

SUBJECT: Bonus Extension and Retraining Program (BEAR)

REFERENCE:

AR 601-280, 31 MAR 99, ARMY RETENTION PROGRAM

1. This message rescinds Policy Message 00-11, BEAR MEMORANDUM, 6 April 2000
2. This message announces additional processing procedures to support the BEAR Program.
3. MOS' designated for award of a SRB change periodically and are announced as they occur under MILPER Message. Should the designator be increased, reduced, or eliminated, the Soldier is authorized the level for which initially approved or the level at the time of reenlistment; whichever is higher. To ensure soldiers receive the correct SRB entitlement annotate the below in the remarks section of the DD Form 1695.
4. Current instructions to the remarks section of DA 1695, IAW AR 601-280 and Figure 11-10:

APPROVED BEAR MOS XXX
BEAR SRB AWARD LEVEL XX

5. Additional instructions to the Remarks Section of Figure 11-10, AR 601-280:

A. Identify the BEAR Memorandum as "Annex-A" and list as an enclosure in the remarks section of the DA Form 1695.

Example: ANNEX A- ATTACHED

B. Input School Start and completion date.

Example: SCHOOL START AND COMPLETION: 20050904 - 20051128

C. Input MILPER Message number:

Example: MILPER MESSAGE 05-04

D. For those Soldiers in an over strength Military Intelligence MOS who later enter the BEAR for another language enter the new language.

Example: NEW LANGUAGE: GM

6. The BEAR memorandum is fully automated via RETAIN; however, below is a current BEAR MEMORANDUM format:

SUBJECT: Army Service School under the BEAR Program

1. I, SPC Robert R. Robertson, 123-45-6789, volunteer for the Bonus Extension and Retraining (BEAR) Program in MOS 91C under the provisions of chapter 6, AR 601-280.
2. I agree to voluntarily extend my existing enlistment/ reenlistment to ensure 24 months time in service remain after completion of training (the Army waives any service remaining requirements in excess of 24 months). I further agree to complete this extension upon notification that a formal school training space is reserved for the purpose of retraining into MOS 91C.
3. If I fail to complete the school course, I understand that I will be required to complete the period of service for which extended and will be reassigned in accordance with the needs of the Army. Failure includes any reason (lack of security clearance, misconduct, academic deficiency, lack of motivation, AWOL, disciplinary action, etc.).
4. Upon completion of training and in conjunction with my reenlistment, the Army will:
 - a. Award me an SRB for my new PMOS at the time of reenlistment.
 - b. Pay the bonus level in effect at the time of agreement for the entry into the BEAR, or the bonus level in effect at the time of reenlistment, whichever is higher. The "time of agreement" is considered to be the date that the DA Form 1965 (Oath of Extension of Enlistment) is executed after the notification of approval for the entry into the BEAR. If I age into another zone, I will be paid the SRB level in effect at the time of reenlistment.
 - c. An SRB is paid only for "additional obligated service" and any time remaining on the extension of enlistment that is executed upon entrance into the BEAR program is considered "previously obligated service". However, the Army will forgive up to 24 months "previously obligated extended service" provided the soldier reenlist (Option E-1 only) within 90 days after completion of training.
5. I understand that I accrue no, REPEAT, no right to an SRB solely by signing this memorandum or by extending my current period of service as provided above. I must successfully complete training, be awarded the new PMOS, and reenlist in order to be paid an SRB.
6. I also understand that if my promotion status changes prior to school start date it may negate BEAR program approval and therefore must be reported to the servicing Career Counselor for confirmation prior to departure for MOS training.
7. Additional promises made to me in conjunction with the BEAR are listed as follows in my own handwriting (if none, so state).

ROBERT R. ROBERTSON
SPC, 123-45-6789
Co A, 2-78th IN
Ft Stewart, GA 23678

7. POC for this message is SGM Carpenter 221-6807.

END Policy Message 05-10

SGM Vales