



Army Emergency Relief (AER) What Is It and Who Is Eligible?

TASK: Understand what AER is all about and who is eligible for the services of AER.

CONDITIONS: Active duty and retired Army and Family members are eligible.

STANDARDS: Understand AER is a non-profit company that is not part of the Department of the Army organization.

REFERENCE(S): AR 930-4

POC: AER Officer, 760-380-3513

The logo of the National Training Center, featuring a yellow triangle with a red star and a blue star, set against a green background.

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AER Charter:

- Incorporated under laws of District Columbia on 5 February 1942 as a nonprofit organization to collect and hold funds to relieve distress of members of the Army and their dependents.
- Provides emergency financial assistance to Soldiers (active and retired) and their Families in time of distress.
- Assumed the Army Relief Society (ARS) mission to provide financial assistance as AER on 2 July 1976.
- Exists solely for “helping the Army take care of its own.”

The logo of the National Training Center (NTC) is a triangular emblem with a yellow border. It features an American flag on the left, a hot air balloon on the right, and a central shield with a yellow 'N' and 'C'. Below the shield, it says 'NATIONAL TRAINING CENTER'.

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Primary AER Purpose is to provide financial assistance to:

- Soldiers, active and retired, and their immediate families.
- Needy spouses and orphans of deceased Soldiers.
- Although nonprofit, AER is the U.S. Army's own emergency financial assistance organization.
- AER give the Commanders this important asset to help them deal with their responsibility of morale and welfare of their Soldiers and Families.



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Administrative and Operational Support to Soldiers and Family Members on AER Matters Through Other Organizations.

- Soldiers, Family members living near an Army installation should visit the local AER Section.
- Army Emergency Relief Sections at other locations.

Below coordinate directly with HQ AER for Soldiers.

- Local American Red Cross Chapters.
- Navy-Marine Corps Relief Sections if near Navy/Marine installations.
- Air Force Aid Society Sections if near Air Force installations.
- Coast Guard Mutual Assistance Offices in those areas.

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Eligibility for Financial Assistance:

- Soldiers on extended Active Duty (AD) and their Dependents.
- Reserve Component Soldiers (ARNG and USAR on continuous AD orders for more than 30 consecutive days and their dependents.
- Soldiers retired from AD for longevity, retired by reason of physical disability, or retired at age 60 and their dependents.
- Surviving spouses and orphans of eligible Soldiers who died while on AD or after they retired.



Army Emergency Relief (AER) Who is Authorized Direct Financial Assistance Through AER ?

Recent approval by HQ AER and the US Army has led to:

- E-5, E-6, E-7, E-8, and E-9 authorization to obtain AER assistance without going through their chain of command.
- W03, W04, and W05 authorization to obtain AER assistance without going through their chain of command.
- O-3 and above authorization to obtain AER assistance without going through their chain of command.