



New York's Senator
CHARLES E. SCHUMER

313 Hart Senate Office Building • Washington, DC 20510
Phone: (202)224-7433 • Fax: (202)228-1218

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CONTACT: Phil Singer/Andy Katzman
(202) 224-7433

SCHUMER: RESERVIST CALL-UPS COULD TAKE HUNDREDS OF NYC AND LI NYPD, FDNY, EMT OFF THE STREETS, COST AREA MILLIONS OF DOLLARS

New Schumer report to show that New York City, Long Island and NY State are currently paying \$375,000/week to cover costs of the 274 first responders called up already and could end up paying more than \$19 million if these reservists serve for just one year

With almost 2,000 NYPD, FDNY, EMT, Suffolk County PD, Nassau County PD, and State Police in reserves, Schumer to urge Feds to help replace lost manpower, cover costs

US Senator Chuck Schumer today released a new report showing that New York City, Long Island and the State are paying \$375,000 a week to cover the costs of the 274 local first responders in the reserves who have been called up and that the cost of covering those reservists could hit \$19 million this year. The report said that if all area reservists are called up, the cost to New York City could be as high as \$120 million and the cost to Long Island could be as high as \$15 million. Schumer urged the federal government to help cover these expenses and help ensure that the region is able to make up the lost manpower so that homeland security efforts do not suffer.

"Many New York first responders are getting hit with double duty: They're being asked to deal with the security problems of the post 9/11 world, problems which could be exacerbated in the advent of war. They're being asked to serve overseas which they are doing with distinction and pride," Schumer said. "So if the federal government calls on them to serve, we understand that decision and they have our unwavering support. All I'm asking is that the feds give us the wherewithal to ensure that homeland security isn't unduly weakened while they're gone."

Schumer said that a call-up would significantly impact New York because Armed Forces Reservists and National Guardsmen make up 3% of the uniformed services in New York City and Long Island, as well as 6% of the New York State Police. The absence of these first responders for an extended period of time could undermine emergency preparedness and public safety. Although the FDNY and New York Emergency Medical Technicians (NYEMT) are required by union contract to temporarily replace any reservist who is called up, the NYPD, New York State Police, and Nassau and Suffolk Police are not required to do so, and could be severely depleted unless they choose to replace the workers, which the financially strapped departments cannot afford to do at this time.

A reservist call-up costs police and fire departments millions because the salaries and benefits of reservists continue to be paid while they are deployed. The departments are reimbursed a portion of the salaries by the military, but not the entire amount, accounting for significant financial and manpower losses. When the FDNY

and NYEMT hire their replacement workers, they will have to pay the reservists' salary as well as that of the new hire. Should police departments decide they need to hire new policemen, their costs would skyrocket as well.

Schumer's report determined how much the various police and fire departments could be forced to spend in the event of a reservist call up:

- **NYPD** Approximately 1,200 members of the New York City Police Department are also members of the National Guard and military reserves. Their absence for any extended period of time could dramatically undermine the exemplary job the NYPD has done in lowering crime levels in New York City. If all reservists were called up, compensating for these officers' absence would swell the NYPD's overtime budget, costing the City \$1.2 million per week, aggravating its already substantial fiscal crisis. 212 police officers have already been called up at a cost of \$209,880 per week to the city.
- **FDNY** The Fire Department faces a similar challenge because 220 of its members also serve in the Guard and the Reserves. In the event of their call-up, the City would have to shoulder \$1.1 million per week in additional expenses in order to comply with staffing levels required for public safety. 23 firefighters have been called up already at a cost of about \$106,000 per week.
- **NYEMT** The NYEMT has 68 reservists. In the event of their call-up, the City would have to pay around \$90,000 per week in additional expenses in order to comply with staffing levels required for public safety. Ten EMTs have been called up at a cost of approximately \$12,750 a week to the City.
- **Nassau and Suffolk Police** The Nassau and Suffolk County Police Forces combined have 168 officers whose services they could lose in the event of a call-up. In addition to losing access to these officers' valuable skills, these counties would have to pay almost \$300,000 per week in salaries and benefits for the reservists. 19 Suffolk and Nassau County officers have already been called up at a cost of over \$33,000 per week.
- **New York State Police** The NYS Police has 276 reservists, comprising 6% of the entire force. Losing these vital men and women would cost the NYS Police almost \$275,000 per week if all the reservists are called up. Ten state police officers have already been called up at a cost of \$9,830 per week to the State.

274 reservists from the various first responder agencies in the area have already been called up, costing the City, Long Island, and the State a total of approximately \$375,000 per week. If these reservists stay on duty for a year, the costs will be more than \$19 million. If even 50% of all reservists are called up, the cost to New York City will be \$60 million and the cost to Long Island will be \$7.5 million. If the police departments decide to bolster their forces to compensate for a loss of manpower resulting from a 50% call-up, the cost would skyrocket to \$114 million for New York City and \$18 million for Long Island. (*See attached chart for more details*).

"While we will hopefully win the war abroad, we shouldn't be risking the loss of the war here at home," Schumer said. "This isn't just a question of local crime and public safety, this is a question of homeland security. In the post 9/11 world, the two are indistinguishable. The federal government needs to recognize that by reimbursing local governments when their first responders get called to serve in the military."

Schumer wrote to the Homeland Security Department, the Justice Department, and the Defense Department to urge that New York be reimbursed for the cost of the call-ups. The reimbursements are needed to ensure that public safety efforts are not undermined by the absences of the reservists and to help mitigate the financial impact of the call-ups. **SEE ATTACHED REPORT.**

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Reservists in NYC and Long Island Uniformed Forces

Organization	Total Size	Number of Reservists	On Active Duty	Percent of Organization in Reserves	Cost per Week per Reservist	Total Cost per Week if Reservist is Replaced with New Employee
New York Police Department	37,000	1,192	212	3.2	\$990	\$2,745
New York Emergency Medical Technicians	2,800	68	10	2.4	\$1,275	\$1,275
Fire Department of New York	10,700	220	23	2.1	\$4,635	\$4,635
Suffolk County Police Department	2,750	107	15	3.9	\$1,870	\$4,505
Nassau County Police Department	2,576	61	4	2.4	\$1,389	\$3,543
New York State Police	4,500	276	10	6.1	\$983	\$2,731

For the purposes of this chart, both national guardsmen and military reservists are called "reservists". Both organizations receive comparable salaries while on active duty. The "cost per week per reservist" 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 typical reservist first responder.

Sources: *U.S. Army Reserves, New York City Police Department, Fire Department of New York, Suffolk County Police Department, Nassau County Police Department, New York State Police*