

BEAR MESSAGE 08-01 (C5)

13 March 2008

Subject: BEAR MESSAGE 08-01

1. This message supersedes previous BEAR program messages.
2. Current BEAR Program MOS's and SRB amounts can be found in MILPER Message 08-069.
3. Due to lack of training seats, the MOS's listed below are suspended from the BEAR Program, and will remain suspended until training seats become available. Do not submit hotlines requesting these MOS's. RMT is working on securing additional training and will announce when MOS's are reinstated.

**The following MOSs are suspended due to lack of training seat availability:
25N, 25R, 31B**

4. IAW MILPER Message 06-232 paragraph 8(O) Soldiers participating in the BEAR Program are exempt from SL/SM.
5. Processing procedures (Utilize current BEAR MILPER Message):
 - a. Extension eligibility must be established under BEAR reason code "A4" before BEAR applications can be processed.
 - b. SSG and below, the appropriate rank column for PMOS (as shown in current Human Resources Command (HRC) In/Out calls message) must show N/N or N/Y at current grade. As an exception, Soldiers who are promotable in the rank of SPC or SGT, and currently serving in a shortage (Y/N) MOS, may request entry into the BEAR program providing the next higher grade is N/N or N/Y. (Eg.: 25B SPC(P) who is currently serving in a shortage MOS, may request entry into the BEAR program because 25B SGT is currently N/N. 14E SGT(P) who is currently serving in a shortage MOS, may request entry into the BEAR program because 14E SSG is currently N/N).
 - c. Soldier must be eligible to extend to complete 24 months after completion of training, and be eligible to reenlist for three years upon graduation without exceeding RCP.
 - d. Soldiers requesting CMF 18, MOS 21D, 21P, 31D, 35L, 37F, 38B, 79R, 89D may request entry into the BEAR program regardless of their In/Out call status. If you cannot make Soldier eligible in RETAIN and the Soldier is requesting one of these MOS's, you will have to "FAIL" Soldier under eligibility processing and RMT will override the status for further processing.
 - e. Soldiers, other than initial term, must not have been alerted for reassignment at the time request is received at HRC.

f. POC information for CMF 18, MOSs 21D, 21P, 31D, 35L, 37F, 38B, 79R, 89D can be found on the Training tab in RETAIN.

g. Soldiers will be paid in accordance with the bonus message in effect at the time of extension or reenlistment, whichever is higher.

6. MOS 21U will convert to 21Y in FY09. Ensure when searching/requesting 21U for training start date after 30 September 2008 you search/request using MOS 21Y.

7. **Guidance for entry into MOS 35M:**

a. The DLAB requirement for MOS 35M has been suspended effective 27 October 2006. Soldiers in the grade of E6 may request entry into the BEAR program for MOS 35M without taking the DLAB, but must meet all other requirements as outlined in the MOS Smartbook and ATRRS.

b. Final approval for entry into this MOS (35M) is the 35M Branch Manager.

8. **Guidance for entry into MOS 35P CRYPTO LINGUIST AD/PF:**

a. Soldiers that enter the BEAR Program for 35P CRYPTO LINGUIST AD/PF will be extended 24 month past graduation date of DLI, however the Soldier will not be MOS qualified until the Soldier has completed both Language training at DLI Monterey and MOS training at Goodfellow AFB, CA.

9. **Requirements and guidance for entry into CMF 18:**

a. Pay particular attention to paragraph 10 (B) of MILPER Message 08-069 which authorizes a SFC to request entry into CMF 18.

b. Successful completion of Special Forces Assessment and Selection (SFAS) course is required for attendance at all SF training courses. Soldiers serving in OCONUS long tour areas will attend in a TDY and return status. Those soldiers serving in short tour areas will be scheduled for SFAS and SF training at DEROS.

c. Soldiers completing SFAS training will be awarded a PMOS by the GATE II selection board. Soldiers applying for CMF 18 will be made aware that the selection board can change the requesting soldier's MOS. Soldiers will be counseled that upon arrival for SF training, they must identify themselves as BEAR recipients to prevent the school from changing their designated MOS training on the extension agreement. If the school changes MOS training dates, the soldier must contact the installation retention office in order to coordinate a renegotiation of the executed BEAR extension through the Retention Management Team.

Courtesy of:
www.ArmyReenlistment.com

d. Soldiers must be informed that, should their training dates change because they were recycled in a course for academic or disciplinary reasons, the provisions of the BEAR program no longer apply. Soldiers released from training should be reported to their Career branch as immediately available and assigned in accordance with the needs of the Army. RMT will not consider renegotiation of BEAR extension for soldiers recycled due to academic or disciplinary reasons.

10. Soldiers are authorized to submit BEAR application 24 months prior to ETS. SM must complete at least 12 months Time On Station prior to departing for training. BEAR applications are approved/disapproved based on the date the Soldier is available to move (I.E. DTLPCS or DEROS date) and available training seats at that time.

11. Soldiers who participated in the BEAR Program may be forgiven up to 24 months of the previous obligated extended service provided they reenlist for the Regular Army (E-1) Reenlistment Option within 90 days after completion of training. Soldiers who participated in the BEAR Program and subsequently enter their reenlistment window are authorized to reenlist for any option in which otherwise qualified. Soldiers who desire the Army Training Reenlistment Option (E-3) must have held the BEAR MOS for a minimum of 12 months from date of graduation or meet the SRR IAW AR 614-200. Previous obligated extended service will not be forgiven for those who reenlist for an option other than for Regular Army (E-1).

12. Point of contact is SFC Johnson at DSN: 221-6947.

End of BEAR Message 08-01(C5)

Mr. BRAGG, Chief, RRB