

ARMY BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE CASE OF: [REDACTED]

BOARD DATE: 6 August 2025

DOCKET NUMBER: AR20250000269

APPLICANT REQUESTS: Exception to Policy (ETP) for 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)
- Joint Knowledge Online Certificate of Training shows the applicant successfully completed the BRS Opt-In Course on 23 July 2024
- Leave and Earnings Statement for the period of 1 through 31 August 2024 shows the applicant is enrolled in the BRS retirement plan
- Personnel Action Request shows on 23 July 2024, the applicant requested an ETP to enroll in the BRS which was approved by his brigade commander on 11 September 2024

FACTS:

1. The applicant states:

- He was never briefed that he needed to elect enrollment in BRS as he was a prior service Soldier
- His Leave and Earnings Statements had shown he was enrolled in the BRS since he entered active duty
- He assumed enrollment was automatic
- His Date Initially Entered Military Service (DIEMS) shows as 20 January 2022
- His Pay Entry Base Date (PEBD) is 20 January 2017
- He completed the mandatory BRS Opt-in training on 23 July 2024
- He understands enrollment in the BRS cannot be revoked

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

- With prior U.S. Marine Corps enlisted service, on 20 January 2022, he executed his oath of office and was appointed a Regular Army Chaplain

- On 20 January 2022, he was ordered to active duty to fulfill an active duty requirement in a voluntary indefinite status by Orders Number A-12-101275, dated 16 December 2021
- Officer Record Brief shows his:
 - DIEMS as 20 January 2022
 - PEBD as 20 January 2017

3. On 16 July 2025, in the processing of this case, the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff G1 provided an advisory opinion regarding the applicant's request for a retroactive BRS enrollment. The advisory official stated in the interest of fairness and equity the applicant should be provided an opportunity to enroll in the BRS effective 23 July 2024, the date he completed the BRS Opt-in course. The applicant's record indicates he is prior service and is required to submit a statement of service to correct his DIEMS which currently reflects an incorrect date of 20 January 2022. This DIEMS error caused him to be erroneously automatically enrolled in BRS. A correct date prior to 1 January 2018 would allow him to make the option to either opt in to BRS or remain in the High 3 legacy retirement system.

4. On 23 July 2025, the Army Review Boards Agency, Case Management Division, provided the applicant the advisory opinion for review and comment.

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. Upon review of the applicant's petition, available military records, and the Program Analyst for the Compensation and Entitlements Division of the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff G-1, the Board concurred with the advising official finding the applicant should be provided an opportunity to enroll in the BRS effective 23 July 2024, the date he completed the BRS Opt-in course. The Board recommends the applicant submit a statement of service to correct his DIEMS date, which would allow him to make the option to either opt in to BRS or remain in the High 3 legacy retirement system.

BOARD VOTE:

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

BOARD DETERMINATION/RECOMMENDATION:

The Board determined that the evidence presented was sufficient to warrant a recommendation for relief. As a result, the Board recommends that all Department of the Army records of the individual concerned be corrected by showing the applicant enrolled in BRS effective 23 July 2024, the BRS Opt-in course completion date.



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. Deputy Secretary of Defense memorandum dated 27 January 2017, implements guidance for the BRS for Uniformed Services, which was authorized in sections 631 through 635 of Public Law 114-92 of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) of Fiscal Year (FY) 2016 as modified by sections 631 through 633 of Public Law 111-328, of the NDAA FY 2017. This policy supplements existing issuances and regulations pertaining to military retirement and annuity programs to provide guidance specifically for the BRS. The policy will be incorporated into all applicable issuance and regulations to ensure an effective and efficient transition to this new retirement system when the BRS becomes effective 1 January 2018.

2. All Army Activities Message Number 050/2019 (Implementation Guidance for Exception to Policy to Retroactively Enroll Certain Eligible Soldiers in the Blended Retirement System and Hardship Extension of the Enrollment Period) provides additional administrative procedures necessary for certain Soldiers to request an exception to policy to allow for retroactive enrollment in the BRS for specific reasons. It also provides procedural guidance for automatic and hardship extensions of the enrollment period. Coordinate with DFAS to ensure the proper retroactive government automatic and matching Thrift Savings plan (TSP) contributions are credited to the member's TSP Account. Coordinate retroactive matching TSP with DFAS ensuring contributions will only be made in accordance with the individual contribution previously made that should otherwise have been matched had the member been correctly enrolled in the BRS. These extensions do not create the authority to enroll a Soldier who had the opportunity to elect to enroll in the BRS during Calendar Year 2018 but who chose not to do so, nor does it allow for retroactive TSP contributions. Soldier LES will reflect "blended." Reasons for submission of ETP where the DCS, G1 or Deputy DCS, G1 of a general officer level headquarters within a Soldier's chain of command has the approval authority.

- Deployment for 30-days or more that is inclusive of 31 December 2018, which prevented the Soldier from having access to all resources available to make financial or retirement decisions
- Court proceedings or court orders that prevented a Soldier from making financial or retirement decisions during the enrollment period
- Illness or injury that substantially impacted a Soldier's ability to make financial or retirement decisions during the enrollment period
- Inability to complete the mandatory "opt-in" training due to circumstances beyond the control of the Soldier
- Inability to access the MyPay website or follow the designated procedures for making the election during the enrollment period due to circumstances beyond the reasonable control of the Soldier

Reasons for submission of ETP where director, plans and resources, DCS, G1 has the approval authority.

- Failure to notify a Soldier of their eligibility to elect to opt into the BRS at least 60-days prior to the conclusion of the enrollment period
- Other extraordinary or exceptional circumstances
- Missing or inaccurate DIEMS information that was incorrectly applied upon entry to active duty or into an active status, and it resulted in a Soldier being automatically enrolled in BRS under the policies governing enrollment for new accessions
- Failure of the Army to correctly identify a BRS eligible Soldier to the Defense Finance and Accounting Services
- Failure of the Army to adequately notify a Soldier of their eligibility and opportunity to enroll in BRS

//NOTHING FOLLOWS//