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 2019 is archived.

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CHAPTER 61

BONUS PROGRAM FOR THE INDIVIDUAL READY RESERVE (IRR)

1.0 GENERAL (6101)

1.1 Purpose (610101)

The Secretary concerned may pay a bonus to an eligible member who enlists, reenlists, or voluntarily extends an enlistment that 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 (610102)

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). 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 (6102)

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.

3.0 ELIGIBILITY (6103)

3.1 Criteria (610301)

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

3.1.1. Enlists in or affiliates with the IRR;

3.1.2. Transfers from a regular component of an Armed Force to an RC of that same Armed Force;

3.1.3. 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
3.1.4. 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.

3.2 Transfers to Another Military Service (610302)

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.

3.3 Called or Ordered to Active Duty (610303)

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.

4.0 MAXIMUM AMOUNTS PAYABLE AND METHOD OF PAYMENT (6104)

4.1 Maximum Amount (610401)

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

4.1.1. A bonus paid under subparagraph 3.1.1 may not exceed $20,000 for a minimum two-year period of obligated service;

4.1.2. A bonus paid under subparagraphs 3.1.2 and 3.C may not exceed $10,000; and

4.1.3. A bonus paid under subparagraph 3.1.4 may not exceed $10,000 for each year of obligated service in an RC.

4.2 Lump Sum or Installments (610402)

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

4.3 Fixing Bonus Amount (610403)

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.

5.0 OBLIGATION (6105)

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 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.

5.1 Extensions (610501)

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

5.1.1. Reduce the administrative burden of the reenlistment process; and

5.1.2. Eliminate the need for the oath of enlistment or reenlistment.

5.2 Service (610502)

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

5.3 Transfers (610503)

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.

6.0 TERMINATION OF BONUS ENTITLEMENT (6106)

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

6.1 Participation (610601)

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

6.2 Civilian Position (610602)

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

6.3 Separation (610602)

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

6.4 Officer Commissioning Program (610604)

The member becomes a simultaneous member of an authorized officer program drawing a stipend.
6.5 Non-Qualified MOS (610605)

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).

7.0 RECOUPMENT OF PAYMENTS (6107)

See Chapter 2.
REFERENCES

CHAPTER 61 – BONUS PROGRAM FOR THE INDIVIDUAL READY RESERVE (IRR) AND INACTIVE NATIONAL GUARD (ING)

2.0 – DURATION OF AUTHORITY (6102)

37 U.S.C. § 331(h)

3.0 – ELIGIBILITY (6103)

610301 37 U.S.C § 331(a)

4.0 – MAXIMUM AMOUNTS PAYABLE AND METHOD OF PAYMENT (6104)

37 U.S.C. § 331(c)
DoD Instruction (DoDI) 1304.31, November 20, 2020

5.0 – OBLIGATION (6105)

DoDI 1304.31, November 5, 2020

6.0 – TERMINATION OF BONUS ENTITLEMENT (6106)

DoDI 1304.31, November 5, 2020