



THE UNIFORMED SERVICES BLENDED RETIREMENT SYSTEM

Leaders' Responsibilities:

- Avoid command influence on which retirement system a member should choose.
- Stress the DoD does not take a position on a member's decision to opt in or not.
- Ensure eligible service members complete the mandatory BRS Opt-In Course.
- Encourage retirement preparation and goal setting.
- Ensure members are provided time and access to retirement and financial counseling.
- Encourage members to discuss their pending decision with their families.

Blended Retirement System Implementation

Timeline

»» **January 2017**

Opt-in training began

»» **Spring 2017**

Online comparison calculator available

Dec. 31, 2017 ««

Final date of eligibility for coverage under legacy retirement system with the opportunity to opt into the BRS

»» **January 2018**

New accession course launches

»» **Jan. 1, 2018**

BRS goes into effect, opt-in window begins

Dec. 31, 2018 ««

BRS opt-in window ends

Key Blended Retirement System Talking Points

- Members serving before Jan. 1, 2018, are grandfathered under the legacy retirement system. Members must physically opt into the BRS. No current member will be automatically changed to the BRS. Those who enter the military on or after Jan. 1, 2018, will be automatically enrolled in the BRS.
- Serving as of Dec. 31, 2017, active-duty members with fewer than 12 years or National Guard and reserve members with fewer than 4,320 retirement points may opt into the BRS.
- Under the BRS, about 85% of members will receive government retirement benefits upon separation, including those who do not reach 20 years to qualify for military retired pay.
- Under the legacy retirement system, the defined annuity benefit is computed as $2.5\% \times \text{years served} \times \text{average of highest 36 months of basic pay}$. Under the BRS, you still can receive a defined annuity, if you complete 20 years; however, the multiplier is reduced to 2.0%.
- When enrolled in the BRS, members will receive automatic 1% and up to 4% DoD matching contributions. For opt-in members, automatic and matching contributions begin immediately. For new accessions, there is a waiting period.
- When a service member reaches eight to 12 years of service, active-duty members will be eligible for a cash incentive of 2.5 to 13 times their regular monthly basic pay, and National Guard and reserve members will be eligible for .5 to six times their monthly basic pay (as if serving on active duty), in return for a commitment of at least three more years of service.
- Members may elect to receive a 25% or 50% lump sum payment of their retired pay discounted to the present value in exchange for reduced monthly retired pay until age 67*.

* full Social Security retirement age

RESOURCES

Department of Defense Blended Retirement System website:

<http://militarypay.defense.gov/BlendedRetirement>

BRS Opt-In Course on JKO

<http://jko.jten.courses/brs/OPT-IN/launch.html>

Military OneSource website:

<https://www.MilitaryOneSource.mil>

Office of Financial Readiness social media platforms:

 Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/DoDFINRED>

 Twitter: <https://www.twitter.com/DoDFINRED>

 Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/DoDFINRED>