

VOLUME 7B, CHAPTER 9: “ADVANCEMENTS ON RETIRED LIST”**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 [February 2021](#) is archived.

PARAGRAPH	EXPLANATION OF CHANGE/REVISION	PURPOSE
All	Updated hyperlinks, renumbered, and formatted chapter to comply with current administrative instructions.	Revision

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CHAPTER 9

ADVANCEMENTS ON RETIRED LIST

1.0 GENERAL

1.1 Overview

Enlisted Service members and warrant officers who held a higher grade than their retired grade can be advanced on the retired list. Title 10, United States Code (U.S.C.), sections 7344, 8334, and 9344 ([10 U.S.C. § 7344](#), [10 U.S.C. § 8334](#), and [10 U.S.C. § 9344](#)) entitle certain retired members who retired with less than 30 years of active service to be advanced to the highest grade satisfactorily held when their active service plus service on the retired list totals 30 years. [The Secretary of the Military Department concerned \(or designee\) from which the member retired is responsible for determining whether to advance a member on the retired list.](#) Chapter 1 covers grade at placement on the retired list.

1.2 Purpose

This chapter provides an overview of the requirements for advancements on the retired list of:

1.2.1. Retired members;

1.2.2. Fleet Reservists, and Fleet Marine Corps Reservists, who are retired and whose active service, inactive service (Navy or Marine Corps members only), and service on the retired list or in the Fleet Reserve or Fleet Marine Corps Reserve totals 30 years; and

1.2.3. Members who are found not physically qualified for retention in the Fleet Reserve or Fleet Marine Corps Reserve.

1.3 Authoritative Guidance

The pay policies and requirements established by DoD in this chapter are derived primarily from, and prepared in accordance with the U.S.C., including Title 10. 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 ADVANCEMENTS

2.1 Air Force

A member of the Air Force who retires with less than 30 years of active service is entitled, when his active service plus his service on the retired list totals 30 years, to be advanced on the retired list to the highest grade in which the member served on active duty satisfactorily (or in the

case of the National Guard, in which he served on full-time duty satisfactorily), as determined by the Secretary of the Air Force. This applies to:

2.1.1. Warrant officers of the Air Force;

2.1.2. Enlisted members of the Air Force; and

2.1.3. Reserve enlisted members of the Air Force who, at the time of retirement, are serving on active duty (or, in the case of members of the National Guard, on full-time duty).

2.2 Army

2.2.1. A member of the Army who retires with less than 30 years of service is entitled, when his active service plus service on the retired list totals 30 years, to be advanced on the retired list to the highest grade served on active duty satisfactorily, as determined by the Secretary of the Army.

2.2.2. The Army Grade Determination Review Board (AGDRB) reviews each case individually to determine the highest grade served during active service satisfactorily. This is not an automatic advancement on the retired list and applies to warrant officers of the Army; enlisted members of the Regular Army; and Reserve enlisted members of the Army who, at the time of retirement, were serving on active duty.

2.2.3. Members who retired prior to July 12, 2002, without a grade determination review by the AGDRB, must apply to the AGDRB to initiate the grade determination process. Advancements will not occur until the member reaches the 30 year mark, in accordance with [Army Regulation 15-80](#). If an application is submitted after the 30 year mark, then the effective date of advancement and pay is retroactive to the date of the application to the AGDRB. This applies to:

2.2.3.1. Warrant officers of the Army;

2.2.3.2. Enlisted members of the Regular Army; and

2.2.3.3. Reserve enlisted members of the Army, who at the time of retirement, were serving on active duty (or, in the case of members of the National Guard, on full-time duty).

2.3 Navy and Marine Corps

2.3.1. A member of the naval service who retires with less than 30 years of active service, or who is transferred to the Fleet Reserve or Fleet Marine Corps Reserve, is entitled to be advanced on the retired list to the highest grade in which he served on active duty satisfactorily as determined by the Secretary of the Navy when:

2.3.1.1. The member's active service plus their service on the retired list; or

2.3.1.2. The member's service in the Fleet Reserve or the Fleet Marine Corps Reserve totals 30 years as determined by the Secretary of the Navy.

2.3.2. This applies to:

2.3.2.1. Warrant officers of the naval service;

2.3.2.2. Enlisted members of the Regular Navy and Regular Marine Corps; and

2.3.2.3. Reserve enlisted members of the Navy and Marine Corps who, at the time of retirement or transfer to Fleet Reserve or Fleet Marine Corps Reserve, are serving on active duty.

2.3.3. When a member of the Fleet Reserve or Fleet Marine Corps Reserve has completed 30 years of service, or when the member is found not physically qualified for retention in the Fleet Reserve or Fleet Marine Corps Reserve, as a result of the required quadrennial (every 4 years) physical examination under 10 U.S.C. § 8385, the member may be transferred to:

2.3.3.1. The retired list of the Regular Navy or Regular Marine Corps, if the member was a member of the Regular Navy or Regular Marine Corps at the time of the member's transfer to the Fleet Reserve or Fleet Marine Corps Reserve; or

2.3.3.2. The appropriate Retired Reserve, if the member was a member of the Navy Reserve or Marine Corps Reserve at the time of the member's transfer to the Fleet Reserve or Fleet Marine Corps Reserve.

3.0 EFFECTS ON PAY

3.1 Reduction in Pay Due to Advancement

There is no absolute requirement that a member of the armed forces be advanced on the retired list. If advancement and recomputation results in a reduction of retired pay for the member and is based solely on administrative determination, then, prior to the advancement, the member should be consulted by the military service and advised that the member's retired pay would be reduced if advanced.

3.1.1. If an enlisted member is advanced on the retired list, the retired pay must be recomputed even though a reduction of retired pay would result.

3.1.2. Warrant officers advanced on the retired list are entitled to use only years of active service in determining the percentage multiplier used in computing retired pay for the advanced grade.

3.2 Computation of Retired Pay

Retired pay may be computed at the higher grade in which a member had served satisfactorily without regard to whether the higher grade was temporary or permanent or if the Military Service in which the member held the higher grade is not the Military Service from which the member retired. Where required by statute, the Secretary of the Military Department (or designee) in which the member performed service at the higher grade must provide an administrative approval confirming the member's satisfactory performance at the higher grade.

3.3 Extraordinary Heroism

An enlisted member who was awarded a 10 percent increase in retired pay because of extraordinary heroism performed in the line of duty, is no longer eligible to continue receiving the additional 10 percent upon advancement to officer rank.

3.4 Recomputation of Retired Pay

A member of the armed forces advanced on the retired list is entitled to a recomputation of retired pay by:

3.4.1. Using the rate of monthly basic pay for the grade on the initial date of retirement or transfer if the member first entered a Uniformed Service prior to September 8, 1980, or using the high 36 months retired pay base if the member entered a Uniformed Service after September 7, 1980;

3.4.2. Multiplying the appropriate percentage under [10 U.S.C. § 1409](#) by the total number of years of active service using whole months actually served, in excess of whole years, as 1/12 of a year;

3.4.3. Reducing the percentage determined under subparagraph 3.4.2, in the case of a member who first entered a uniformed service after July 31, 1986, has elected to receive a bonus under [37 U.S.C. § 354](#), has less than 30 years of creditable service, and is under the age of 62 at the time of retirement by:

3.4.3.1. One percentage point for each full year that the member's years of creditable service are less than 30; and

3.4.3.2. One-twelfth of 1 percentage point for each month by which the member's years of creditable service (after counting all full years of such service) are less than a full year; and

3.4.4. Applying all applicable cost-of-living adjustments from the date of initial retirement or transfer

4.0 RESTORATION OF FORMER GRADE

Each retired warrant officer, enlisted member of the Regular Army or Air Force, or enlisted member retired from the Fleet Reserve or Fleet Marine Corps Reserve who has been advanced on

the retired list to a higher commissioned grade, within 3 months after advancement, may apply to the Secretary of the Military Department concerned (or designee) for restoration to the former warrant officer or enlisted grade. If the Secretary of the Military Department concerned (or designee) approves the request, then the member may be restored to the former warrant officer or enlisted grade. A member so restored thereafter is considered for all purposes to be a warrant officer or an enlisted member, as applicable.

REFERENCES

CHAPTER 9 – ADVANCEMENTS ON RETIRED LIST

1.0 – GENERAL

10 U.S.C. § 7344
10 U.S.C. § 8334
10 U.S.C. § 9344

2.0 – ADVANCEMENTS

2.1 10 U.S.C. §§ 7344 and 9344
2.2 10 U.S.C. § 7344
Army Regulation 15-80
2.3 10 U.S.C. §§ 8331 and 8334
10 U.S.C. § 8262(a)

3.0 – EFFECTS ON PAY

3.1 Comptroller General (Comp Gen)
B-155940, February 23, 1965
Comp Gen B-156576, July 22, 1965
3.2 Comp Gen B-164281, March 23, 1970
3.3 10 U.S.C. § 12739
10 U.S.C. § 9361
3.4 10 U.S.C. §§ 9362, 7362 and 8262
3.4.1 and 3.4.2 Public Law 96-342, section 813, September 8, 1980
10 U.S.C. § 1402a
3.4.2 10 U.S.C. § 1409
3.4.2.3 and 3.4.2.4. 10 U.S.C. § 1409
10 U.S.C. § 1401a(f)

4.0 – RESTORATION OF FORMER GRADE

10 U.S.C. §§ 7345, 9345 and 8262