



# COMMANDER'S CALL TOPICS

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

25 December 2017 — 5 January 2018

## Priority Topic of the Week

### Blended Retirement System Leader Engagement

- The Department of Defense will transition to the Blended Retirement System Jan. 1, 2018. 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. No one currently serving will be switched automatically to BRS.
- Active-duty Airmen with fewer than 12 years from their pay date, and Reserve Airmen who have accrued fewer than 4,320 retirement points as of Dec. 31, 2017, will have the option to opt into BRS. These Airmen are also required to take BRS Opt-In training.
  - Eligible Airmen received, or will receive, a myPers message that requires an acknowledgement and directs them to take the mandatory Opt-In training.
  - 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.
- Airmen eligible for BRS are highly encouraged to discuss their personal situations with a Personal Financial Counselor and Educator at their Airman and Family Readiness Center.
  - These counselors can walk Airmen through their options and develop a plan based upon their input, yet will refrain from advising them on a particular course of action or direction.
- 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.
- BRS information is continuously updated on [myPers](#). Click "Retirement" from any military landing page.
- For more information about BRS, visit <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](#).

## Personnel Topics of Interest

- Blended Retirement System to take effect Jan 1 ([AF.MIL](#))
- Squadron command selection list released for 2018 ([AFPC](#))
- AF internships help young professionals gain valuable experience ([AFPC](#))
- Government charge card required for AF travel ([AF.MIL](#))

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

Commander's Call Topics is published weekly by SAF/PA to ensure leaders at all levels remain current on issues concerning Airmen and families. Requests for information to be included in future editions should be sent to SAF/PAX via [email](#).

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.