ARMY BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE CASE OF: [redacted]

BOARD DATE: 7 May 2025

DOCKET NUMBER: AR20240008671

APPLICANT REQUESTS: to receive unpaid Student Loan Repayment Program (SLRP) incentive for fiscal year (FY) 2016, 2017 and 2018.

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

- DD Form 149 (Application for Correction of Military Record)
- National Guard Bureau (NGB) Form 600-7-5-R-E (Annex L to DD Form 4 - SLRP Addendum - Army National Guard (ARNG) of the United States), 23 October 2014, which shows:
    - Anniversary SLRP payments will not exceed 15 percent or $500.00 whichever is greater) of the initial disbursed amounts that were approved upon the date of enlistment to include accrued interest'
    - He had four disbursed loans at the time totaling $11,000.00
    - Payments on loans(s) that have a remaining outstanding balance(s) less than the maximum yearly repayment amount will only be eligible for that amount only
    - Loan(s) that have a zero balance will not be eligible for payment
    - The maximum annual payment amount will not exceed $7,500 per year
- National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS) documents which provide the applicant's pertinent loan(s) information and repayment progress
- DD Form 2475 (Department of Defense Educational Loan Repayment Program Annual Application), 3 June 2024, requesting the Military Service to pay a portion of his student loan(s)
- New Jersey Army National Guard (NJARNG) SLRP Manager Memorandum for Record - Subject: Notification of Closed Year Payment for [Applicant], 12 June 2024, wherein, the SLRP Manager stated, a recent audit of unpaid incentives indicated that the applicant may be entitled to a previously earned SLRP Fiscal Year payment; the applicant was referred to the ABCMR

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 has an SLRP incentive that includes FY 2016 through 2018, but he was recently notified that those years are considered "Closed Years"
- Since required documentation was given to his leadership prior to those years being closed, he was recommended via a memorandum to complete an application with the ABCMR
- He provided the required documentation to his unit's readiness noncommissioned officer for submission of his SLRP payments during the contract period
- He is currently mobilized and after conducting a record review with another battalion's S1, he was told that none of his FY SLRP payments were actioned
- While this S1 team was able to get the other FYs actioned, FY 2016-2018 became an issue to action, he feels confident with the S1 team he is mobilized with to get the required documents where they need to be so that his federal student loans may be actioned as per his addendum

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

- On 23 October 2014, the applicant enlisted in the NJARNG for 6 years; in connection with his enlistment, the applicant completed and signed NGB Form 600-7-5-R-E, which states, in pertinent part:

    - This addendum will be completed by all persons accepting assignment to the ARNG with entitlement to the Non-Prior Service (NPS) SLRP under the Selected Reserve Incentive Program (SRIP)
    - The applicant had four disbursed loan(s) existing in the amount of $11,000.00
    - The total amount of repayment for qualifying loan(s) will not exceed $50,000.00 with annual repayments of 15 percent of the balance of the loan(s), plus accrued interest or $500.00 plus the accrued interest, whichever is greater, as established by Law
    - Payment(s) will be processed on the anniversary month of his enlistment for each satisfactory year of service, subject to the availability of funds

  - Anniversary SLRP payments will not exceed 15 percent or $500.00 (whichever is greater) of the initial disbursed amounts that were approved upon the date of enlistment to include accrued interest
  - Payments on loans(s) that have a remaining outstanding balance(s) less than the maximum yearly repayment amount will only be eligible for that amount only
  - Loan(s) that have a zero balance will not be eligible for payment
  - The maximum annual payment amount will not exceed $7,500.00 per year

- DD Form 214 (Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty) shows the applicant entered active duty on 23 February 2015 and was released from active duty and transferred to his NJARNG unit on 21 June 2015; item 11 (Primary Specialty) shows 13B10 (Cannon Crewmember)
- On 25 February 2022, the applicant extended for a period of 4 years, which changed his expiration term of service to 22 October 2026

4. On 9 April 2025, the NGB, Chief, Special Actions Branch provided an advisory opinion for this case and recommended approval. The NGB official states:

a. The applicant enlisted in the NJARNG with an SLRP incentive for 23 October 2014 to 22 October 2020. Incentive was established in the Guard Incentive Management System (GIMS) with an eligibility date of payment to be annually on 23 October for not more than $7,500.00 annually, $50,000.00 total. The applicant received payments for FY19, FY20 and FY21 but was referred to the ABCMR for closed year payments for FY16, FY17, and FY18.

b. After review of the applicant's submission and coordination with the NJARNG, he was in good standing and eligible to receive payments, but GIMS failed verification for payment because of a Unit Identification Code (UIC) change. The UIC change was command directed, and a DA Form 4187 (Personal Action) was uploaded annotating he was still eligible for payment. Administrative error due to lack of a DD Form 2475 delayed payments until it was actioned on 4 June 2024, FY19, FY20 and FY21 were paid. FY16, FY17 and FY18 were identified as closed years and an ABCMR board decision is required to action closed year payments.

c. It is the recommendation of this office that the applicant's request be approved. He met the requirements per his SLRP addendum and is eligible to receive payments for FY16, FY17 and FY18. The NJARNG concurs with this advisory opinion.

5. On 13 April 2025, the applicant was provided with 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 evidence of record confirms that the applicant enlisted in the ARNG on 23 October 2014 with entitlement to the SLRP incentive. At the time of enlistment, the applicant had four disbursed loans totaling $11,000.00. The Board reviewed and concurred with the National Guard Bureau advisory opinion, which noted that the applicant remained in good standing and was eligible to receive SLRP payments. However, the Guard Incentive Management System failed to verify payment eligibility due to a change in the Unit Identification Code (UIC). This UIC change was command-directed, and a DA Form 4187 (Personnel Action) was uploaded to confirm the applicant’s continued eligibility for payment under the incentive program. Therefore, the Board granted relief.

BOARD VOTE:

Mbr 1	Mbr 2	Mbr 3	
XXX	XXX	XXX	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's student loan repayment program incentive was initiated, timely processed and paid for FYs 16, 17, and 18 using closed year funds.

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. Department of Defense Instruction (DODI) 1205.21 (Reserve Component Incentive Programs Procedures) requires each recipient of an incentive to sign a written agreement stating the member has been advised of and understands the conditions under which continued entitlement to unpaid incentive amounts shall be terminated and which advance payments may be recouped. The agreement must clearly specify the terms of the Reserve Service commitment that authorizes the payment of the incentive to the member.

2. National Guard Regulation 600-7 (Selected Reserve Incentive Programs) governs policies and procedures for the administration of the Army National Guard SRIP programs. Section VII (SLRP), paragraph 2-23 provides that, Public Law 99-145, section 671(a)(1), and Title 10 U.S. Code (USC), section 16301 authorizes the education loan repayment program for qualified members of Selected Reserve (SELRES) enlisted personnel with loans made, insured, or guaranteed under part B of Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (Title 20 USC section 1071 et seq.), any loan made under part D of such title (Title 20 USC section 1087a et seq) or any loan made under part E of such title (Title 20 USC section 1087aa et seq). Repayment of any such loan will be made on the basis of each complete year of service performed by the borrower. Soldier must meet the eligibility criteria in accordance with governing law, DODI, Department of the Army, ARNG regulations or as outlined in the current FY SRIP policy.

//NOTHING FOLLOWS//