



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ) - DCARNG SPB MISSION

(For Soldiers considering transferring to Washington, D.C.)

1. How long will it take to get on orders?

Once your IST is fully approved and your military pay account is established in DC, orders can be cut within 24 hours.

2. How long are the orders?

ADOS orders are up to three years, depending on mission needs and funding.

3. What benefits will I receive while on ADOS?

- Full-time pay
- BAH + BAS
- TRICARE Prime
- Access to DCARNG education benefits, tuition programs, and GI Bill (if eligible)
- Retirement points accrue monthly

4. How does leave work while on ADOS?

ADOS Soldiers accrue 2.5 days of leave per month. Leave must be approved through your chain of command.

5. Do I keep my rank when I IST?

Yes, you retain your rank as long as it is compatible with the position and MOS requirements.

6. Will I have opportunities for promotion?

Yes. Soldiers on ADOS supporting a major mission in DC often receive:

- Increased visibility
- Strong NCOER/OER bullets
- Opportunities for MP leadership roles
- Competitive boards and timelines depending on eligibility

7. What schools can I get?

Selected Soldiers may be eligible for schools that increase readiness and policing capability, including:

- Personal Security Detail (PSD)
- Special Reaction Team (SRT)
- Additional MP-related professional development based on mission/availability.

8. Can I IST back home later?

Yes. You may IST back to your home state when eligible and coordinated through your gaining/losing state.

9. What is the mission?

To protect, secure, and support the Nation's Capital, making Washington, D.C. safe, beautiful, and resilient. Our mission directly supports the community, the District, federal partners, and the millions of visitors who come to DC every year.

10. What is the work schedule like?

Schedules vary by assignment, but Soldiers can expect:

- Full-time ADOS duty
- Rotational shifts (as required)
- Training, LE integration, and MP support operations
- Mission tempo will be clearly communicated by leadership.

11. Will I deploy?

This mission is stateside, full-time support, but as a National Guard Soldier you remain eligible for future federal or domestic mobilization depending on mission requirements.

12. What is the onboarding process?

- Initial screening / recruiter contact
- IST packet initiation
- Medical / admin verification
- DCARNG acceptance
- Pay account activation
- Orders published and start date confirmed

13. What are the physical standards?

All Soldiers must maintain:

- Army Body Composition Program standards
- Passing AFT
- Medical readiness (PHA, dental, immunizations, etc.)

14. What uniforms/equipment will I need?

Soldiers will receive:

- Required MP gear
- Duty-specific equipment
- Training support items
- Uniforms remain the Soldier's responsibility unless otherwise provided by the unit or mission.

15. Are there opportunities with federal law-enforcement?

Serving in DC exposes Soldiers to partnerships with MPD, USCP, USSS, MP Battalion operations, and federal agencies. Expanding networking and career pathways.

16. Will I work with civilian law enforcement?

Yes. This mission includes regular integration with DC agencies and supporting law-enforcement operations.

17. Can I PCS to DC?

No. This is not a PCS move. When you IST into the DCARNG, you will receive BAH and BAS to establish housing and sustainment in the National Capital Region.

18. Will I receive DC BAH?

Yes. Once you IST into the DCARNG, you are a DC Soldier and will be paid Washington, D.C. BAH, which is among the highest in the country.

19. What is the cost of living in DC?

DC BAH is high and designed to offset housing costs. We help Soldiers find manageable options.

20. Where will I live?

You may choose housing anywhere in the DMV (DC, Maryland, Virginia). We can also provide resources and assistance for:

- Military-affiliated housing
- Temporary lodging options
- Local housing support programs

21. Can I bring my family?

Absolutely. Soldiers with dependents may bring their families and live anywhere within commuting distance.

22. Will I need my own vehicle?

Highly recommended. The DMV area has Metro access, but daily commuting is significantly easier with a personal vehicle.

23. Is there parking?

Yes, at designated facilities depending on worksite.