

THE ASMBDA CONNECTION



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Dear ASMBDA Members,

Like most of you, some of us have been in and around the military for many years. As we look back, we cannot recall a time when there were so many changes to military benefits in such a short period of time. Additionally, the climate is favorable for even more positive change! We at ASMBDA wanted to review just one of the benefits about to undergo more change - Servicemen's Group Life Insurance, or SGLI. First, let me say that we at ASMBDA are big, big fans of SGLI. We hope that all of our members that are able to have this insurance are taking advantage of every dollar of it.

We at ASMBDA applaud the measures taken to recognize the contributions of our military personnel and the sacrifices of their families.

Members in today's military are currently covered under the Government's SGLI program up to a maximum of \$250,000 at a cost of \$16.25 per month. In addition to the SGLI coverage currently offered, discussion is underway to raise the death benefit from approximately \$12,500 to \$100,000 and provide another \$150,000 for combat related death. This would raise the potential level of coverage and benefits to \$500,000 under some circumstances. We at ASMBDA applaud the measures taken to recognize the contributions of our military personnel and the sacrifices of their families. It is, simply put, the right thing to do for the men and women who serve in our Armed Forces. Even without the proposed increase in the death benefit and the additional \$150,000 being proposed, SGLI is great coverage, and as long as you're on active duty, we at ASMBDA recommend that you take full advantage of this remarkable program. Additionally, we have read that several states are studying how they can help the insurance needs of their active duty, guard and reserve members. Governor Bill Richardson put forth a plan to pay for \$250,000 in life insurance for all 4,027 active-duty New Mexico National Guard members. If enacted, New Mexico will become the first state in the country to enact the "Take Care of Our Own" legislation. It comes with an annual cost of \$800,000 to the state. We applaud Governor Richardson and hope that other states will be able to emulate New Mexico.

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PRODUCT SPOTLIGHT : Platinum AD&D Plan

Where would your family be financially if you were disabled or died in an accident?

Accidents are waiting to happen, every hour of every day.

A fatal injury occurs every 5 minutes, and a disabling injury occurs every 1.5 seconds.*

The Platinum AD&D Plan is available in four affordable options: Member Only – Member & Spouse – Member & Child or Member & Family. Coverage levels are available from \$50,000 to \$200,000.

NO MEDICAL EXAM is required and **NO HEALTH QUESTIONS** to answer!

Please see the enclosed brochure, and if you have any questions call us at 1-800-251-8434.



* Statistics according to the National Safety Council's Report on Injuries in America, 2002

At Last, Real Help For Identity Theft Victims

ASMBAs is pleased to announce its partnership with **ID Theft Assist**, the most comprehensive identity theft recovery program available. Up until now, there have been three basic ways to deal with the growing problem of Identity Theft: 1) **Credit Monitoring** - buy a service or do-it-yourself, 2) **Insurance** - get reimbursed for some monetary losses after the fact, and 3) **Caution** - taking every prudent step possible to protect your identity. There is, of course, the most popular option in America – **DO NOTHING!** Maybe that's why Identity Theft is the fastest growing crime in America today!

None of these options alone are very effective, and even in combination there's no way to absolutely prevent ID Theft. Worst of all, none even begin to address the most serious problems that victims face – the time and frustration of stopping ongoing fraud, and restoring one's good name and credit. Here's why.

Credit Monitoring is primarily designed to catch new account activity. According to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), most ID theft involves existing accounts. Your identity has already been compromised by the time someone attempts to use your identity to open a new account. According to the findings of a recent Federal Trade Commission study, it's considerably less expensive and almost as effective to simply get your credit report once every year or two.

Insurance does nothing to prevent or solve the ongoing problems caused by identity theft. Insurance merely reimburses you for a portion of your losses. According to the FTC, the average loss is only \$500. Most insurance plans only cover losses above a deductible, usually \$200 or more, so for most people there is very little to recover and a lot of extra time and paperwork required filing a claim. When you factor in the yearly premiums, this option becomes even less attractive.

Caution is the most effective of the three tools in the battle against ID Theft and Fraud. No matter how careful you are, a determined identity thief can find a way to get personal information. There are literally hundreds of ways, both legal and illegal, to get access to information about you and your personal information.

So, if there's no foolproof way to avoid Identity Theft, what's a person to do?

First let's look at the most frequent consequence of Identity Theft – the loss of your good name and/or credit rating and the hundreds of hours of your personal time that can be spent trying to correct the problem, along with the emotional trauma involved.

Until the introduction of **ID Theft Assist**, you were on your own in dealing with these consequences. Sure, some Identity Theft Programs provided "ID Recovery Kits", but most were little more than Do-It-Yourself manuals with instructions and sample form letters. It was a frustrating "trial and error" process, compounded by the inexperience of the victim and the emotional trauma of the situation.

With the introduction of **ID Theft Assist** there's finally a better way to deal with the consequences of Identity Theft. With the cards stacked against the victim, only pro-active, dedicated professionals with extensive experience and worldwide resources can bring order to the chaos and restore your security.

One call. One Solution - An identity victim who subscribes to the service would simply call our Emergency Call Center to report the situation, and authorize the ID Theft Assist advocate to act on the victim's behalf to correct the problem. With real-time access to the victim's credit report upon authorization, there is no quicker road to recovery on the market. With one phone call ID Theft Assist brings order out of chaos by untangling the red tape and completing the arduous and time-consuming tasks you would otherwise have to assume!

ID Theft Assist is truly a pro-active service, stepping into the victim's shoes and doing everything he/she would otherwise have to do to correct the situation. It's the first and only true third party assistance service for victims of identity theft that saves time, money and aggravation. Please visit www.asmba.com for more information and to sign up today for more than 50% off the general public

Get the most out of your ASMBAs membership!

Basic Membership in ASMBAs entitles every member under age 65 to **\$3,000 Free AD&D coverage!** And, as an ASMBAs member, you are also eligible to apply for the wide variety of products, programs and services, listed below:

PRODUCTS

Choice Level Term Coverage – Our best plan provides low cost, high value term insurance from \$50,000 up to \$250,000, for the member and spouse. Reduced rates for non-smokers equal to or better than many “preferred” rates. Lock in your cost and coverage – for ten, twenty, or even thirty years.

High Value Level Term Coverage – Level term coverage from \$50,000 to \$250,000, available for the member and spouse. Spouse coverage includes free children’s coverage. Cash refunds for active duty personnel (including National Guard and Reserve) reduce costs!

Senior Security Plan – A great plan that provides for \$5,000 to \$25,000 coverage for our members ages 50+ who want to make sure there’s enough money for final expenses.

Platinum AD&D Coverage – Supplemental coverage designed to protect you and your family in the event of an accidental death or dismemberment. You choose from a total of sixteen different plan options – all at fixed, reasonable rates!

Permanent Life Coverage – Whole life coverage in increments of \$10,000 up to \$50,000 where you determine what you, and/or your spouse need. Plus, you can apply for our exclusive optional Money-Back Rider – a feature that allows you to get back ALL your money at age 65 – TAX FREE!

SGLI Supplement for Spouse and Child Protection Plan – If you don’t need any more coverage on yourself, but your spouse and children aren’t adequately insured, ASMBAs provides excellent coverage for spouses and children at a very modest monthly rate.

Long-Term Care – In response to feedback from our members, we’re now pleased to offer the John Hancock “Custom Care” Long Term Care program. With enhanced home care protection, as well as traditional coverage in assisted living facilities or nursing homes, this policy helps you get the support you need to stay at home.

New products coming soon: Hospital Cash Benefit Plan and Cancer Guard!

BENEFITS

Dell™ Member Purchase Program - Through the Dell™ Member Purchase Program, our members are now eligible for discounts that are not available to the general public! It’s just one of the many benefits you enjoy as an ASMBAs member. To take advantage of this special offer, go to www.dell.com/ghc and use Member Discount Code (*members please call for discount code*).

ASMBAs (MBNA) credit card - ASMBAs members can also apply for a low-interest rate credit card and other special offerings from MBNA® America, the world’s largest independent credit card issuer. For more information, call **1-888-628-7700** or apply online at www.asmba.com.

Cruises and Tours by Brenncos - Take advantage of average savings of 25% to 35% off cruises and other vacation offers through our partnership with “Cruises and Tours by Brenncos”. This discount is not off of a brochure rate, but rather is well below what an average consumer would receive by going through a travel agency or direct to the cruise line. You can get more information on these discounts online at: www.asmba.com.

Career Search – Through the Career Center area on our website, ASMBAs partners with Orion International, the nation’s largest provider of military-trained talent for corporate America, to assist our transitioning members in their search for a civilian career.

Lifeline Screenings – Take advantage of the opportunity to be screened for four potentially life threatening conditions (stroke/carotid artery disease, abdominal aortic aneurysm, peripheral arterial disease, and osteoporosis) at a discounted rate.

Vision Discounts – Save on all your eyewear needs with special rates for ASMBAs members through Preferred Vision Care, the nation’s largest independently-owned vision care network in the United States.

Identity Theft Assist Program – The Federal Trade Commission reports Americans spent close to 300 million hours repairing the damage ID theft causes. ID Theft Assist gets your valuable time back by acting as your advocate if your identity is stolen.



On behalf of the entire association, we offer condolences to the families, friends, and colleagues of recently deceased ASMBAs members.

Raymond L. Bolinger, Navy
Hillie Collier, III, Army Reserves
David A. Honeycutt, Jr., Army
Henry Olvera, Air Force
Jim N. Putman, Jr., Army
Edwin J. Robley, Air Force
Harland H. Stockwell, Air Force Reserves

Joseph J. Campbell, Marines
Timmy T. Gross, Army
Joe H. Johnson, Air Force Reserves
Samuel C. Peterson, Jr., Army Reserves
Richard D. Quintana, Navy Reserves
Daniel B. Stahl, Air Force Reserves
John B. Wallace, Air Force Reserves

Dear ASMBAs Member

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BUT – is \$250,000, or even \$500,000 **REALLY enough for your loved ones should something happen to you?** What would be left after final expenses, the mortgage balance was satisfied, credit cards and other loans paid off, money put aside for childcare and educational expenses, and daily living expenses were met? Not to mention “emergency expenses” such as an appliance breaking or auto repairs, and any hospital bills that your loved ones may also be facing? With the median price of a new home now around \$120,000, and the cost of college soaring annually, it’s easy to see that \$250,000 or \$500,000 wouldn’t go far.

More importantly, you won’t be in the service forever, **and you’ll lose your SGLI when you separate or retire.** You will have 90 days to convert to the **more expensive VGLI**, but have you priced the equivalent cost of VGLI? The increase in cost is dramatic. Additionally, if you should miss the 90-day time period, your service-connected life insurance eligibility is terminated. Why shouldn’t you continue to get the same competitive rates you enjoyed while you were on active duty? When you are changing careers and moving your family into a new home, you need to save every dollar you can, while still having great protection for your loved ones. That’s where ASMBAs can help!

ASMBAs is **your association** and we hope that when you’re ready to supplement your SGLI or replace it when you exit the service that you will consider your association’s affordable insurance.

Whatever you decide, make sure you know as much as you can about your SGLI, and what happens to it when you get out of the service. To learn more about your SGLI/VGLI benefits, visit: **<http://www.insurance.va.gov/sqliSite/default.htm>**. Then call and talk to the experts at your military base or a financial planner that you trust.

- Your ASMBAs staff

DEPLOYING?

Here’s one less worry: If you are covered under ASMBAs’s Choice Level Term Plan, your premium payments **are suspended** for as long as you are serving in a combat zone. Your coverage remains in force and we’ll waive the payments - so you can concentrate on the job at hand. If you’re being deployed, and want to take advantage of this important benefit, contact us at 1-800-251-8434.

ELECTRONIC TRANSFER

For our members who have chosen electronic transfer as their payment method for coverage - **YOU NOW HAVE A CHOICE.** You can now choose to have your payment withdrawn from your bank account on the 10th or 20th of the month. If you would like to change your date of withdrawal just send us a written statement of the date you would like and we will be happy to make the change for you.

Please let us know if any of your personal information has changed.

- Has your address changed?
- Did your marital status change?
- Have you stopped or started smoking?

Don’t lose touch with us! If you have had any changes in your personal information, please keep us updated. Call 1-800-251-8434 or e-mail us at **info@asmba.com** and we will be happy to update your information.