



# COMMANDER'S CALL TOPICS

NOTE: This product has embedded hyperlinks and is best viewed online.

23—27 April 2018

Priority Topic  
of the  
Week:

## Blended Retirement System Update

### **Blended Retirement System**

On Jan 1, 2018, the Defense Department transitioned to the Blended Retirement System. BRS is the new, congressionally-mandated retirement system for service members entering the military on or after Jan. 1, 2018. All members serving as of Dec. 31, 2017, are grandfathered under the legacy retirement system, but may choose to opt-in to the new system if they meet the appropriate eligibility criteria.

### **Opt-In Members Electing TSP Contribution**

For those members choosing to opt-in to BRS, there is no default Thrift Savings Plan contribution percentage. Members who were previously participating in TSP before opting into BRS carry over their previous contribution percentages and contribution allocations. However, **members who are new to TSP must elect a contribution percentage AFTER opting in.** Automatic enrollees will receive the standard 3% default allocation.

DFAS will send individual SmartDoc notices to these members who have yet to elect a contribution percentage, reminding them to visit myPay to elect a contribution percentage. These messages will be sent quarterly to ALL opt-ins.

### **Continuation Pay**

Service members enrolled in BRS may be eligible to receive a one-time, mid-career bonus payment in exchange for an agreement to perform additional obligated service. This one-time bonus payment is in addition to any other career field-specific incentives or retention bonuses.

Airmen will be notified of their potential eligibility for BRS continuation pay and will receive the BRS CP Election statement of understanding via myPers messaging starting approximately 90 days prior to the potential BRS CP effective date.

The AF Continuation Pay Rates are:

2.5x monthly basic pay for Active Component

0.5x monthly basic pay for Reserve Component

2.5x monthly basic pay for RC members on Active Guard Reserve orders

Both AC and RC members must elect to receive CP before starting their 12th year of service and are willing to serve an additional 4 year obligation per the SecAF memo dated 17 Nov 17.

For further information regarding CP rates, visit:

[militarypay.defense.gov/](http://militarypay.defense.gov/)

Commander's Call Topic Archive: <http://www.af.mil/AboutUs/CommandersCallTopics.aspx>

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Submissions should include:

- 1) 1-2 sentence synopsis of the issue
- 2) hyperlink to further details
- 3) a POC name and contact information.

\*Only submissions that pertaining to the majority of Airmen or specifically to command leadership teams will be considered. Local or limited-interest items will not be included.



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### Blended Retirement System Update

#### Role of Air Force leaders

The role of Air Force leaders is to provide Airmen with information and access to education, but not to provide specific financial advice.

- Leaders at all levels should familiarize themselves with BRS through the OSD website below to gain an understanding of the new retirement system, educational opportunities available to Airmen and the available resources to answer questions.
- Eligible Airmen received, or will receive, a myPers message that requires an acknowledgement and directs them to take the mandatory Opt-In training. **This training is mandatory and commanders should continue to monitor until they are 100% complete.**
- The BRS Opt-In training takes about two hours to complete and provides Airmen information to help make an educated decision about their future.
- The decision to opt-in is personal and irrevocable. It is vital that eligible Airmen fully understand BRS before electing to opt-in.

BRS information is continuously updated on [myPers](#). Click "Retirement" from any military landing page.

#### Additional Information

For more information about BRS, [visit http://militarypay.defense.gov/BlendedRetirement/](http://militarypay.defense.gov/BlendedRetirement/) where you can download a variety of resources such as the Service Member's Guide to the BRS and the [Leader Pocket Card](#).

For further information regarding AF CP required actions, visit [https://mypers.af.mil/app/answers/detail/a\\_id/36182](https://mypers.af.mil/app/answers/detail/a_id/36182).

## Personnel Topics of Interest

- Air Force opens space training to allies, accelerates Space Acquisition ([AF.MIL](#))
- Thriving in wake of assault is focus of Air Force Academy summit ([AF.MIL](#))
- VCSAF highlights speed, innovation as keys to victory in future war ([AF.MIL](#))
- Air Force Assistance Fund begins 45th year of helping Airmen, families ([AFPC](#))

## Monthly Observances

**Sexual Assault Awareness & Prevention ([click link for additional information](#))**

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