



## Personnel Who Bought Gear Can Claim Reimbursement



David S.C. Chu, the undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness, approved the directive that allows military personnel to be reimbursed "for privately purchased protective, safety or health equipment."

The order covers the period between Sept. 10, 2001, and Aug. 1, 2004. Pentagon officials said "relatively few" service members are affected by the order.

Legislation passed by Congress last year authorized the services to reimburse service members for the expenditures. The legislation applies to a specified set of personal protection equipment and can be claimed "by either the member or by another person on behalf of the member for the member's personal use in anticipation of, or during, the member's deployment for operations Noble Eagle, Enduring Freedom or Iraqi Freedom."

Reimbursement is limited to the actual purchase price - plus shipping - of the equipment; receipts are not needed. Under the legislation, those claiming reimbursement must turn in their privately purchased gear. The services will destroy the equipment, as it may not meet government standards. Under the policy, reimbursement cannot exceed \$1,100 for any one piece of equipment.