

VOLUME 7A, CHAPTER 61: “BONUS PROGRAM FOR THE INDIVIDUAL READY RESERVE AND INACTIVE NATIONAL GUARD”

SUMMARY OF MAJOR CHANGES

All changes are denoted by [blue font](#).

Substantive revisions are denoted by an asterisk (*) symbol preceding the section, paragraph, table, or figure that includes the revision.

Unless otherwise noted, chapters referenced are contained in this volume.

Hyperlinks are denoted by [***bold, italic, blue, and underlined font***](#).

The previous version dated [September 2014](#) is archived.

PARAGRAPH	EXPLANATION OF CHANGE/REVISION	PURPOSE
610101 610102	Added paragraphs to further define the General section.	Addition
6102	Extended the duration of authority to December 31, 2015.	Revision
Bibliography	Updated Public Law.	Revision

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CHAPTER 61

**BONUS PROGRAM FOR THE INDIVIDUAL READY RESERVE
AND INACTIVE NATIONAL GUARD*****6101 GENERAL*****610101. Overview**

The Secretary concerned may pay a bonus to an eligible member who enlists, reenlists, or voluntarily extends an enlistment in a Reserve Component of an Armed Force for assignment to an element (other than the Selected Reserve) of the Ready Reserve.

***610102. Authoritative Guidance**

The information contained in this chapter is in accordance with the references listed in the Bibliography.

***6102 DURATION OF AUTHORITY**

A bonus may not be paid to any person for a reenlistment, enlistment, or voluntary extension of an enlistment after [December 31, 2015](#).

6103 ELIGIBILITY**610301. Criteria**

A person is eligible for a bonus if the person:

- A. Is or has been a member of the Armed Forces;
- B. Is qualified in a skill or specialty designated by Secretary of the Military Department concerned as a critically short wartime skill or critically short wartime specialty;
- C. Has not failed to complete satisfactorily any original term of enlistment in the Armed Forces;
- D. Enlists, reenlists, or extends an enlistment for 3 or 6 years beyond any other period of military service the person is obligated to serve; and
- E. Has not completed more than 14 years of total military service.

610302. Transfers to Another Military Service

An individual who completes his/her obligation to one Military Service may be accepted by another Military Service for enlistment under this program, provided the individual possesses a skill approved by the gaining Military Service for the payment of the bonus.

610303. Army

Army members who transfer from the Inactive National Guard (ING) to the Individual Ready Reserve (IRR) may continue to receive this bonus provided such members continue to serve satisfactorily.

610304. Called or Ordered to Active Duty

A person entitled to a bonus under this section, who is called or ordered to active duty, will be paid during that period of active duty, any amount of the bonus that becomes payable to the member.

610305. Critically Short Wartime Skill

For the purposes of this section, the Secretary concerned may designate a skill or specialty as a critically short wartime skill or critically short wartime specialty if:

A. The skill or specialty is critical to meet wartime requirements of the Armed Force; and

B. There is a critical shortage of personnel in that Armed Force who are qualified in that skill or specialty.

610306. Waiver

The Secretary concerned may waive the eligibility requirement, in subparagraph 610301.B, in the case of a reenlistment or voluntary extension of enlistment, by a member of the Armed Forces, while serving on active duty in Afghanistan, Iraq, or Kuwait in support of Operation Freedom Sentinel.

*6104 AMOUNTS PAYABLE

*610401. Amount

An amount not to exceed \$3,000 may be paid to a person who **voluntarily** enlists, or reenlists for a period of 6 years, or \$1,500 to a person who **voluntarily** enlists, or reenlists for a period of 3 years.

* A. A \$500 bonus will be paid at the time of the enlistment, reenlistment, or extension **for a period of 6 Years**, with the remainder paid in equal annual increments.

B. A bonus paid for a 3-year reenlistment or extension contract will be in equal annual increments.

610402. Additional Amount

An additional amount of up to \$1,500 may be paid for a subsequent reenlistment or extension, provided the individual has met the eligibility criteria of section 6103.

6105 OBLIGATION

A member must be contractually obligated to serve satisfactorily, as prescribed by the regulations of the Military Service concerned, in the IRR or ING for the full term of enlistment, reenlistment, or extension. As a condition of receipt of the bonus, recipients must agree to participate in an annual muster of the Reserve Component or on active duty for training, as may be required by the Secretary concerned.

610501. Extensions

The use of extensions, in lieu of reenlistments, is authorized and encouraged to:

- A. Reduce the administrative burden of the reenlistment process; and
- B. Eliminate the need for the oath of enlistment or reenlistment.

610502. Service

Participants must obligate themselves to continue to serve in the same MOS unless excused for the convenience of the Government.

610503. Transfers

A bonus recipient who later transfers to the Selected Reserve is not required to refund the IRR and ING bonus. Bonus recipients who transfer to the Selected Reserve are not eligible for a selected Reserve reenlistment bonus during the period for which an IRR or ING bonus was paid.

6106 TERMINATION OF BONUS ENTITLEMENT

Entitlement to the IRR and ING bonus will be terminated under the following conditions:

610601. Participation

The member fails to participate satisfactorily in the Ready Reserve in accordance with the regulations of the Military Service concerned; or

610602. Civilian Position

The member accepts a civilian position where membership in the Reserve Component is a condition of employment (persons on temporary assignment excluded); or

610603. Separation

The member is separated from the Ready Reserve as an enlisted member for any reason (including enlistment or voluntary recall into the active forces); or

610604. Officer Commissioning Program

The member becomes a simultaneous member of an authorized officer program drawing a stipend; or

610605. Non-Qualified Military Occupation Skill (MOS)

The member moves to a non-bonus-qualified MOS unless at the express direction of the Military Service concerned (through no fault of the member).

6107 RECOUPMENT OF PAYMENTS

610701. Obligation

Any refund made by a member will not affect the period of obligation of such member to serve as a Ready Reservist. Recoupment of unearned portions of the IRR and ING bonus is required when the member:

A. Fails to satisfactorily complete the designated term of enlistment, reenlistment, or extension of enlistment for which the bonus was paid unless the failure was due to reasons beyond the control of the member (for example, death, injury, illness, or other impairment not the result of member's misconduct); or

B. Accepts a civilian position where membership in the Reserve Component is a condition of employment, if less than one-half of the contract term for which a bonus is payable has been served (persons on temporary assignment excluded); or

C. Separates from the Ready Reserve as an enlisted member (including enlistment or voluntary recall into the active component) other than by death or to accept an appointment as an officer in the Ready Reserve; or

D. Accepts an immediate appointment as an officer in the Ready Reserve, if less than 1 year of the term has been served; or

E. Moves to a non-bonus-eligible MOS, unless at the express direction of the Military Service concerned (through no fault of the member).

610702. Computation

Recoupment will be the amount of bonus received multiplied by the quotient produced by dividing the number of whole months remaining un-served by the number of months in the term of the bonus. The product is the amount recouped.

Example: An individual reenlists in the IRR for 3 years and receives the maximum bonus of \$1,500. Five months later, the individual is disqualified from entitlement to the bonus:

Amount of bonus received	\$1,500.00
Multiplied by: Number of whole Months Remaining divided by term of bonus: $31/36 = .8611$	$\underline{\times .8611}$
Amount to be recouped	\$1,291.65

NOTE: Reduce the amount to be recouped by an amount equal to any reduction taken in Chapter 35, subparagraphs 350702.F or 350802.D.

610703. Repayment

A person, who does not complete the period of enlistment or extension of enlistment for which the bonus was paid under this section, will be subject to the repayment provisions of Chapter 2.

*BIBLIOGRAPHY

CHAPTER 61 – BONUS PROGRAM FOR THE INDIVIDUAL READY RESERVE AND INACTIVE NATIONAL GUARD

6102 – DURATION OF AUTHORITY

* 37 U.S.C. 308h(e)
Public Law 113-291, section 611(5), December 19, 2014

6103 – ELIGIBILITY

610301.A, B, & C 37 U.S.C 308h(a)(2)
610301.D & E DoDI 1205.21, September 20, 1999

6104 – AMOUNTS PAYABLE

37 U.S.C. 308h(b)

6105 – OBLIGATION

DoDI 1205.21, September 20, 1999

6106 – TERMINATION OF BONUS ENTITLEMENT

DoDI 1205.21 September 20, 1999

6107 – RECOUPMENT OF PAYMENTS

DoDI 1205.21 September 20, 1999
37 U.S.C. 308h(c)
USD (P&R) Memo, May 21, 2008
USD (P&R) Memo, February 6, 2009