



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY
MANPOWER AND RESERVE AFFAIRS
111 ARMY PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20310-0111**

18 DEC 2019

SAMR

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Blended Retirement System (BRS) Continuation Pay (CP) - Calendar Year 2020 (CY20)

1. References.

- a. Title 37, United States Code, Section 356.
- b. Department of Defense Financial Management Regulation (DoD FMR), Volume 5, Chapter 2.
- c. DoD FMR, Volume 7A, Chapter 2.
- d. Deputy Secretary of Defense Memorandum, Subject Implementation of the Blended Retirement System, January 27, 2017.
- e. Acting Assistant Secretary of the Army for Manpower and Reserve Affairs Memorandum, Subject Blended Retirement System (BRS) Continuation Pay (CP) – Calendar Year 2019 (CY19), 4 December 2018.

2. Purpose. This memorandum establishes eligibility, amounts, and additional service obligation for CP in CY20 as authorized in reference 1a.

3. Applicability. This guidance is effective immediately and expires on 31 December 2020. It applies to Regular Army, Army National Guard/Army National Guard of the United States, and United States Army Reserve Soldiers who are covered under the BRS.

4. Eligibility.

a. Regular Army (RA). Any member who meets the following criteria is eligible to enter into an agreement to serve the obligation period specified in paragraph 6 below:

(1) Is covered under the BRS; and

(2) Will complete 11 years of service but not more than 12 years of service during CY20, as computed from the Soldier's Pay Entry Base Date.

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b. Army Reserve. Any member who meets the following criteria is eligible to enter into an agreement to serve the obligation period specified in paragraph 6 below:

(1) Is covered under the BRS and has not previously received CP;

(2) If an Active Guard Reserve (AGR) Soldier, must have a PEBD between 1 January 2008 and 31 December 2008, and will complete 12 years of service during CY20 as calculated from the Soldier's PEBD;

(3) If a TPU or IMA Soldier, must have a PEBD between 1 January 2008 and 31 December 2009, and will complete 11 years of service and no more than 12 years of service during CY20 as calculated from the Soldier's PEBD; and

(4) Is a member of the Selected Reserve (SELRES) or otherwise a member of the Ready Reserve in a status in which the member is eligible to receive basic pay or inactive duty pay; and

c. Army National Guard. Any member who meets the following criteria is eligible to enter into an agreement to serve the obligation period specified in paragraph 6 below:

(1) Is covered under the BRS and has not previously received CP;

(2) Has a PEBD from 1 January 2008 to 31 December 2008, and will complete 12 years of service during CY20 as calculated from the Soldier's PEBD; and

(3) Is a member of the SELRES or otherwise a member of the Ready Reserve in a status in which the member is eligible to receive basic pay or inactive duty pay.

d. Inter-service transfers joining one of the Army's BRS eligible groups must complete the transfer before their 12th year of service based upon the PEBD. Army leaders will ensure these Soldiers were not paid CP by another service or component before executing a CP payment.

5. CP Amount. For those eligible to apply for CP during CY20, the CP amount will be computed as follows:

a. For RA, and Title 10 and Title 32 AGR Soldiers performing active service in a career status program, CP is 2.5 times the monthly basic pay, based on current pay grade and years of service at the time CP is approved.

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b. For Army Reserve Soldiers serving in the SELRES (minus AGR), CP is 4 times the active duty monthly basic pay, based on current grade and years of service at the time CP is approved.

c. For Army National Guard Soldiers serving in the SELRES (minus AGR), CP is 4 times the active duty monthly basic pay, based on current grade and years of service at the time CP is approved.

6. Service Obligation. In exchange for the CP described in paragraph 5, Soldiers must agree to serve for four years of additional service in the component in which they are serving at the time CP is approved. The service obligation commences upon approval of the CP request.

7. Application Process.

a. The Army will use the enclosed Request for Continuation Pay (Blended Retirement System) as the CP contract to document the Soldier's CP election and obligated service. The CP contract will be placed in the Interactive Personnel Electronic Records Management System (iPERMS) under the service and finance subfolder.

b. At a minimum, the BRS CP election packet will include the following:

(1) Proof of BRS enrollment status.

(2) Request for Continuation Pay (Blended Retirement System) / CP contract.

c. Application Window.

(1) All Soldiers may submit their CP request once they become eligible for CP based upon their PEBD. Soldiers should submit their CP request no later than 30 days prior to completing their 12th year of service based upon PEBD.

(2) Army Reserve Soldiers may submit their CP request no earlier than 180 days prior to completing their qualifying year of service, which would be their 11th year of service (USAR TPU and IMA) or 12th year of service (AGR and AD) based upon their PEBD. Soldiers should submit their CP request no later than 30 days prior to completing their qualifying year of service, which would be their 11th (USAR TPU and IMA) or 12th year of service (AGR and AD) based upon their PEBD.

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d. Payment Eligibility.

(1) Application for payment must be made in a timely manner, as described in paragraph 7(c), above.

(2) Must be approved prior to the Soldier completing his or her 12th year of service as computed from the PEBD. Army Reserve Soldiers must be approved prior to the Soldier completing his or her qualifying year of service, which would be their 11th year of service (USAR TPU and IMA) or 12th year of service as computed from their PEBD.

(3) Payments are not payable until BRS opt-in can be verified.

8. Payment Options.

a. Soldiers may elect to receive CP in a single lump sum or in a series of equal installments, not to exceed four annual payments over four consecutive years.

b. Soldiers who want to have their CP payment(s) directed to their Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) must update their allotment allocations in myPay and their TSP settings to ensure the CP funds are distributed in accordance with their personal financial plan prior to submitting the CP request.

9. Approval Authority.

a. RA - COLs or their civilian equivalents (GS-15) have the authority to approve CP and will appoint appropriate personnel to serve as the program certifying officials.

b. Reserve Components (RC) - The Chief, Army Reserve and the Chief, National Guard Bureau will designate their component's approval authority and certifying officials.

10. Each component will publish the CY20 CP information and procedures for the payment of CP no later than 15 January 2020.

11. The proponent for this guidance is the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army (Military Personnel) (DASA-MP).

12. In coordination with the DASA-MP, the DCS, G-1 will develop and promulgate any additional administrative procedures necessary to enhance the implementation and execution of the Army's CP policy.

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13. The point of contact for this action is MAJ John Tatum at (703) 697-1482 or john.r.tatum.mil.mil@mail.mil.

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Encl

E. CASEY WARDYNSKI

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CF:

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