

SUBJECT: Deployment Support

1. Reference: AR 601-280, Army Retention Program, 31 March 1999
 2. This message is to announce changes to the Army Retention Program in support of soldiers in units being manned under unit manning. This message does not supersede the unit manning guidance announced in Policy message 03-18c. However, as an exception to unit manning guidance, soldiers assigned to the 1st Cavalry Division and 2d Brigade, 25th Infantry Division are not required to take action to meet unit's deployment period. They may voluntarily extend or reenlist, or separate at ETS. Soldiers who do not take action to meet unit's deployment period, may still be eligible for deployment based on their ETS.
 3. To reduce unit turbulence and to protect soldier's reenlistment options the following change to paragraph 4-9j of AR 601-280 is effective 11 September 2003, superseding Policy message 03-17, Extension for Contingency Deployment Conditions, 5 August 2003:
 - A. "Contingency deployment conditions. Under actual (nontraining) contingency deployment conditions, soldiers in a deployed or deploying unit, to include soldiers required to reenlist for an indefinite period, may voluntarily extend to complete deployment period plus 3 months. Extension period cannot exceed 23 months. Extensions are not authorized once transition processing has begun."
 - B. As an exception to policy, soldiers extending under paragraph 4-9j of AR 601-280, if otherwise eligible, do not require a waiver of ERUP code 9T and are authorized to extend within 3 months of ETS.
 - C. Soldiers returned to home station for out-processing who later desire to remain in the Regular Army fall under normal processing criteria. (ie. 3-month window, waiver processing, etc.)
 4. Retroactive to the beginning of fiscal year 2003, the Army will give reenlistment credit to MACOMs for soldiers extended under paragraph 4-9j who were/are within 12 months of ETS, on confirmation date, and extended ETS date takes soldier into new fiscal year. To receive reenlistment credit, soldiers must have extended under actual (nontraining) contingency deployment conditions, IAW paragraph 4-9j, using extension reason code "M" in RETAIN.
- Note. Soldiers who previously extended for deployment but need more time to complete deployment period plus 3 months, will process a new extension on RETAIN using extension code "M" and execute a subsequent DA Form 1695 for the additional period. (Do not do a corrected copy of the DA Form 1695.)
5. Commanders of deployed/deploying units exercising GCMCA may delegate the waiver approval authority to the first 0-6 commander in the soldiers chain of command for soldiers requiring a reenlistment waiver for ERUP code 9T. Waivers for ERUP code 9T are to be

processed IAW Policy message 03-08 and paragraph 3-10 of AR 601-280 with the above exception. As a reminder, process waiver request on DA Form 3072.

6. Soldiers in an overstrength MOS assigned to a deployed/deploying unit may reenlist for option E-1, Regular Army Reenlistment Option. Career Counselor must submit an "Offline Option" hotform to hotline category "DPLOYMNT" to have option made available. Point of contact for this action is MSG Potts, DSN 221-6930.

7. Soldiers assigned to a deployed/deploying unit, who are eligible to reenlist for a movement option, may reenlist for any available location. If assignment report month does not align with unit redeployment period, place soldier on hold and submit a "DELDEF" hotform to hotline category "DPLOYMNT" for assistance in having assignment deferred to align with unit's redeployment. Point of contact for this action is MSG Potts, DSN 221-6930.

Note. Once RMB personnel receive request they will coordinate with distribution managers to validate new report month. If Army can support new report month, RMB personnel will complete reservation and defer assignment.

8. Point of contact is SGM Dodd, DSN: 221-6949.

END Policy Message 03-21

SGM Dodd