

ARMY BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE CASE OF: [REDACTED]

BOARD DATE: 26 August 2025

DOCKET NUMBER: AR20240008484

APPLICANT REQUESTS: payment of \$250.00 he did not receive for his Enlistment Bonus dated 14 July 1997.

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

- DD Form 149 (Application for Correction of Military Record)
- NGB Form 600-7-1-R-E (Annex EB to DD Form 4 - Enlistment Bonus Addendum - Army National Guard (ARNG) of the United States) dated 14 July 1997, which shows:
  - He enlisted in a position vacancy in Critical Skill Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) 77F (Petroleum Supply Specialist) in a bonus unit
  - He would receive a total bonus in the amount of \$2,500.00 for the enlistment and be paid one-half of the total authorized amount after he became a secondary school graduate, completed Initial Active Duty Training (IADT) and was awarded the appropriate MOS
- Email communication during the period of 30 April through 1 June 2024, between the applicant and the Louisiana ARNG (LAARNG), State Incentives Manager discussing the applicant's incentives and payments; the applicant was advised to submit a request to the Board for an unpaid \$250.00 enlistment bonus payment

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 for contract Bonus Control Number E9707020LA the information received by the U.S. Property and Fiscal Officer reflects he did not receive \$250.00 for the initial payment.

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

- On 14 July 1997, the applicant enlisted in the LAARNG for 8 years; in connection with his enlistment, NGB Form 600-7-1-R-E shows:
  - He enlisted in a position vacancy in Critical Skill MOS 77F (Petroleum Supply Specialist) in a bonus unit
  - He would receive a total bonus in the amount of \$2,500.00 for the enlistment and be paid one-half of the total authorized amount after he became a secondary school graduate, completed IADT and was awarded the appropriate MOS
  - The remaining one-half would be paid on the fourth anniversary of his enlistment
- On 6 January 1998, he entered IADT
- On 14 May 1998, DD Form 214 (Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty) shows he was released from IADT and was transferred to his LAARNG unit; item 11 (Primary Specialty) shows MOS 77F10
- On 23 April 2003, he extended for 3 years and served continuously in the ARNG and Active Guard Reserve until he retired
- On 19 July 2018, Orders Number 200-021 promoted the applicant to the rank of master sergeant, effective 15 July 2018
- On 30 April 2024, the applicant retired by reason of sufficient service for retirement

4. On 18 June 2025, the National Guard Bureau, Chief, Special Actions Branch provided an advisory opinion for this case and recommended approval. The NGB official stated:

a. The applicant enlisted into the LAARNG with a \$2,500.00 critical skill MOS bonus (77F). The first half of the incentive to be received upon completion of IADT and when awarded the appropriate MOS. The second half to be received upon completion of the fourth year of his enlistment.

b. Upon coordination with the LAARNG it was determined that the payment falls into the barring act because it is a closed year payment (older than five years + current Fiscal Year). During a retirement incentives review by the LAARNG, it was also determined that the applicant met the eligibility and should have received \$1,250.00 for the initial payment. Based on the history (attached) the payment with entitlement on 17 May 1998 was only \$1,000.00, not the full initial payment of \$1,250.00.

c. In accordance with LAARNG, state incentive managers (IM) are not authorized to process these payments without ABCMR approval. If ABCMR approves closed year

payment processing, then the State IM will begin to process the payment based on HRM-I guidance. If ABCMR denies closed year payment processing no further action will be required. The applicant was eligible for the full amount of his initial payment at the time of the contract but did not get paid the full amount. This office recommends the applicant be paid the \$250.00 that he did not receive.

d. The LAARNG concurs with this recommendation and the ARNG Incentives Branch did not provide input regarding this opinion.

5. On 8 July 2025, the applicant was provided a copy of the NGB advisory opinion to allow for comments or rebuttal. He did not respond.

BOARD DISCUSSION:

After reviewing the application, all supporting documents, and the evidence found within the military record, 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 Board concurred with the conclusion of the advisory official that the applicant was eligible for the full amount of his initial payment of \$1250.00 at the time of the contract but did not get paid the full amount. Therefore, the Board determined there was sufficient evidence to warrant granting the applicant's request for the remaining \$250.00 dollars.

BOARD VOTE:

<u>Mbr 1</u>	<u>Mbr 2</u>	<u>Mbr 3</u>	
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XX	XX	XX	GRANT FULL RELIEF
:	:	:	GRANT PARTIAL RELIEF
:	:	:	GRANT FORMAL HEARING
:	:	:	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 was authorized and entitled to the remaining \$250 dollars of his

reenlistment bonus from his initial enlistment contract.

X //signed//

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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 (USC), 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. Title 37, USC, section 331 (General bonus authority for enlisted members) provides that:

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; or under other conditions of service in an armed force

b. A bonus under this section may be paid in a lump sum or in periodic installments, as determined by the Secretary concerned.

c. 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; (3) the period of obligated service; and (4) the type or conditions of the service.

3. Title 31, USC, section 3702, also known as the barring act, prohibits the payment of a claim against the Government unless the claim has been received by the Comptroller General within 6 years after the claim accrues. Among the important public policy considerations behind statutes of limitations, including the 6-year limitation for filing claims contained in this section of Title 31, U. S. Code, is relieving the government of the need to retain, access, and review old records for the purpose of settling stale claims, which are often difficult to prove or disprove.

//NOTHING FOLLOWS//