

Comparing life insurance

All active-duty service members, Ready Reservists and National Guard members are automatically covered by Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance, a government-sponsored program with a maximum benefit of \$400,000. Troops can opt out of SGLI or add to that coverage using private-sector insurers. Upon leaving the military, troops qualify for the companion program, Veterans' Group Life Insurance. How 14 life insurance options compare to SGLI and VGLI. All active-duty service members, Ready Reservists and National Guard members are automatically covered by Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance, a government-sponsored program with a maximum benefit of \$400,000. Troops can opt out of SGLI or add to that coverage using private-sector insurers. Upon leaving the military, troops qualify for the companion program, Veterans' Group Life Insurance.

Wherever possible, premiums listed are for \$400,000 coverage, the maximum offered under SGLI. Some plans have lower maximums; the premiums listed for those are for that maximum amount. Similarly, some plans offer more than \$400,000 in coverage for higher premiums than are listed here. While VGLI doesn't provide spouse coverage, spouses with coverage through SGLI can convert their coverage to an individual permanent plan within 120 days after the service member leaves the military, or other key events.

Key: NS = nonsmoker; AD = active duty; NG = National Guard; R = Reserve; PB = Preferred Best underwriting class; PS = Preferred Smoker underwriting class. How 14 life insurance options compare to SGLI and VGLI:

	SGLI	VGLI	AAFMAA	AFA	AFBA	AFSA	AUSA
Monthly premium: Age 30, \$400,000	\$29*	\$40	\$18.15	\$26.56	\$32 NS	\$16 NS (for max. \$200,000 coverage)	\$25 (for max. \$250,000 coverage)
Monthly premium: Spouse age 30, \$100,000	\$5	N/A	\$5.90 NS	\$2.52*	\$8 NS	\$8 NS	\$10
Monthly premium: Age 45, \$400,000	\$29*	\$88	\$18.15	\$57.60	\$32 NS	\$54.72 NS (for max. \$200,000 coverage)	\$57.50 (for max. \$250,000 coverage)
Monthly premium: Spouse age 45, \$100,000	\$13	N/A	\$5.90 NS	\$5*	\$8 NS	\$27.36 NS	\$23
Monthly premium: Age 60, \$400,000	\$29*	\$432	\$86.20*	\$319.04	\$352 NS	\$228.72 NS (for max. \$200,000 coverage)	\$252.50 (for max. \$250,000 coverage)
Monthly premium: Spouse age 60, \$100,000	\$50	N/A	\$14.20**	\$33.32*	\$88 NS	\$114.36 NS	\$101

	SGLI	VGLI	AAFMAA	AFA	AFBA	AFSA	AUSA
Type of plan	Group term	Group term	Individual term life	Group term	Group term	Group term	Group term
Eligibility	AD/NG/R Coverage remains in effect for free for 120 days after separation. Members who are totally disabled at separation can apply for up to 2 years of free SGLI coverage from separation.	Recently separated service members*	AD/NG/R, retired; also veterans in AZ, CT, FL, HI, MD, NC, OK, OR, RI, SC, VA	Veteran, spouse/widow or ancestor/lineal descendant of veteran	AD/NG/R, retirees, veterans and spouses	Air Force AD/NG/R, retirees, veterans and families. Must be under age 65 to apply.	AUSA members and spouses under 65
Maximum coverage	\$400,000 member; \$100,000 spouse	\$400,000	\$1 million	\$500,000 until age 65; \$50,000 after age 65	\$400,000	\$200,000	\$250,000
Health exam required?	No**	No, within 240 days of separation	Depends on type of policy and responses to application questions	Yes	For member, no health exam up to 49 for \$250,000 coverage and age 59 for \$100,000 coverage	Usually no, depending on answers to health questions*	Yes
Is policy portable if individual separates from military or ends membership in organization?	Conversion either to a VGLI term policy or to a permanent plan with a private insurer is guaranteed if done within set time periods.	Yes, lifetime, renewable	Yes	Yes if separates; no if ends membership	Yes	Yes if separates; no if ends membership. May convert policy	Yes if separates; no if ends membership

--

	SGLI	VGLI	AAFMAA	AFA	AFBA	AFSA	AUSA
Can the term policy be converted to a permanent insurance policy such as whole life without complete underwriting/health exam?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Organization one-year membership dues	None	None	None	45	None	\$25	\$14 to \$39, based on paygrade
Limitations on aviators, flight crews, others?	No	No	No	No	No	No**	No
War clause	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Partial premium refunds	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No
Premium/coverage at age 30 rate stays same how long?	To separation or retirement	To age 35, then rises every 5 years to age 75	20 years NS	10 years	20 years	5 years	5 years
Premium/coverage at age 45 rate stays same how long?	To separation or retirement	To age 50, then rises every 5 years to age 75	5 years NS	5 years	5 years	5 years	5 years
Premium/coverage at age 60 rate stays same how long?	To separation or retirement	To age 65, then rises every 5 years to age 75	5 years	5 years; at age 65, coverage reduced by half or to \$50,000, whichever is less	10 years	5 years	5 years

	SGLI	VGLI	AAFMAA	AFA	AFBA	AFSA	AUSA
Coverage available for child?	Yes***	No	Yes***	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Company/organization, website	Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance, insurance.va.gov	Veterans' Group Life Insurance, insurance.va.gov	American Armed Forces Mutual Aid Association (formerly Army and Air Force Mutual Aid Association), aafmaa.com	Air Force Association, www.afa.org	Armed Forces Benefit Association, www.afba.com	Air Force Sergeants Association, www.hqafsa.org	Association of the U.S. Army, www.ausa.org
Notes	* Includes \$1 for	*Leaving	*Male. ** Female	Coverage	Spouse and children	*AFSA members	N/A

	FRA	JWV	MBA	MOAA	NAUS	Navy Mutual	Prudential	ROA	USAA Life
Monthly premium: Age 30, \$400,000	\$10.50 NS (for max. \$150,000 coverage)	\$32.60 NS; \$66.08 smoker	\$23.20	\$10.40 Preferred NS*; \$17.60 Standard NS	\$14**	\$12.40* Male NS	\$32 PB; \$113 PS Male	\$22.80 NS	\$21.49 Male*
Monthly premium: Spouse age 30, \$100,000	\$7 NS	\$8.16 NS; \$16.52 smoker	\$5.80	\$2.70 Preferred NS*; \$4.60 Standard NS	\$9**	\$7.70* Female NS	\$15 PB; \$32 PS Female	\$4.77 NS	\$12.74 Female*
Monthly premium: Age 45, \$400,000	\$40 NS; (for max. \$150,000 coverage)	\$105.28 NS; \$245.28 smoker	\$40	\$36 Preferred NS*; \$60 Standard NS	\$27.75**	\$31.20* Male NS	\$76 PB; \$332 PS Male	\$83.60 NS	\$49.82 Male*
Monthly premium: Spouse age 45, \$100,000	\$26.67 NS	\$26.32 NS; \$61.32 smoker	\$10	\$9.50 Preferred NS*; \$15.80 Standard NS	\$12.75**	\$11.10* Female NS	\$23 PB; \$69 PS Female	\$17.90 NS	\$19.07 Female*
Monthly premium: Age 60, \$400,000	\$168.25 NS (for max. \$150,000 coverage)	\$430.08 NS; \$821.28 smoker	\$190.32	\$150 Preferred NS*; \$250 Standard NS	\$104**	\$120* Male NS	\$212* PB; \$681* PS Male	\$334.40 NS	\$204.15 Male*
Monthly premium: Spouse age 60, \$100,000	\$112.17 NS	\$107.52 NS; \$205.32 smoker	\$47.58	\$39.50 Preferred NS*; \$65.80 Standard NS	\$35.50**	\$26.80* Female NS	\$47* PB; \$144* PS Female	\$70.30 NS	\$47.49 Female*
Type of plan	Group term	Group term	Group term	Group term	Term	Individual term	30-year individual level term	Group term	Individual level term

	FRA	JWV	MBA	MOAA	NAUS	Navy Mutual	Prudential	ROA	USAA Life
Eligibility	Current and former enlisted members of Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, under age 70	Under 65 and U.S. resident	Active and retired military and spouses	MOAA members and spouses	Ages 18-85, veterans, retirees, spouses and survivors	AD, R, retired military members; and honorably discharged veterans residing in AZ, CT, HI, MD, NC, RI, SC, VA	Age 18 to 55 NS**; age 18 to 45 for smokers**	Reserve, active, retired and former officers and warrant officers under age 60 and actively working; and their spouses, widows and widowers	All
Maximum coverage	\$150,000	\$500,000	\$1 million	\$1 million	\$2 million	\$1 million	\$65 million	\$500,000	\$10 million
Health exam required?	Minimal questions	Yes	Case-by-case basis	Yes	Case-by-case basis, depending on the carrier and the age of the member.	Yes	Yes	Depends on level of coverage requested	Yes
Is policy portable if individual separates from military or ends membership in organization?	Yes if separates; no if ends membership*	Yes if separates; no if ends membership	Yes if separates; no if ends membership	Yes if separates; no if ends membership.	Yes if separates; no if ends membership	Yes	Yes	Yes if separates; no if ends membership	Yes

--

	FRA	JWV	MBA	MOAA	NAUS	Navy Mutual	Prudential	ROA	USAA Life
Can the term policy be converted to a permanent insurance policy such as whole life without complete underwriting/health exam?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Depending on carrier and amounts	Yes	Yes, until the end of the level premium period or policy anniversary on or after insured's 65th birthday, whichever is earlier, but may not be less than 5 years.	Yes	Yes
Organization one-year membership dues	\$30	Varies by post; minimum usually \$35	None	\$40	\$25 single; \$45 joint; \$19 widow/widower	None	N/A	\$55	None
Limitations on aviators, flight crews, others?	No	No	No	No	Depending on carrier and amounts	No	Yes; varies based on flying time	No	No
War clause	No	No	No	No	Depending on carrier and amounts	No	No	No	No
Partial premium refunds	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
Premium/coverage at age 30 rate stays same how long?	5 years	5 years	5 years	5 years	10 years	15 years	30 years	5 years	20 years

	FRA	JWV	MBA	MOAA	NAUS	Navy Mutual	Prudential	ROA	USAA Life
Premium/coverage at age 45 rate stays same how long?	5 years	5 years	5 years	5 years	10 years	15 years	30 years	5 years	20 years
Premium/coverage at age 60 rate stays same how long?	5 years	5 years	5 years	5 years	10 years	15 years	20 years***	5 years	20 years
Coverage available for child?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Depends on carrier chosen	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Company/organization, website	Fleet Reserve Association, www.fra.org	Jewish War Veterans of the U.S., www.jwv.org	Military Benefit Association, www.militarybenefit.org	Military Officers Association of America, www.moaa.org	National Association for Uniformed Services, www.naus.org	Navy Mutual (formerly Navy Mutual Aid Association), www.navy mutual.org	Prudential, www.prudential.com	Reserve Officers Association, www.roa.org	USAA Life, www.usaa.com

	FRA	JWV	MBA	MOAA	NAUS	Navy Mutual	Prudential	ROA	USAA Life
Notes	*Conversion policy available	N/A	Continuous level term coverage to age 70; reduced benefit from ages 70 to 90.	*Meets highest underwriting standards.	*The insurance program uses a life insurance exchange with many carriers to choose from to ensure the best rate. Rates fluctuate based on carrier. **Example male rate, rates subject to change due to multiple carrier exchange.	*All rates are Super Rate at 15-year term and non-nicotine users.	*Max. age is 55 to purchase 30-year policy. **Max. issue age may vary by state. ***Premium shown for 60-year-old is 20-year level term	N/A	*Coverage is level for the duration of the policy. Additional benefits, provided at no extra cost, include \$25,000 for certain severe injuries while performing military duties and the guaranteed ability to increase coverage upon loss of SGLI/Family SGLI. An additional guaranteed coverage increase is available for 18-35 year olds upon marriage, home purchase or birth/adoption of a child.