

ARMY BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE CASE OF: ██████████

BOARD DATE: 9 January 2024

DOCKET NUMBER: AR20230003972

APPLICANT REQUESTS: reversal of the National Guard Bureau (NGB) denial of his exception to policy for reinstatement of his Student Loan Repayment Program (SLRP) incentive for \$50,000.00 in the Army National Guard.

APPLICANT'S SUPPORTING DOCUMENT(S) CONSIDERED BY THE BOARD:

- DD Form 149 (Application for Correction of Military Record)
- Personal Statement
- National Guard Bureau (NGB) Form 600-7-4-R-E (Annex R to DD Form 4 or DA Form 4836 Reenlistment/Extension Bonus (REB) Addendum Army National Guard of the United States (ARNG)), 31 March 2021
- DD Form 2475 (Department of Defense (DOD) Educational Loan Repayment Program (LRP) Annual Application), 13 October 2021
- Memorandum, Subject: Request for Exception to Policy (ETP) for a SLRP, 19 October 2021
- Student Loan Balance Sheets
- NGB Memorandum, Subject: ETP Disapproval, REB SLRP, 10 April 2022

FACTS:

1. The applicant states, in pertinent part, he began coordinating his plans for reenlistment with Sergeant (SGT) G-, who was his battalion retention NCO (Non-Commissioned Officer) on 18 September 2020. At that time, he was told he could receive both the REB (Reenlistment/Extension Bonus) and SLRP (Student Loan Repayment Program). Before he completed his application and documents for reenlistment, his retention NCO changed over to SGT A-, and he deleted the documents requesting the SLRP in error. They reinitiated the signed documents for the SLRP incentive and the REB between January and February 2021. On 7 August 2021, he discovered the documents for the SLRP were missing and wants his benefit reinstated for SLRP that he was promised upon his reenlistment.

2. A review of the applicant's available service record reflects the following:

a. On 8 May 2009, he enlisted in the Texas Army National Guard (TXARNG) for a period of 8 years.

b. DA Form 4836, dated 16 December 2014 shows he reenlisted/extended for 6 years. In conjunction with this reenlistment NGB Form 600-7-R-E (Annex R to DD Form 4 or DA form 4836 Reenlistment/Extension Bonus (REB) Addendum Army National Guard of the United States (ARNG)), Bonus Control Number R14120094XX, was completed showing the applicant reenlisted in the ARNG and was entitled to a \$10,000.00 cross-level reenlistment bonus for the military occupational specialty (MOS) 11B (Infantryman) for a 6-year reenlistment/extension.

c. DA Form 4836 (Oath of Extension of Enlistment or Reenlistment), dated 31 March 2021 shows he extended his enlistment for 6 years. In conjunction with this reenlistment NGB Form 600-7-4-R-E, Bonus Control Number R21030316XX, was completed showing the applicant enlisted in the ARNG and was entitled to a \$20,000.00 bonus in Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) 11B (Infantryman) for a 6-year reenlistment/extension.

d. His record is void of documentation which entitled him to the SLRP.

e. He continues service with the ARNG.

3. The applicant provides the following:

a. DD Form 2475 dated 13 October 2021 showing he applied for the SLRP benefit.

b. Memorandum, Subject: Request for ETP for a SLRP, dated 19 October 2021, wherein a request was submitted to the NGB by the Texas ARNG, J-1 for approval of the SLRP for the applicant.

c. Student Loan Balance Sheets showing his total student loan balance of \$41,986.00.

(1) NGB Memorandum, Subject: ETP Disapproval, REB, SLRP, dated 10 April 2022, wherein the Chief, Personnel Programs, Resources, and Manpower Division, denied the applicant's request for ETP stating: His request to continue receipt of the \$50,000.00 SLRP was disapproved. The contract/agreement details: Unit Identification Code: N/A; Date of agreement/enlistment: 31 March 2021; Contracted bonus addendum/agreement amount: \$50,000.00; Contracted MOS: 11B, Current MOS: 11B.

(2) There is no evidence that he was offered the SLRP incentive. A pre-approval was not done in the Guard Incentive Management System nor was a manual pre-approval memo provided, which is a required document. The State stated in email, the

TXARNG does not request pre-approvals for SLRP. A control number also was not requested, so the State Incentive Manager cannot initiate the contract.

BOARD DISCUSSION:

After reviewing the application, all supporting documents, and the evidence found within the military record, the Board found that relief was not warranted. The applicant's contentions, the military record, and regulatory guidance were carefully considered. The applicant executed a 6-year extension of his enlistment in the ARNG on 31 March 2021. The Board reviewed the NGB's finding that a pre-approval for the incentive was not done in the Guard Incentive Management System nor was a manual pre-approval memo provided, which is a required document. Likewise, a control number also was not requested, so the State Incentive Manager cannot initiate the contract. The Board agreed with the NGB that finding no evidence he was offered the SLRP incentive.

BOARD VOTE:

<u>Mbr 1</u>	<u>Mbr 2</u>	<u>Mbr 3</u>	
:	:	:	GRANT FULL RELIEF
:	:	:	GRANT PARTIAL RELIEF
:	:	:	GRANT FORMAL HEARING
■	■	■	DENY APPLICATION

BOARD DETERMINATION/RECOMMENDATION:

The evidence presented does not demonstrate the existence of a probable error or injustice. Therefore, the Board determined the overall merits of this case are insufficient as a basis for correction of the records of the individual concerned.

[Redacted Signature]

[Redacted Name]

[Redacted Title]

I certify that herein is recorded the true and complete record of the proceedings of the Army Board for Correction of Military Records in this case.

REFERENCES:

1. AR 621-202 (Army Educational Incentives and Entitlements) states to be eligible for the SLRP incentive, a Soldier must contractually obligate himself or herself to serve satisfactorily for the full term of the contractual agreement. A member must execute a NGB Form 600-7-4-R-E on the same date of the service contractual agreement.

2. AR 600-7 (Selected Reserve Incentive Program (SRIP)) states with regard to loan repayment, it is the Soldiers responsibility to complete a DD Form 2475 each anniversary year upon receipt from the incentive Manager or the Unit Administrator. Nothing in this section will be construed to authorize refunding any repayment of a loan, including payments made against the loan by any individual or agency, including the member. It is the Soldiers responsibility to maintain a current mailing address on file with the government.

3. AR 135-7 (Incentive Programs) states the SLRP incentive provides for the repayment by the Government of a designated portion of any outstanding loan(s) secured after 1 October 1975. Subject to this chapter, any loan made, insured or guaranteed under Part B of the Higher Education Act of 1965, or any loan made under Part E of this Act, after 1 October 1975, may be repaid.

a. The following loans qualify for repayment. However, these loans must have been incurred after 1 October 1975 or qualifying periods of Selected Reserve service after 1 October 1980.

- Stafford Loan Program (formerly Guaranteed Student Loans (GSL))
- Federally Insured Student Loans (FISL)
- Perkins Loan (formerly National Defense Student Loan and National Direct Student Loans (NDSL))
- Auxiliary Loans to Assist Students (ALAS)
- Supplemental Loans for Students (SLS)
- Consolidated Loan Program (CLP)
- SMART Loans

b. For each year of satisfactory service in the Selected Reserve, the loan amount to be repaid if the amount of the loan or loans does not exceed the designated maximum portions, the amount of annual repayment is 15 percent of the original balance of the loan or loans, plus accrued interest not paid by the Department of Education, or \$500.00 plus the accrued interest not paid by the Department of Education, whichever is greater.

c. A Soldier will not be eligible for any initial or subsequent loan repayments until he or she— has completed Initial Active Duty for Training. Is MOS qualified or received sufficient training to be deployed. Has been awarded a high school diploma or otherwise

qualifies as a secondary school graduate as prescribed by paragraph 1–7.1d and shows proof of such status within the time frame established in paragraph 1–7.1a. Has served 1 year in the Selected Reserve after securing the loan or loans. Has reached the anniversary date of the Selected Reserve contract for SLRP participation.

//NOTHING FOLLOWS//