



MISSOURI NATIONAL GUARD
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JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI 65101-1203

NGMO-FWS-RS

22 May 2017

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Informational Guidance for the Blended Retirement System (BRS)

1. In preparation for the BRS fielding to begin 1 January 2018, financial education training is available to prepare Reserve Component (RC) members and their families. The courses are available on Joint Knowledge Online (JKO) and MilitaryOneSource.mil.

a. The Leader Course is designed to provide military leaders with an understanding of the key components of BRS and the DoD plan to educate the force, including retirement plan comparisons, key milestones, and an overview of the opt-in option for Service Members. Leaders need to be informed not only for their benefit but to assist Service Members in their organizations. **Leaders will not advocate one retirement system over another when speaking to Service Members about the option to opt-in. Leaders do not provide advice, recommend, or provide opinion about whether Service Members should opt-in to BRS or remain in the legacy system.**

b. The Personal Financial Counselors (PFC)/Educators Course will focus on various counseling scenarios to equip financial, retirement and similar advisers who assist commanders. These PFCs may conduct group training sessions. They are required to train the OPT-IN material and must sign each page of the attendance roster.

c. The Opt-in Course will be a required course for all eligible Service Members. It will aid eligible Service Members to understand and compare with calculators for both the legacy and new retirement systems. Service Members will use the knowledge gained from this course combined with their personal assessments of career goals and financial situations to decide which retirement is best for them. Service Member have the choice as to which retirement plan they will choose. **Once the election is made into the BRS it is irrevocable; Service Members cannot change their election once election is made.**

d. The New Accession Course (NAC) is geared to Service Members that begin their service on or after January 1, 2018. These Service Members will not have a choice and will be covered by BRS. All new Service Members will be required to complete BRS-NAC within their first year of service.

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2. Retirement System Changes that will be implemented with the BRS.

a. Thrift Savings Plan (TSP): DoD automatic 1% and up to an additional 4% matching contribution to a Service Members TSP account Matching contributions continue through the end of the pay period during which the Service Member attains 26 years of service. All Service Members joining after January 2018, will be automatically enrolled into the TSP at 3% of their base pay, with automatic 1% DoD contributions starting after 60 days, and DoD matching up to 4% at the start of the third year of service.

b. Continuation Pay: Continuation Pay is a direct cash payout, like a bonus. It is targeted at the mid-career mark, between 8 and up to the 12th year of service (determined by your PEBD) in exchange for an extension of 3 or 4 more years of service. Continuation Pay details are TBD.

c. Lump Sum Option: Allows Service Members to choose to elect 25% or 50% lump-sum payment at retirement in exchange for reduced monthly retired pay until the Service Member reaches full Social Security retirement age, which for most is 67 years old.

d. Monthly Retired Pay: Instead of being calculated at 2.5% times the average of the Service Member's highest 3 years of basic pay, the Service Member's monthly retired pay will be calculated with a 2.0% multiplier.

3. Additional Notes: The BRS does not change when a Service Member is eligible to retire. Members covered by the BRS may still elect to participate in the Survivor Benefit Plan. The BRS does not change the law on division of retired pay under the Uniformed Services Former Spouses Protection Act Reservists covered by the BRS are still eligible for reduced age retirement if they perform qualifying service.

4. Official Site for BRS with all Resource Related Links and Upcoming Events:
<http://militarypay.defense.gov/BlendedRetirement/>

5. GKO resources for the Blended Retirement System Links:

<https://states.gkoportal.ng.mil/states/MO/FWS/Retirement%20Services1/Forms/AllItems.aspx?RootFolder=%2Fstates%2FMO%2FFWS%2FRetirement%20Services1%2F9%20%2D%20Blended%20Retirement%20System%20%28BRS%29&FolderCTID=0x012000517553ABE635844C97E4157F9971B17F&View={00261D4F-337A-4376-B6B9-68ECC28CD49D}>

6. Personal Financial Counselors are available upon request to brief the Opt-In course and to answer any questions the service members may have. See attachment 2.

Attachment 1

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7. The POCs for retrieving current Soldier Retirement Point Reports information either by SIDPERS, DPRO, or SIBX is SFC Earnest Perkins at 573-638-9500 ext 37670 or CW2 Amanda Talken at 573-638-9500 ext 39640.

8. The point of contact for memorandum is Debra Havens at 573-638-9500 ext 37011 or by e-mail debra.l.havens.civ@mail.mil and John Lewis at 573-638-9500 ext 39648 or by e-mail john.r.lewis2.civ@mail.mil.



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Attachment 1