



## Hardship Enrollment Processes

As of January 22, 2019

<b>Army</b>	Soldiers believing they should be considered for a "hardship extension of the enrollment period" in accordance with OSD Memorandum " <a href="#">Implementation of the Blended Retirement System</a> ," dated 27 January 2017, should contact the Army G-1, (DAPE-PRC) at (703) 692-7954 or dalton.r.alleyne.civ@mail.mil for guidance.
<b>Air Force</b>	Airmen can access information in <a href="#">myPers</a> and open a help ticket to receive more guidance on submitting a hardship extension.
<b>Navy</b>	Sailors should contact their local PSD to submit a request to Commander, Navy Personnel Command. REF: <a href="#">MILPERSMAN 1810-080</a>
<b>Marine Corps</b>	Marines requesting an enrollment extension based on the circumstances described in <a href="#">MARADMIN 611/18</a> must submit an Administrative Action form to Manpower and Reserve Affairs (MPO) through their the first general officer in the chain of command. Commands should submit the request with their endorsements via email to <a href="mailto:BRS@usmc.mil">BRS@usmc.mil</a> .
<b>US Public Health Service</b>	A discretionary hardship extension of the enrollment period may be granted by the Director, DCCPR, upon a determination that the officer experienced a hardship for reasons listed in <a href="#">CCI 661.03</a> .

Learn more about BRS: <http://militarypay.defense.gov/BlendedRetirement>

**Q. Will cadets and midshipmen at the service academies or in the Reserve Officer Training Program (ROTC) be given a choice between the BRS and legacy retirement system?**

A. Cadets and midshipmen who were attending a service academy as of December 31, 2017, are grandfathered under the legacy retirement system and will have the option to opt into BRS upon commissioning. ROTC cadets and midshipmen have the same option as long as they signed their "contract" on or prior to December 31, 2017. Cadets and midshipmen that are grandfathered under the legacy retirement system, upon commissioning (or being placed in a pay status) in 2018 will have the remainder of calendar year 2018 to choose to opt into BRS (or, if not placed in paid status until December 2018, they will have at least 30 days). Those cadets and midshipmen that are grandfathered under the legacy retirement system who are not commissioned (or placed in an active pay status) until after 2018 will have 30 days to decide whether or not they want to opt into BRS. Each individual service member has a deadline, which is 30 days after their first day of duty following commissioning. Cadets and midshipmen who enter a service academy, and ROTC cadets and midshipmen who sign their "contract" on or after January 1, 2018, will automatically be covered by BRS upon commissioning with no option to opt-in.

**Q. How do I opt into BRS?**

A. To opt into BRS, Soldiers, Airmen and Sailors will utilize myPay; Coast Guardsmen and members of the Commissioned Officer Corps of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) will opt-in via Direct Access; and Marines will make their decision via Marine Online (MOL). When opting in via MyPay, a Service member must first click a link that says, "Opt Into the Blended Retirement System." Following that, the member must acknowledge no less than three times that he or she is aware and fully understands the decision to opt-in is irrevocable and that he or she is opting into the BRS. Once the member has completed the opt-in process, he or she will receive a SmartDoc message confirming enrollment.

**Q. What if I have a break in service—can I still opt into the Blended Retirement System?**

A. If you left the military (prior to January 1, 2018) and rejoin after the opt-in decision year (calendar year 2018), upon re-entry you will have 30 days to decide whether to stay in the legacy retirement system or elect the new BRS, so long as you previously met the criteria of having had fewer than 12 years of service as of December 31, 2017, or, for reservists or National Guard, had fewer than 4,320 retirement points as of December 31, 2017. However, if you re-enter military service in 2018, you will have the remaining time in calendar year 2018 or 30 days, whichever is longer, to make a decision to opt into BRS.