

ARMY BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE CASE OF: [REDACTED]

BOARD DATE: 27 May 2025

DOCKET NUMBER: AR20240009727

APPLICANT REQUESTS: retroactive enrollment in the Blended Retirement System (BRS).

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

- DD Form 149 (Application for Correction of Military Record)
- Memorandum – Subject: Acknowledgement of BRS Opt-In Permanence, 9 July 2024 – reflective of the applicant's acknowledgment of the conditions associated with opt-in to the BRS; the decision is irrevocable
- DA Form 4187 (Personnel Action) – the applicant's submitted request for an exception to policy permitting her enrollment in the BRS; recommended for approval by her division commander
- Leave and Earnings Statement, 30 June 2024 – reflective of the applicant's pay and entitlements for the month of June 2024; enrollment in the legacy/high 3 retirement plan
- Certificate, 21 June 2024 – reflective of her completion of the BRS Opt-in course

FACTS:

1. The applicant states in part that:

- She was enrolled in the Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) program from 17 September 2019 – 4 September 2020; no access to the MyPay link for enrollment in the BRS during this period
- Upon being appointed a commission she was advised that she was automatically enrolled in the BRS; later realized that this action did not occur on 3 June 2024

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

- She was enrolled in the U.S. Army Military Academy from 29 June 2015 – 28 January 2019
- On 4 September 2020 – she was appointed a Reserve commission and subsequently ordered to active duty on 14 November 2020

3. On 8 May 2025, the Department of the Army, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff, G-1, Program Analyst Compensation and Entitlements Division, provided an advisory opinion recommending that the applicant be afforded the opportunity to opt-into the BRS effective 14 November 2020, the date of her entry on active duty. The applicant was incorrectly informed that she would be automatically enrolled in the BRS upon her accession onto active duty and was not given adequate notification of eligibility and opportunity to enroll in BRS.

4. On 12 May 2025, the applicant was provided with a copy of the advisory opinion and afforded 15 days to provide comments.

BOARD DISCUSSION:

After reviewing the application and all supporting documents, the Board determined relief was warranted. The applicant's contentions, the military record, and regulatory guidance were carefully considered. Based upon the available documentation and the findings outlined in the G1 advisory opinion, the Board concluded there was sufficient evidence of an error or injustice warranting a change to the applicant's military record to show the applicant enrolled into BRS effective 14 November 2020.

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 Army records of the individual concerned be corrected by showing the applicant made a timely submission to enroll in BRS, it was accepted and processed by the appropriate agency to enroll the applicant into BRS effective 14 November 2020.

//SIGNED//

X

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. All Army Activity Message Number 050/2019 (Implementation Guidance for Exception to Policy (ETP) to Retroactively Enroll Certain Eligible Soldiers in the Blended Retirement System and Hardship Extension of the Enrollment Period) provides that Soldiers who would like to request an ETP to the BRS Calendar Year (CY) 2018 Opt-In enrollment will acknowledge the irrevocability of the Opt-In decision. Soldiers who were notified of their eligibility for BRS and did not have access to the BRS link on MyPay, must notify the Deputy Chief of Staff G-1 of the discrepancy. These extensions do not create the authority to enroll a Soldier who had the opportunity to elect to enroll in the BRS during the CY2018 but who chose not to do so, nor does it allow for retroactive Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) contributions
2. Deputy Secretary of Defense Memorandum, Implementation of the Blended Retirement System dated 27 January 2017 states that the BRS goes into effect 1 January 2018. Service members who enter the military on or after 1 January 2018, will automatically be enrolled in BRS. Service members who enter service on or before 31 December 2017 are grandfathered into the legacy high-3 retirement system. However, service members in the active component as of 31 December 2017, who have served fewer than 12 years, or service members in the Reserve component who have accrued less than 4,320 retirement points as of 31 December 2017 and are in a paid status, will have the option of electing BRS or to remain in the legacy retirement system. Those currently serving members who are eligible to opt into BRS will have an entire year to make their opt-in decision. The opt-in or election period for BRS begins 1 January 2018 and concludes on 31 December 2018. The decision to opt-in is irrevocable.

//NOTHING FOLLOWS//