor the **Wellsville Police Department** have had any reserve call ups this year.
- The **Chemung County Sheriff's Department** has one person on active military duty.

The department pays an estimated \$282 per week in salary and benefit expenses for the reservist currently on active duty. If the call up lasts for one full year, the salary and benefit expenses would reach about \$14,664.

- The **Tompkins County Sheriff's Department** has two people on active military duty, requiring about \$15,000 in overtime this year to replace their services. The department pays an estimated \$225 per week in salary and benefit expenses for the reservists currently on active duty. If the call up lasts for one full year, the salary and benefit expenses would reach about \$11,700.
- The **Allegany County Sheriff's Department** has one person on active military duty. However, since this employee is a part-timer, he does not receive any benefits or salary from the department.

In **Western New York**, reserve activations of 26 people have cost various police and sheriff departments more than \$100,000 in overtime expenses and an estimated \$7,363 per week in salary and benefit expenses or about \$383,000 for a whole year:

- The **Buffalo Police Department** has 17 officers on active military duty and has incurred tens of thousands of dollars in overtime expenses this year as a result. The department pays an estimated \$4,322 per week in salary and benefit expenses for the reservists currently on active duty. If the call ups last for one full year, the salary and benefit expenses would reach about \$224,740.
- The **Erie County Sheriff's Department** has five people on active military duty. The department pays an estimated \$21 per week in salary and benefit expenses for the reservists currently on active duty. If the call up lasts for one full year, the salary and benefit expenses would reach about \$1,100.
- The **North Tonawanda Police Department** has two officers on active military duty. The department pays an estimated \$1,890 per week in salary and benefit expenses for these reservists. If the call ups last for one full year, the salary and benefit expenses would reach about \$98,000.
- The **Chautauqua County Sheriff's Department** has two officers on active military duty. The department pays an estimated \$1,130 per week in salary and benefit expenses for these reservists. If the call ups last for one full year, the salary and benefit expenses would reach about \$58,760.

Sources: *U.S. Army Reserves, New York State Police, Schenectady Police Department, Albany Police Department, Troy Police Department, Monroe County Sheriff's Department, Rochester Police Department, Greece Police Department, Onondaga County Sheriff's Department, Syracuse Police Department, Utica Police Department, Oswego Police Department, Jefferson County Sheriff's Department, Watertown Police Department, Yonkers Police Department, Newburg Police Department, Dutchess County Sheriff's Department, Ulster County Sheriff's Department, Binghamton Police Department, Wellsville Police Department, Chemung County Sheriff's Department, Tompkins County Sheriff's Department, Allegany County Sheriff's Department, Buffalo Police Department, Erie County Sheriff's Department, North Tonawanda Police Department, Chautauqua County Sheriff's Department*