

ARMY BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE CASE OF: [REDACTED]

BOARD DATE: 28 August 2025

DOCKET NUMBER: AR20240007833

APPLICANT REQUESTS: payment of his \$20,000.00 Reenlistment Bonus (REB).

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

- DD Form 149 (Application for Correction of Military Record)
- 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 (ARNGUS))

FACTS:

1. The applicant did not file within the 3-year time frame provided in Title 10, U.S. Code, section 1552(b); however, the Army Board for Correction of Military Records (ABCMR) conducted a substantive review of this case and determined it is in the interest of justice to excuse the applicant's failure to timely file.

2. The applicant states:

- He is waiting on the payment of his \$20,000.00 REB from his 2019 reenlistment
- He inquired numerous times about the status of his REB payment and was never provided an update
- Three years after signing his contract, he was finally told his packet had been submitted in the Georgia (GA) Bonus System which had crashed in 2020, any packet in the system had to be resubmitted

3. A review of the applicant's service records shows:

- On 2 July 2002, he enlisted in the Regular Army, he had continuous service through reenlistments and extensions
- On 2 December 2015, he enlisted in the ARNGUS for 3 years
- On 22 March 2016, he was honorably released from active duty due to insufficient retainability for economic reasons and assigned to the ARNGUS, DD Form 214 (Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty) shows he completed 13 years, 8 months, and 21 days of active service

- On 18 October 2018, he extended his enlistment for 1 year
- On 26 November 2018, he was ordered to active duty in support of Operation Freedom Sentinel by Orders Number 11-292-0002, 19 October 2018
- On 29 March 2019, he extended his enlistment in the ARNGUS for 6 years for a new expiration of term of service (ETS) of 20 January 2026; in conjunction NGB Form 600-7-4-R-E with Control Number R2019032901GANGB, shows in:
 - Section II (Eligibility): must have less than 13 years; time in service (TIS) on his original ETS date prior to this reenlistment/extension based on his Pay Entry Base Date (PEBD) of 2 July 2002, in the military occupational specialty (MOS)19D (Cavalry Scout) for 6-years
 - Section III (Bonus Amount and Payments):
 - \$20,000.00 REB; paid in two installments, the first 50 percent the day after his current ETS upon verification of his MOS and unit qualification and the second 50 percent on his fourth-year anniversary
 - He will not receive payment if he did not meet all eligibility requirements on his contract start date
 - Section VII (Statement of Understanding): he understood this addendum will be invalidated if he did not meet all of the requirement at the time of his signature, if his incentive was invalidated, terminated, recouped or depreciated, it does not affect the term of service and contractual agreement
- On 12 August 2019, he was honorably released from active duty and reverted to ARNGUS control
- On 1 October 2019, he was ordered to full time National Guard Duty – Operational Support for the southwest boarder mission support by Orders Number 275-217, 2 October 2019
- On 25 January 2024, he was ordered to active duty in support of Operation Inherent Resolve by Orders Number 11-353-0368, 19 December 2023
- On 27 February 2025, he was honorably released from active duty and reverted to ARNGUS control
- On 28 February 2025, he extended his enlistment in the ARNGUS for 6 years
- Soldier Management Services – WEB (SMS WEB) shows his PEBD as 2 July 2002

4. On 24 March 2025, in the processing of this case, the NGB provided an advisory opinion regarding the applicant's request to be paid his \$20,000.00 REB. The advisory official recommended disapproval of his request. On 29 March 2019, the applicant extended his enlistment in the GAARNG for 6 years and a \$20,000.00 bonus in the MOS 19D. A review of his service record revealed he was not eligible to receive a REB as the Soldier must have less than 13 years TIS on his original ETS date. TIS is

commutated from a Soldier's current PEBD. The applicant's PEBD is 2 July 2002, therefore, he had over 17 and one half years TIS. His REB was terminated on 18 March 2025 for failure of initial eligibility.

5. On 27 March 2025, the Army Review Boards Agency Case Management Division provided the applicant the advisory opinion for review and comment. He did not respond.

BOARD DISCUSSION:

After reviewing the application, all supporting documents, and the evidence found within the military record, a minority of the Board found that relief was not warranted, while a majority of the Board found that relief was 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. The evidence of record shows the applicant extended his enlistment in the ARNG on 29 March 2019 (over 17 years of service at the time) with entitlement to a \$20,000.00 REB. A majority of the Board did not concur with the advisory opinion which recommended disapproval ("A review of his service record revealed he was not eligible to receive a REB as the Soldier must have less than 13 years TIS on his original ETS date. TIS is commutated from a Soldier's current PEBD. The applicant's PEBD is 2 July 2002") noting the applicant reenlisted in good faith with understanding that he would receive bonus; requirements were not adequately explained to him. The minority of the Board noted it is fairly well-established among the noncommissioned officer corps that reenlistment options and bonuses are severely limited as you reach mid-career and get drastically worse as you move towards the late-career stage. The Board found the evidence confirms the applicant was eligible to receive the REB and extended in good faith and expected to receive the bonus. Therefore, the Board granted relief. The Board defers to the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) for calculation of payment.

BOARD VOTE:

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

BOARD DETERMINATION/RECOMMENDATION:

The Board determined the evidence presented is sufficient to warrant a recommendation for relief. As a result, the Board recommends that all Department of the Army and Army National Guard records of the individual concerned be corrected by showing the applicant's ARNG enlistment was honored, and the appropriate office timely received this information and paid the REB in the amount of \$20,000.00 as a result of this correction.

x //Signed//

CHAIRPERSON

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 10, U.S. Code, section 1552(b), provides that applications for correction of military records must be filed within 3 years after discovery of the alleged error or injustice. This provision of law also allows the ABCMR to excuse an applicant's failure to timely file within the 3-year statute of limitations if the ABCMR determines it would be in the interest of justice to do so.

2. National Guard Regulation (NGR) 600-7 (Selective Reserve Incentive Programs) prescribes policies and procedures for the administration of the ARNGUS incentive programs. Paragraph 2-15 (Eligibility), the Soldier must:

- Contract for not less than a three or six year term of service approved for incentive entitlement by the DARNG as outlined in the current FY SRIP policy.
- Be the primary position holder, not in an over-strength or excess status and in an MOS that matches the authorized military grade and skill qualification commensurate with the position for which reenlisting/extending
- Reenlist/extend duty MOS qualified (DMOSQ)
- Have less than 20-years time in service at time of current ETS to include one inclusive day. This service is computed from the Soldier's PEBD

3. Title 37 USC, section 331 (General bonus authority for enlisted members), (a) 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
- under other conditions of service in an armed force

//NOTHING FOLLOWS//