STATE OF CALIFORNIA—HEALTH AND WELFARE AGENCY

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
744 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

January 8, 1988

ALL COUNTY LETTER NO. 88-03

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: TREATMENT OF MILITARY PAY IN THE FOOD STAMP AND AFDC PROGRAMS

We have recently been informed that as of October 1, 1987 the military has changed its pay schedule. The new schedule makes pay days on the first and the fifteenth of each month. If the first falls on a weekend or holiday, pay day will be the last working day prior to the first of the month. Prior to October 1, 1987 military pay was on the fifteenth and the last working day of the month.

A check stub indicating gross pay is not attached to the check received on the fifteenth. A check stub is attached to the check received on the first of the month showing the total net and gross income and deductions for the prior month's fifteenth of the month pay and the current month's first of the month pay.

Regulations require a monthly reporting household to report income received in the month and provide verification of the income (M.S. 63-504.32). Because of the method now being used by the military, a household is unable to verify earnings received on the fifteenth of each month. Therefore, in order to prevent problems that will arise from this new military pay schedule, the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) has instructed the State and its agencies to count as income the amount reflected on the pay stub received on the first of the month as income for that month. In the months that a paycheck is received on the last working day of a month (because the first is a holiday or falls on a weekend) that check is to be treated as if it were received on the first of the following month. This policy is consistent with M.S. 63-503.212(c)(3) since military pay is set and remains stable during the year, similar to State or Federal assistance payments.

The same treatment of income and verification described above would also apply in AFDC when the check is received on the first of the month. However, in months in which the paycheck is received on the last working day of the month, in AFDC the income must be counted in the month in which the income is actually received (MPP 44-102).

The new pay schedule only applies to persons on active duty, not civilian employees or retirees. CWDs should inform Food Stamp recipients who are on active military duty of this change in reporting as soon as possible.

If you have any questions, please contact the AFDC and Food Stamp Policy Implementation Bureau at (916) 322-5330.

ROBERT A. HOREL
Deputy Director

cc: CWDA