

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

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 **June 2017** is archived.

PARAGRAPH	EXPLANATION OF CHANGE/REVISION	PURPOSE
6102	Updated the “Duration of Authority” date to reflect the amendment to Title 37, United States Code (U.S.C.), section 331(h) and moved it to the “Duration of Authority” table on the DFAS.MIL website. Added a hyperlink to the table.	Revision
610301	Updated the eligibility criteria to reflect 37 U.S.C. § 331.	Revision
610305	Removed the obsolete “Critically Short Wartime Skill” paragraph.	Deletion
610306	Removed the eligibility waiver while serving in Afghanistan.	Deletion
6104	Updated to reflect the current authorization in Department of Defense Instruction 1304.31, March 12, 2013.	Revision
6107	Updated obsolete recoupment information.	Revision
References	Renamed “Bibliography” to “References” and updated statutes and supporting references.	Revision

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CHAPTER 61

**BONUS PROGRAM FOR THE INDIVIDUAL READY RESERVE (IRR)
AND INACTIVE NATIONAL GUARD (ING)**

6101 GENERAL

610101. Purpose

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

610102. Authoritative Guidance

The pay policies and requirements established by the Department of Defense (DoD) in this chapter are derived primarily from, and prepared in accordance with Title 37, United States Code (U.S.C.), section 331. 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.

***6102 DURATION OF AUTHORITY**

A bonus may not be paid to any person for a reenlistment, enlistment, or voluntary extension of an enlistment after the date on the Duration of Authority table. No payments will be made after the termination date unless the person's entitlement to the bonus commenced prior to that date.

6103 ELIGIBILITY

***610301. Criteria**

The Secretary concerned may pay a bonus to a person, including a member of the IRR or ING, who:

- A. Enlists in or affiliates with the IRR or ING;
- B. Transfers from a regular component of an Armed Force to an RC of that same Armed Force;
- C. Transfers from a regular component or RC of an Armed Force 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; or

D. Reenlists, voluntarily extends an enlistment, or otherwise agrees to serve for a specified period in a designated career field, skill, or unit of an Armed Force; or under other conditions of service in an Armed Force.

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, 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 ING to the IRR may continue to receive the bonus, provided such members continue to serve satisfactorily.

610304. 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.

*6104 MAXIMUM AMOUNTS PAYABLE AND METHOD OF PAYMENT

*610401. Maximum Amount

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

A. A bonus paid under subparagraph 610301.A may not exceed \$20,000 for a minimum two-year period of obligated service;

B. A bonus paid under subparagraphs 610301.B and C may not exceed \$10,000; and

C. A bonus paid under subparagraph 610301.D may not exceed \$10,000 for each year of obligated service in an RC.

*610402. 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.

*610403. 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.

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 RC 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 Military Occupation Specialty (MOS) unless excused for the convenience of the Government.

610503. Transfers

A bonus recipient who later transfers to the SELRES is not required to refund the IRR or ING bonus. Bonus recipients who transfer to the SELRES are not eligible for a SELRES 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 in paragraphs 610601 through 610605.

610601. Participation

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

610602. Civilian Position

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

610603. Separation

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

610604. Officer Commissioning Program

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

610605. 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).

***6107 RECOUPMENT OF PAYMENTS**

[See Chapter 2.](#)

REFERENCES*CHAPTER 61 – BONUS PROGRAM FOR THE INDIVIDUAL READY RESERVE (IRR)
AND INACTIVE NATIONAL GUARD (ING)*****6102 – DURATION OF AUTHORITY**

- * 37 U.S.C. § 331(h)
- * Public Law 115-232, section 611(d)(1), August 13, 2018

6103 – ELIGIBILITY

- * 610301 37 U.S.C § 331(a)

***6104 – MAXIMUM AMOUNTS PAYABLE AND METHOD OF PAYMENT**

- * 37 U.S.C. § 331(c)
- * DoD Instruction (DoDI) 1304.31, March 12, 2013

6105 – OBLIGATION

- * DoDI 1205.21, September 20, 1999
- * DoDI 1304.31, March 12, 2013

6106 – TERMINATION OF BONUS ENTITLEMENT

- * DoDI 1205.21, September 20, 1999
- * DoDI 1304.31, March 12, 2013