

Subject: BEAR MESSAGE 11-01

1. This message supersedes all previous BEAR Program messages.
  
2. Current BEAR Program MOSs and SRB amounts can be found in MILPER Message 10-250.

\*NOTE: BEAR returnees are paid off of SRB-ENH message, not the BEAR MILPER Message\*

3. Career Counselors should check the Training Tab in RETAIN for training seat availability prior to sending a request to RMT.

4. IAW MILPER Message 09-297, paragraph 9, subparagraph O, Soldiers participating in the BEAR Program are exempt from SL/SM.

5. Application processing procedures:

a. Extension eligibility must be established under BEAR reason code "A4" before BEAR applications can be processed.

b. SSG and below: the appropriate rank column for PMOS as reflected in current In/Out Calls must be N/N or N/Y at current grade. As an exception, Soldiers who are SPC promotable or SGT promotable and serving in a shortage (Y/N) MOS may request entry into the BEAR Program provided the next higher grade reflects N/N or N/Y.

c. Soldiers must be eligible to extend to complete 24 months after completion of training and be eligible to reenlist for a minimum of 3 years upon graduation without exceeding RCP.

d. Soldiers are authorized to submit BEAR applications when they are within the DA prescribed reenlistment window. Soldiers must complete at least 12 months time on station prior to departing for training. BEAR applications are approved/disapproved based on the date Soldiers are available to move.

e. Soldiers requesting CMF 18, MOS 21D, 21P, 35L, 37F, 38B, or 89D may request entry into the BEAR Program regardless of their In/Out Calls. If you cannot make a Soldier eligible in RETAIN and the Soldier is requesting one of these MOSs, place the Soldier in a "FAIL" status when processing for eligibility and RMT will override.

f. Soldiers applying for MOS 21P in the BEAR program may do so as a Specialist. However, they must be promoted to SGT prior to reenlisting upon completion of training.

g. Soldiers, other than initial term, must not have been alerted for reassignment at the time the request is received at HRC.

h. Soldiers will be paid in accordance with the bonus message in effect at the time of extension or reenlistment, whichever is higher.

i. POC information for CMF 18, MOSs 21D, 21P, 35L, 37F, 38B, or 89D can be found on the Training Tab in RETAIN.

6. Soldiers entering into MOS 35P with AD/CM/FR/JN/PF/PU/QB/RU will be extended 24 months beyond graduation date of MOS training at Goodfellow AFB, not language training at DLI.

7. Guidance for entry into MOS 09L:

a. Must be a native speaker in at least one of the following languages: Pashtu, Persian-Farsi and Dari. Language codes can be obtained in RETAIN, Select Retain Manager/Utilities/Code Tables/Lang.

b. Specific minimum qualifications can be found in the MOS Smartbook. All waivers must be approved by the MI proponent prior to request for entry into the BEAR Program. POC for proponent waivers can be found on RETAIN Training Tab.

8. Requirements and guidance for entry into CMF 18:

a. Pay particular attention to current SRB Milper Message which authorizes SFC to request entry into CMF 18.

b. Successful completion of the Special Forces Assessment and Selection (SFAS) course is required for attendance for all SF training courses. Soldiers serving in OCONUS, long tour areas will attend in a TDY and return status. Soldiers serving in short tour areas will be scheduled for SFAS and SF training in conjunction with DEROS.

c. Soldiers completing SFAS training will be awarded a PMOS by the GATE II selection board. Soldiers applying for CMF 18 must be informed that the selection board can change the Soldier's requested MOS. Soldiers will be counseled that upon arrival for SF training, they must identify themselves as BEAR recipients to prevent the school from changing their designated MOS training on the extension agreement. If the school changes MOS training dates, the Soldier must contact the installation retention office in order to coordinate a renegotiation of the executed BEAR extension through HRC.

d. Soldiers must be informed that should their training dates change because they were recycled in a course for academic or disciplinary reasons, the provisions of the BEAR Program no longer apply. Soldiers released from training must be reported to their Career branch as immediately available and assigned in accordance with the needs of the Army. RMT will not consider renegotiating BEAR extensions for Soldiers recycled due to academic or disciplinary reasons.

9. Soldiers who participate in the BEAR Program may be forgiven up to 24 months of the previously obligated, extended service provided they reenlist for the Regular Army Reenlistment Option (E-1) within 90 days after completion of training. Previously obligated, extended service will not be forgiven for those who reenlist for an option other than Regular Army.

10. Soldiers who participate in the BEAR Program and subsequently enter their reenlistment window are authorized to reenlist for any option in which otherwise qualified however the previously obligated service WILL NOT be forgiven. Soldiers who desire the Army Training Reenlistment Option (E-3) must have held the BEAR MOS for a minimum of 12 months from date of graduation or meet the SRR IAW AR 614-200.

11. VALIDATION REQUIREMENTS: Soldiers in the BEAR Program who are promoted while in training do not need to contact RRB for validation provided the MOS and rank were authorized in the BEAR message at the time of the Soldier's extension OR the MOS and rank are authorized a bonus in the current SRB Enhanced message. Rules for SRB zones and other bonus qualifications still apply. Example: SPC Joe Snuffy is promotable when he entered into the BEAR program for MOS 92F. At the time of approval, MOS 92F was authorized in the BEAR program for Soldiers in the ranks of PFC thru SGT. While attending training, SPC(P) Snuffy is promoted to Sergeant; SGT Snuffy does not need validation for the higher rank because it was authorized on the original BEAR message.