

ARMY BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE CASE OF: [REDACTED]

BOARD DATE: 28 February 2025

DOCKET NUMBER: AR20240005135

APPLICANT REQUESTS:

- correction of his military record to show he is authorized payment of a \$10,000 Officer Affiliation Bonus
- a personal appearance before the Board

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

- DD Form 149 (Application for Correction of Military Record)
- DA Form 5691 (Request for Reserve Component Assignment Orders)
- DA Form 5690 (Reserve Components Career Counselor Interview Record)
- Written Agreement – U.S. Army Reserve (USAR) Officer/Warrant Officer Affiliation Bonus Acknowledgement
- Memorandum, subject: Reserve Component Officer Transition Memorandum
- U.S. Army Reserve Command (USARC) E-mail Correspondence

FACTS:

1. The applicant states he transferred from active duty to the USAR and signed a bonus for a 3-year contract. He completed the requirements and believed in good faith he would receive the bonus.

2. The applicant provides:

a. His written Officer Affiliation Bonus agreement, in which he authenticated that he would receive \$10,000 for a 3-year contract, acknowledging he met the eligibility criteria associated with the bonus. The agreement was assigned a control number and authenticated by a USAR career counselor.

b. E-mail correspondence from USARC indicating the applicant did not meet his military service obligation of 14 May 2026 and therefore the bonus was offered in effort.

3. The applicant served a period of active duty service from 18 May 2018 to 17 May 2022. He completed a request for Reserve Component assignment orders and was transferred to the USAR on 17 May 2022.

4. His record is void of the written agreement in his Army Military Human Resource Record (AMHRR).

5. On 5 February 2025, in the processing of this case, an advisory opinion was received from USARC recommending disapproval of the applicant's request. The Chief, Initial Military Training and Incentives stated his payment was not processed due to him serving his current military service obligation, incurred at his initial appointment as an officer. The accessing agency failed to verify his eligibility for the bonus.

6. On 28 February 2025, the applicant responded to the advisory official disagreeing with their recommendation. He noted he fulfilled his active duty serviced obligation and feels the decision to transfer to the USAR is a different stipulation.

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 Board carefully considered the applicant's record of service, documents submitted in support of the petition and executed a comprehensive review based on law, policy, and regulation. Upon review of the applicant's petition, available military records, and the U.S. Army Reserve Command's advising official, the Board concurs with the advising official finding the applicant was still serving under his initial statutory military service obligation and DoDI requires officers who receive pre-commissioning compensation to complete their military service obligation to be eligible for the officer affiliation bonus. He was appointed effective 15 May 2018; therefore, the applicant's military service obligation does not expire until 14 May 2026, making him ineligible for the officer affiliation bonus. Therefore, the Board denied relief.

BOARD VOTE:

Mbr 1 Mbr 2 Mbr 3

:	:	:	GRANT FULL RELIEF
:	:	:	GRANT PARTIAL RELIEF
:	:	:	GRANT FORMAL HEARING
:XX	:XX	:XX	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.

X //SIGNED//

CHAIRPERSON

Signed by:

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. Title 37, U.S. Code, § 331 (chapter II) provides for special pay, incentive pay, and bonus authorities. The Secretary concerned may pay a bonus under this section to a person, including a member of the armed forces, who enlists in an armed force; enlists in or affiliates with a reserve component of an armed force; reenlists, voluntarily extends an enlistment, or otherwise agrees to serve for a specified period in a designated career field, skill, or unit of an armed force; or under other conditions of service in an armed force; transfers from a regular component of an armed force to a reserve component of that same armed force or from a reserve component of an armed force to the regular component of that same armed force; or transfers from a regular component or reserve component of an armed force to a regular component or reserve component of another armed force, subject to the approval of the Secretary with jurisdiction over the armed force to which the member is transferring.

a. Service Eligibility.—A bonus authorized by subsection (a) may be paid to a person or member only if the person or member agrees under subsection (d)— (1) to serve for a specified period in a designated career field, skill, unit, or grade; or (2) to meet some other condition or conditions of service imposed by the Secretary concerned.

b. Written Agreement.—To receive a bonus under this section, a person or member determined to be eligible for the bonus shall enter into a written agreement with the Secretary concerned that specifies— (1) the amount of the bonus; (2) the method of payment of the bonus under subsection (c)(2); (3) the period of obligated service; and (4) the type or conditions of the service.

2. Department of Defense Instruction 1304.34 (General Bonus Authority for Officers) establishes policy for the payment of a bonus. In pertinent part, it states an officer receiving pre-commissioning compensation in accordance with Sections 2106, 2107, and 2107a of Title 10, U.S.C., or financial assistance through a loan repayment program pursuant to Sections 16201, 16301, 16302, or 16303 of Title 10, U.S.C., is not eligible for a bonus pursuant to this issuance until the military service obligation is completed.

//NOTHING FOLLOWS//