

Milper Message Number
13-263

Proponent
AHRC-EPF-R

Title
BONUS EXTENSION AND RETRAINING (BEAR) PROGRAM

...Issued: [19 Sep 13]...

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- A. MILPER MESSAGE 13-031, AHRC-EPF-R, SUBJECT: BONUS EXTENSION AND RETRAINING (BEAR) PROGRAM, DATED 04 FEB 13, IS RESCINDED ON THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS MESSAGE.
- B. AR 601-280 (ARMY RETENTION PROGRAM), DATED 31 JAN 06 (*RAR 15 SEP 11)
1. THIS MILPER MESSAGE IS EFFECTIVE ON 1 OCT 13 AND WILL EXPIRE NLT 31 DEC 15.
 2. THIS MILPER MESSAGE ANNOUNCES THE PHASE OUT PLAN FOR THE REGULAR ARMY ACTIVE COMPONENT BEAR PROGRAM. EFFECTIVE 1 OCT 13, THE BEAR PROGRAM IS RESCINDED AND NO FURTHER APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED.
 3. ALL BEAR AGREEMENTS ENTERED INTO PRIOR TO 1 OCTOBER 13, WILL BE HONORED UPON SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF TRAINING IN THE BEAR MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALTY (MOS).
 4. QUALIFIED SOLDIERS WHO ARE ELIGIBLE TO REENLIST FOR TRAINING AND RECLASSIFICATION INTO A CRITICAL MOS, AS LISTED IN THE MOST CURRENT SELECTIVE REENLISTMENT BONUS (SRB) – TIERED PROGRAM MESSAGE, MAY BE ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE AN SRB IN THE NEW MOS UPON SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF TRAINING. NEW MOS MUST BE LISTED IN PARAGRAPH 4 AND BE A TIER 4 OR HIGHER.
 5. SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS AND TECHNICAL INFORMATION FOR ALL REMAINING BEAR PARTICIPATION AGREEMENTS:
 - A. SOLDIERS MUST HAVE COMPLETED AT LEAST 17 MONTHS OF CONTINUOUS ACTIVE DUTY (OTHER THAN ACTIVE DUTY FOR TRAINING AS A RESERVIST) AND NO MORE THAN 14 YEARS OF ACTIVE FEDERAL SERVICE (AFS) BEFORE REACHING ELIGIBILITY TO RECEIVE AN SRB. COMPLETION OF THE 17 MONTHS OF CONTINUOUS ACTIVE DUTY NEED NOT OCCUR IMMEDIATELY BEFORE THE DATE OF REENLISTMENT. BONUSES MAY ONLY BE PAID UP TO THE 24TH YEAR OF AFS. MAXIMUM OBLIGATED SERVICE IS 72 MONTHS.
 - B. A MINIMUM REENLISTMENT TERM OF THREE YEARS REMAINS A REQUIREMENT FOR SRB ENTITLEMENT. A TWO-YEAR REENLISTMENT TERM DOES NOT ENTITLE A SOLDIER TO AN SRB.
 - C. SOLDIERS SERVING IN THE BEAR PROGRAM MAY HAVE UP TO 24 MONTHS OF PREVIOUSLY OBLIGATED EXTENDED SERVICE FORGIVEN, PROVIDED THEY REENLIST FOR THE REGULAR ARMY REENLISTMENT OPTION WITHIN 90 DAYS AFTER GRADUATION.
 - D. SOLDIERS WILL NOT FORFEIT ANY PORTION OF AN SRB WHEN THEY ARE RECLASSIFIED WITHIN THE SAME CAREER MANAGEMENT FIELD (CMF), INTO CMF 18, OR OTHERWISE DIRECTED BY HRC.
 - E. UPON SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF TRAINING, SOLDIERS PARTICIPATING IN THE BEAR PROGRAM AND ENTITLED TO AN SRB, WILL BE PAID EITHER THE BONUS AMOUNT IN EFFECT AT TIME OF EXTENSION IN THE BEAR PROGRAM OR THE BONUS AMOUNT LISTED IN THE SRB ENHANCED PROGRAM ON DATE OF REENLISTMENT, WHICHEVER IS HIGHER.
 6. SOLDIERS WITH QUESTIONS PERTAINING TO BONUSES AND ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS ADDRESSED IN THIS MESSAGE SHOULD CONTACT THEIR SERVICING CAREER COUNSELOR. SERVICING CAREER COUNSELORS WITH QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS MESSAGE SHOULD CONTACT THEIR APPROPRIATE COMMAND RETENTION OFFICE FOR CLARIFICATION. POC FOR THIS HEADQUARTERS IS [THE RETENTION AND RECLASSIFICATION BRANCH, AHRC-EPF-R, HRC, FT KNOX.](#)

