

Policy Message 18-02

1 October 2017

SUBJECT: Fiscal Year 2018 Reenlistment Options and Eligibility Window

Effective 1 October 2017

1. References:

- a. AR 601-280, Army Retention Program, 1 April 2016
- b. FY18 Retention and Transition Mission and Guidance memorandum, 27 September 2017
- c. ALARACT 228/2014, Army Precision Retention, 2 October 2014

PART I Reenlistment Opportunity Window

2. Effective 1 October 2017, a Soldier's individual **reenlistment opportunity window (ROW) opens 15 months from their ETS** and continues through 90 days prior to their ETS. However, the previous 90 day window restriction has been suspended and may be reinstated without future notice.

No Soldier with an FY20 ETS Date (e.g. ETS of 1 October 2019 and later) will enter the ROW at any time during this fiscal year.

This message applies to Soldiers in their reenlistment opportunity window beginning 1 October 2017 and ending 30 September 2018. Career Counselors must ensure they continue to counsel Soldiers and prepare retention 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 Private First Class (PFC) 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 limited to the Regular Army Reenlistment Option or Army Training Reenlistment Option (Soldiers must select an MOS listed as shortage (Y/N) or balanced (N/N) on the current IN/OUT Call MILPER Message).

* As an exception: Soldiers serving in an over strength MOS (N/Y) as listed in the current IN/OUT Calls MILPER Message, identified in paragraph 5 with a (3) are authorized to request Current Station Stabilization Reenlistment Option, Overseas Assignment Reenlistment Option, or CONUS Station-of-Choice Reenlistment Option if reenlisting for a valid airborne position.

(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 shortage (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 shortage (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 limited to the Regular Army Reenlistment Option or Army Training Reenlistment Option (Soldiers must select an MOS listed as shortage (Y/N) or balanced (N/N) on the current IN/OUT Call MILPER Message).

* As an exception: Soldiers serving in an over strength MOS (N/Y) as listed in the current IN/OUT Calls MILPER Message, identified in paragraph 5 with a (3) are authorized to request Current Station Stabilization Reenlistment Option, Overseas Assignment Reenlistment Option, or CONUS Station-of-Choice Reenlistment Option if reenlisting for a valid airborne position.

(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 shortage (Y/N) on the current IN/OUT Call MILPER Message), Overseas Assignment Reenlistment Option, and CONUS Station-of-Choice Reenlistment Option.

(3) **Serving in a shortage (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

(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.

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) MOS are limited to the Regular Army Reenlistment Option or Army Training Reenlistment Option (Soldiers must select an MOS listed on the current SRB MILPER Message as Tier 3 or higher).

(2) SGT, and SSG with less than 10 years of AFS on the date of discharge, serving in a balanced (N/N) MOS or a shortage (Y/N) MOS are limited to the Regular Army Reenlistment Option.

(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.

(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.

*As an exception: Careerist Soldiers inside the ROW, including those reenlisting under the NCO Career Status Program, may request voluntary reclassification for training into a shortage (Y/N) MOS and if the approved MOS is authorized a Tier 3 or higher bonus as published in the current SRB MILPER Message, the Soldier may be eligible to receive an SRB in conjunction with the reenlistment.

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 will be restricted to reenlist for Option E-1 Only.

(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 shortage (Y/N) MOS may reenlist for a 2 to 6 year term length, if otherwise qualified.

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 18 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 18 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 serving in a TDA unit are not authorized to exceed 48 months TOS in conjunction with this stabilization.

(4) 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. As an exception, Soldiers assigned to OCONUS units are authorized to reenlist for a 2 year term length. Soldiers who reenlist for a 2 year term length must be within 10 months of DEROS and have a minimum of 12 months remaining to ETS upon arrival at the gaining installation. 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 Whitney at DSN 225-7557 or SFC Aldana at DSN 225-7643.

End of Policy Message 18-02

SGM Thompson