

THE SCRA AND YOUR CELL PHONE

An amendment to the **SCRA, effective 10 October 2008**, allows military members who are deployed for more than ninety days or who received orders for a permanent change of duty station to suspend or terminate any contract for cell phone service as long as the contract was entered into prior to the date the service member receives orders. In order to request a contract suspension or termination, the service member's ability to satisfy the terms of the contract or to use the service must be affected by the change of station or deployment. Cell phone companies are required to grant the suspension or termination of contract without charging an early termination fee or a reactivation fee for suspension of the contract. In addition, if a military member is deployed outside the continental U.S., the cell phone company must allow the service member to suspend the contract at no charge until the end of the deployment without requiring the contract to be extended. The relief granted under the SCRA not only pertains to cell phones, but it also applies to mobile broadband internet service provided by cell phone companies.