

Policy Message 17-02(C5)

14 February 2017

SUBJECT: Fiscal Year 2017 Reenlistment Options and Eligibility Window

1. References:

- a. AR 601-280, Army Retention Program, 1 April 2016
- b. FY17 Retention and Transition Mission and Guidance memorandum, 03 January 2017
- c. ALARACT 228/2014, Army Precision Retention, 2 October 2014

PART I Reenlistment Opportunity Window

**2. A Soldiers individual reenlistment opportunity window (ROW) opens 15 months from their ETS and continues through their ETS. The previous 90 day window restriction has been suspended and may be reinstated without future notice.** This message applies to Soldiers in their reenlistment opportunity window beginning 1 October 2016 and ending 30 September 2017. Career Counselors must ensure they continue to counsel Soldiers and prepare reenlistment packets, IAW AR 601-280.

**PART II Option Restrictions**

3. Reenlistment Options are only available, if otherwise qualified, to those Soldiers at the rank of Specialist (SPC) or above, who are considered in the ROW; processing may vary. The eligibility for reenlistment options are as follows:

a. **Initial Term Soldiers:**

(1) ***Serving in an over strength (N/Y) MOS*** are eligible for the Regular Army Reenlistment Option, Army Training Reenlistment Option (Soldiers must select an MOS listed as under strength (Y/N) or balanced (N/N) on the current IN/OUT Call MILPER Message), Overseas Assignment Reenlistment Option, and CONUS Station-of-Choice Reenlistment Option. Soldiers requesting Options E4 or E5 are limited to assignments readily available in RETAIN; additional information available in current RRB message. **As an exception, Soldiers with an FY 2017 ETS date, are authorized to reenlist for the Current Station Stabilization Reenlistment Option.**

(2) ***Serving in a balanced (N/N) MOS*** are eligible for the Regular Army Reenlistment Option, Current Station Stabilization Reenlistment Option, Army Training Reenlistment Option (Soldiers must select an MOS listed as under strength (Y/N) on the current IN/OUT Call MILPER Message), Overseas Assignment Reenlistment Option, and CONUS Station-of-Choice Reenlistment Option.

(3) ***Serving in an under strength (Y/N) MOS*** are eligible for the Regular Army Reenlistment Option, Current Station Stabilization Reenlistment Option, Overseas Assignment Reenlistment Option, and CONUS Station-of-Choice Reenlistment Option.

**b. Mid-Career Soldiers:**

(1) ***Serving in an over strength (N/Y) MOS*** are eligible for the Regular Army Reenlistment Option, Army Training Reenlistment Option (Soldiers must select an MOS listed as under strength (Y/N) or balanced (N/N) on the current IN/OUT Call MILPER Message), Overseas Assignment Reenlistment Option, and CONUS Station-of-Choice Reenlistment Option. Soldiers requesting Options E4 or E5 are limited to assignments readily available in RETAIN; additional information available in current RRB message. **As an exception, Soldiers with an FY 2017 ETS date, are authorized to reenlist for the Current Station Stabilization Reenlistment Option.**

(2) ***Serving in a balanced (N/N) MOS*** are eligible for the Regular Army Reenlistment Option, Current Station Stabilization Reenlistment Option, Army Training Reenlistment Option (Soldiers must select an MOS listed as understrength (Y/N) on the current IN/OUT Call MILPER Message), Overseas Assignment Reenlistment Option, and CONUS Station-of-Choice Reenlistment Option.

(3) ***Serving in an under strength (Y/N) MOS*** are eligible for the Regular Army Reenlistment Option, Current Station Stabilization Reenlistment Option, Overseas Assignment Reenlistment Option, and CONUS Station-of-Choice Reenlistment Option.

**c. Careerist Soldiers:**

(1) SGT, and SSG with less than 10 years of AFS on the date of discharge, serving in an over strength (N/Y) or balanced (N/N) MOS, are eligible for the Regular Army Reenlistment Option, Army Training Reenlistment Option (Soldiers must select an MOS listed as under strength (Y/N) on the current IN/OUT Call MILPER Message), Overseas Assignment Reenlistment Option, and CONUS Station-of-Choice Reenlistment Option. Soldiers requesting Options E4 or E5 are limited to assignments readily available in RETAIN; hotlines sent to RRB will be returned without action. **As an exception, Soldiers with an FY 2017 ETS date, are authorized to reenlist for the Current Station Stabilization Reenlistment Option.**

(2) SGT, and SSG with less than 10 years of AFS on the date of discharge, serving in an under strength (Y/N) MOS are eligible for the Regular Army Reenlistment Option, **Current Station Stabilization Reenlistment Option**, Overseas Assignment Reenlistment Option, and CONUS Station-of-Choice Reenlistment Option. Soldiers requesting Options E4 or E5 are limited to assignments readily available in RETAIN; additional information available in current RRB message.

(3) Regardless of strength, SGT and above, with 10 or more years of AFS on date of discharge must reenlist under the Regular Army Reenlistment Option. SSG and above, with 12 or more years of AFS on date of discharge must reenlist under the NCO Career Status Program. Soldiers may request/be approved for reclassification for training into an MOS authorized a **Tier 3** or higher bonus as published in the current SRB MILPER Message in conjunction with their NCO Career Status Program Reenlistment.

(4) Regardless of strength, SSG (P) and above with less than 12 years of AFS on date of discharge are limited to the Regular Army Reenlistment Option.

### **PART III Term Restrictions**

#### **4. Reenlistment Options:**

a. Regular Army Reenlistment Option (E-1): All Soldiers who are within the ROW, and who incur an HQDA imposed SRR due to assignment instructions or service school attendance, may reenlist for the minimum time necessary to meet the SRR.

(1) Soldiers serving in an over strength (N/Y) MOS may reenlist for a 2 to 6 year term length if otherwise qualified.

(2) Soldiers serving in a balanced (N/N) or under strength (Y/N) MOS may reenlist for a 2 to 6 year term length, if otherwise qualified.

(3) Soldiers with an FY 2017 ETS date, will receive 12 months stabilization in conjunction with their reenlistment. For CONUS based Soldiers, stabilization will commence on date of reenlistment; for OCONUS Soldiers the period of stabilization will be added to their DEROS. Soldiers who are on assignment at time of reenlistment, or who do not desire stabilization, will be processed IAW RMT message 17-24. This policy is retroactive back to 20 January 2017.

b. Current Station Stabilization Reenlistment Option (E-2): Soldiers may reenlist for a 3 to 6 year term length, if otherwise qualified.

(1) CONUS - Soldiers assigned to CONUS units who qualify for this option are guaranteed 1 to 12 months stabilization from date of reenlistment (Career Counselors will verify that AEA code and end dates are updated). Soldiers reenlisting for a Location specific SRB will be stabilized for a minimum of 24 months.

(2) OCONUS - Soldiers assigned to OCONUS units who qualify for this option are guaranteed 1 to 12 months stabilization from DEROS (Career Counselors will verify that DEROS dates are updated). Soldiers must reenlist at least 6 months prior to DEROS. Soldiers reenlisting for a location specific SRB will be stabilized for a minimum of 24 months for long tour areas and 12 months for short tour areas.

(3) Soldiers assigned to an inactivating unit (per UICs published by RMT) are not eligible for this option. HRC will only restrict option 2 in RETAIN for specific units. As an exception (for units not restricted by HRC) installation-level Command Career Counselors may approve reenlistment under this option, on a case by case basis, after full coordination with appropriate installation-level agencies. An approval memorandum for each individual Soldier will include the personal signature of the installation level Command Career Counselor and will be retained in the residual file for historical/inspection purposes. Option exception hotlines are required for units who have option E2 restricted by HRC.

c. Army Training Reenlistment Option (E-3): Soldiers may reenlist for a 3 to 6 year term length, if otherwise qualified. Soldier must be available for movement at the requested training start date. Soldiers must have a minimum of 12 months' time on station and have met the minimum SRR for the current unit/assignment requirements (example Airborne 36 months, Drill Sergeant 24 months) before departing the installation. Additional training processing guidance and procedures are outlined below.

(1) Soldiers assigned to OCONUS units: Training will not be scheduled prior to a Soldier's DEROS or movement availability date, whichever is greater.

(2) Soldiers with an SMSC code of "A", "F", or "I" are authorized to request training. Training start date will be no earlier than the stop move end date and no later than 180 days prior to the unit's next LAD. As an exception, Soldiers assigned to units identified for a Security Force Assistance Advisor Team (SFAAT) not directly supporting an operational requirement are exempt from this restriction.

d. Overseas Assignment Reenlistment Option (E-4): Soldiers may reenlist for a 4 to 6 year term length for long tour areas or for a 3 to 6 year term length for short tour areas, if otherwise qualified. Soldiers assigned to current TDA units who reenlist for Option 4 must reenlist for an MTO&E unit; they are not authorized to reenlist for another TDA location. Report dates and TOS requirements are IAW RRB messages.

e. CONUS Station-of-Choice Reenlistment Option (E-5): Soldiers may reenlist for a 3 to 6 year term length, if otherwise qualified. Soldiers assigned to current TDA units who reenlist for Option 5 must reenlist for an MTO&E unit; they are not authorized to reenlist for another TDA location. Report dates and TOS requirements are IAW RRB messages.

#### **PART IV Additional Instructions**

5. Deployed or deploying units: reenlistment options that result in a Soldiers movement out of the unit (report dates and training start dates) must be accomplished prior to LAD minus 180 days or must be after the 60 or 90 day stabilization period following redeployment. Movement options for Soldiers assigned to OCONUS AFM units remains driven by their DEROS date. DEROS adjustments may be accomplished IAW AR 614-30 for Soldiers who have a DEROS between LAD minus 90 and LAD minus 180 days and desire to reenlist for a movement option to move prior to LAD -180. As an exception, Soldiers assigned to units identified for a Security Force Assistance Advisor Team (SFAAT) mission are exempt from this requirement.

6. This message will change appropriately in order to support strategic initiatives impacting the program and the total force.

7. This message is approved for public release.

8. POC for this message is MSG Morgan at DSN 225-7643.

End of Policy Message 17-02(C5)

SGM Thompson