



Get insured now!

Have you got life insurance in place in case something happens to either you or your soldier?

Ask yourself if there would be enough to keep your family financially secure if anything happened to you or your soldier. If you have a mortgage, for example, only life insurance may ensure that it can be paid if something happens; or if you are in quarters, and would need a mortgage, would you be able to afford one?

It makes sense to be covered before your soldier is sent into a potentially dangerous situation. Life insurance is one of the concerns highlighted by the continued deployment of so many soldiers on Op Telic. On Op Telic 1, although those with insurance already in place had no problems, soldiers without life insurance who were due to go the Gulf found that many schemes were no longer open to them, or were now subject to a "war exclusion", or to doubled premiums for less benefit. PAX remained open, but was subject to an exclusion against injury from weapons of mass destruction, which is now permanent.

One of the reasons insurance companies reacted in this way is that they have found in the past that Service personnel will take out large life insurance policies when going on operations, but on their return home they fail to keep up the premium payments. This means that both the insurance companies and the re-insurers who finance them lose money, as policies are based on premium payments over a period of years. Given the current depressed state of the finance world at the time, it is perhaps not surprising many companies decided to restrict new business when Op Telic first got underway. (One of the few policies open to new customers at the time was Naafi Financial's standard life cover of £10,000).

The only practical solution is to get insurance cover before something like Op Telic happens. Soldiering can be a dangerous business, but everyday life is dangerous and if you have a family, life insurance will at least ensure that they will be helped financially if something happens to you or your soldier. Would you drive your family in an uninsured car? Then why treat your life as being of less value?

This AFJ is full of advertisements from insurance advisors and companies who are Service friendly - some are Service specific. Take a look at them all and consider your options, and if you need life insurance, act now to make sure your family is safe - and to avoid being caught out as so many were in February.

The Services Insurance and Investment Advisory Panel (SIIAP) is a group of 39 insurance and investment advisors who specialise in insurance for Service personnel. Check out their website for more information at: www.siiap.org