

VOLUME 7A, CHAPTER 61: “BONUS PROGRAM FOR THE INDIVIDUAL READY RESERVE (IRR)”

SUMMARY OF MAJOR CHANGES

Changes are identified in this table and also 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 [June 2021](#) is archived.

PARAGRAPH	EXPLANATION OF CHANGE/REVISION	PURPOSE
All	Updated hyperlinks and formatting to comply with current administrative instructions.	Revision
3.0	Inserted Bonus section for simplicity, then renumbered subsequent sections accordingly.	Revision Deletion
4.0	Clarified Eligibility.	Revision
References	Updated to reflect current DoD Instructions.	Revision

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CHAPTER 61

BONUS PROGRAM FOR THE INDIVIDUAL READY RESERVE (IRR)

1.0 GENERAL

1.1 Purpose

The Secretary concerned may pay bonus to individuals with previous military service who reenlist in the reserve component of a Military Service after a break in active duty or reserve duty, or eligible service member who transfer to or from the IRR to the regular component of the same Military Service or who transfers to another Military Service, and signs an agreement with the Secretary of the Military Department concerned to serve on active duty or in an active status for a specified period in a Reserve Component (RC) of an Armed Force for assignment to (other than the Selected Reserve (SELRES)) the IRR.

1.2 Authoritative Guidance

The pay policies and requirements established by the DoD in this chapter are derived primarily from, and prepared in accordance with Title 37, United States Code (U.S.C.), section 331 ([37 U.S.C. § 331](#)) and DoD Instruction ([DoDI](#)) 1304.31 – Enlisted Bonus Program. Due to the subject matter in this chapter, the list of authoritative sources is extensive. The specific statutes, regulations, and other applicable guidance that govern each individual section are listed in a reference section at the end of the chapter.

2.0 DURATION OF AUTHORITY

Unless reauthorized by Congress, a bonus may not be paid for service provided after the date listed on the [Duration of Authority](#) table for the IRR bonus programs unless the bonus agreement was entered into prior to the date on the table.

*3.0 BONUS

The Secretary concerned may offer a prior service reenlistment bonus or transfer bonus to individuals or Service members who:

3.1. Prior Service Reenlistment Bonus.

The Secretary of the Military Department may offer a prior service reenlistment bonus to individuals with previous military service who reenlist in the IRR of the Reserve Component of a Military Service after a break in active duty or reserve duty;

3.2. Bonus for Transfer Between Components of a Military Service includes transfers from:

3.2.1. A regular component of an Armed Force to the IRR of the Ready Reserve of that same Armed Force; or

3.2.2. The IRR of the Ready Reserve of an Armed Force to the regular component of that same Armed Force.

3.3. Bonus for Transfer Between Military Services includes transfers from:

3.3.1. A regular component or RC of an Armed Force to the IRR of the Ready Reserve of another Armed Force, subject to the approval of the Secretary with jurisdiction over the Armed Force to which the member is transferring; or

3.3.2. The IRR of the Ready Reserve to a regular component or RC of another Armed Force, subject to the approval of the Secretary with jurisdiction over the Armed Force to which the member is transferring.

*4.0 ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for a bonus listed in this section an individual or IRR Service member must not only meet the eligibility requirement in paragraph 3.1.b. of DoDI 1304.31, but also the additional requirements for the bonus listed below:

4.1. Prior Service Reenlistment Bonus

4.1.1. Not have previously received, or currently be entitled to, an Selected Retention Bonus in accordance with Chapter 9 or a critical skills retention bonus in accordance with 37 U.S.C. § 355.

4.1.2. Not have more than 16 years of total military service and have received an honorable discharge at the conclusion of all previous periods of service.

4.1.3. Not have been released, or not be released, from active duty for the purpose of enlistment in a Reserve Component.

4.1.4. Provide either:

4.1.4.1. The original DD Form 214 (copy 1 or copy 4);

4.1.4.2. A reproduction of the DD Form 214 with a certified true copy stamp and the appropriate Federal Government authenticating seal imprinted on the reproduction for any period of previous military service; or

4.1.4.3. Other official documentation verifying member's satisfactory participation for all periods of previous service in the Active Component and Selected Reserve.

4.1.5. Successfully complete any additional training or re-training required to become technically qualified in a designated critical skill for which the member is projected to occupy.

4.1.6. Reenlist for at least 3 years in the Regular or Reserve Component of a Military Service for the purpose of qualifying for award of a prior service reenlistment bonus in accordance with this issuance.

4.1.7. Execute an agreement to serve as an enlisted member in the Regular or Reserve Component of a Military Service for a period of not less than 3 years upon acceptance of the agreement by the Secretary of the Military Department concerned.

4.2. Intra-Service Transfers within Service Components

4.2.1. The member has satisfactorily completed all terms of enlistment within their current component.

4.2.2. The member is qualified for reenlistment in the Regular or Reserve Component of the Military Service to which the member is transferring.

4.2.3. The member agrees to remain in the component of the Military Service for which the transfer bonus is offered for a minimum 2-year period.

4.2.4. The member has fewer than 15 years of active service time.

4.2.5. A member may not receive an intra-service transfer bonus in conjunction with an affiliation bonus.

4.3. Inter-Service Transfers between Components and Services

4.3.1. The member has satisfactorily completed all terms of enlistment in a Military Service as defined in the Service specific policy.

4.3.2. The member is qualified for reenlistment in the Regular or Reserve Component of the Military Service to which the member is transferring.

4.3.3. Before the transfer, the member has fulfilled the requirements established by the Secretary of the gaining Military Department.

4.3.4. The member must sign a written agreement to remain in the Military Service for which the transfer bonus is offered for a minimum 3-year period.

4.3.5. The member has fewer than 15 years of active service time.

4.3.6. The member has not received an inter-Service transfer bonus in conjunction with an affiliation bonus.

4.4 Called or Ordered to Active Duty

A person entitled to a bonus, 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.

5.0 MAXIMUM AMOUNTS PAYABLE AND METHOD OF PAYMENT

5.1 Maximum Amount

The Secretary concerned shall determine the amount of a bonus to be paid under this section, except that:

5.1.1. A bonus paid under subparagraph 3.1 may not exceed \$15,000 for each year of obligated service.

5.1.2. A bonus paid under subparagraphs 3.2 and 3.3 may not exceed \$10,000.

5.2 Lump Sum or Installments

A bonus under this section may be paid in a lump sum or in periodic installments, as determined by the Secretary concerned.

5.3 Fixing Bonus Amount

Upon acceptance by the Secretary concerned of the written agreement, the total amount of the bonus to be paid under the agreement shall be fixed.

6.0 OBLIGATION

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

6.1. Service

Participants must obligate themselves to continue to serve in the same Military Occupation Specialty (MOS) unless excused for the convenience of the Government.

6.2. Transfers

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

7.0 TERMINATION OF BONUS ENTITLEMENT

Entitlement to the IRR bonus will be terminated under the following conditions in paragraphs 6.1 through 6.5.

7.1 Participation

The member fails to participate satisfactorily in the IRR in accordance with the regulations of the Military Service concerned.

7.2 Civilian Position

The member accepts a federal civilian position where membership in the SELRES is a condition of employment (persons on temporary assignment excluded).

7.3 Separation

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

7.4 Officer Commissioning Program

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

7.5 Non-Qualified 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).

8.0 RECOUPMENT OF PAYMENTS

See Chapter 2.

*REFERENCES

CHAPTER 61 – BONUS PROGRAM FOR THE INDIVIDUAL READY RESERVE (IRR)

2.0 – DURATION OF AUTHORITY

37 U.S.C. § 331(h)

3.0 – BONUS

3.1

37 U.S.C. § 331(a)
DoD Instruction (DoDI) 1304.31, November 5, 2020'
Paragraph 4.3 and 4.5

4.0 – ELIGIBILITY

4.1

DoDI 1304.31, November 5, 2020, paragraph 4.3.

4.2

DoDI 1304.31, November 5, 2020, paragraph 4.5.a.

4.3

DoDI 1304.31, November 5, 2020, paragraph 4.5.b.

5.0 – MAXIMUM AMOUNTS PAYABLE AND METHOD OF PAYMENT

5.1.1

37 U.S.C. § 331(c)
DoDI 1304.31, November 5, 2020, paragraph 4.3.c.

5.1.2

DoDI 1304.31, November 5, 2020, paragraph 4.5.b(5)

6.0 – OBLIGATION

DoDI 1304.31, November 5, 2020, paragraph 3.1.f

7.0 – TERMINATION OF BONUS ENTITLEMENT

7.2

DoDI 1304.31, November 5, 2020, paragraph 3.1.c(6)