

**SUMMARY OF MAJOR CHANGES TO
DOD 7000.14-R, VOLUME 7A, CHAPTER 20
“AVIATOR RETENTION BONUS”**

All changes are denoted by blue ink.

Substantive revisions are denoted by a ★ preceding the section, paragraph, table or figure that includes the revision

Hyperlinks are denoted by *underlined, bold italic font*

PARA	EXPLANATION OF CHANGE/REVISION	PURPOSE
2001 Bibliography	Extends the expiration date of aviation officer retention bonus to December 31, 2008.	UPDATE

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AVIATOR RETENTION BONUS

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CHAPTER 20

AVIATOR RETENTION BONUS★2001 ENTITLEMENT

An aviation officer, who makes a written agreement to remain on active duty in aviation service for at least 1 year, may be paid a retention bonus as provided in this chapter. The written agreement shall be executed during the period beginning January 1, 1989, and ending on [December 31, 2008](#) and accepted by the Secretary of the Military Department concerned. An aviation officer eligible under this chapter is entitled to a retention bonus in addition to any other pay and allowances to which the officer is entitled.

2002 ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

200201. To qualify for an aviation bonus under this chapter, an officer shall:

- A. Be entitled to aviation career incentive pay (ACIP);
- B. Be in a pay grade below O-7 (although the Secretary of the Military Department concerned may establish more restrictive requirements);
- C. Be qualified to perform operational flying duty; and
- D. Have completed any active duty service commitment incurred for undergraduate aviator training, or be within one year of completing such commitment.

200202. Definitions of select terms used in this chapter are as follows:

A. Aviation Service. Aviation service is service performed by an officer (except a flight surgeon or other medical officer) while holding an aeronautical rating or designation or while in training to receive an aeronautical rating or designation.

B. Operational Flying Duty. Operational flying duty is flying performed under competent orders by rated or designated members while serving in assignments in which basic flying skills normally are maintained in the performance of assigned duties as determined by the Secretary of the Military Department concerned, and flying performed by members in training that leads to the award of an aeronautical rating or designation.

2003 COMPUTATION

The amount of a retention bonus authorized under this chapter, for agreements submitted on or after October 1, 1999, may not be more than \$25,000 for each year covered by the agreement to remain on active duty.

2004 TIME OF PAYMENT

200401. The term of the written agreement and the amount of payment may be prorated so long as an agreement does not extend beyond the date on which the officer would complete 25 years of aviation service.

200402. Upon an officer's acceptance of the agreement, the total amount payable becomes fixed and may be paid either in a lump sum or in installments.

200403. If a member dies before receiving the full amount of the bonus due (including contracted future year anniversary payments) and death is not caused by the member's misconduct, the remaining unpaid bonus balance is payable as a lump sum for inclusion in the settlement of the deceased member's final military pay account. If death is determined to be the result of the member's own misconduct, termination of future payments and proration or recoupment of the bonus, as applicable, shall be made in accordance with procedures established by the cognizant Military Department for members whose inability to complete a contracted period of service is voluntary or the result of misconduct.

2005 RECOUPMENT

200501. Recoupment of the unearned portion of the bonus is required on a pro rata basis if the officer who is receiving the payment fails to complete the total period of active duty specified in the agreement, as conditions and circumstances warrant.

200502. The amount established for recoupment is, for all purposes, a debt owed to the United States.

200503. A discharge in bankruptcy under [*Title 11 United States Code*](#), which is entered less than 5 years after the termination of an agreement under this section, does not discharge the member signing such agreement from a debt arising under such agreement or under section 2001.

200504. Reduce the amount to be recouped by an amount equal to any reduction taken under subparagraphs [*350702.F or 350802.D*](#).

BIBLIOGRAPHY

CHAPTER 20 - AVIATOR RETENTION BONUS

2001 - ENTITLEMENT

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37 U.S.C. 301b(a)
Public Law 110-181, section 614(a),
January 28, 2008

2002 - ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

37 U.S.C. 301b(b)

200201

Public Law 107-107, section 616(a),
December 28, 2001

200202

37 U.S.C. 301b(j)

2003 - COMPUTATION

37 U.S.C. 301b(c)

2004 - TIME OF PAYMENT

37 U.S.C. 301b(d), (e)

200403

ASD(FMP) Memo, June 29, 1999
Public Law 106-65, section 615, October 5, 1999

2005 - RECOUPMENT

37 U.S.C. 301b(g)
Public Law 103-139, section 8127,
November 11, 1993
Public Law 103-335, section 8106A,
September 30, 1994