

Enlisted Voluntary Retired Return to Active Duty Frequently Asked Questions 28 Mar 2025

VRRAD FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q1. Who is eligible for the enlisted VRRAD Program?

A1. Retired Enlisted Airman or current Enlisted Airman with an approved retirement who voluntarily agree to return to active duty under 10 U.S.C. § 688.

Airman must be under age 58, of the enlisted grades of 5 through 8, who retired after 31 Jan 2017 to present, and medically qualified for active duty.

Q2. Why are we offering this program? How many slots does it have?

A2. The VRRAD program was approved by the SECAF for implementation to alleviate manning shortages within the Air Force. Participation is limited to no more than 1,000 retired enlisted or officer personnel ordered to active duty at any given time.

Q3. What positions are available for retired Enlisted Airman who return to active duty under VRRAD?

A3. Retired Enlisted Airman positions will be accepted on a case by case and will vary based on the current need of the AFSC manning levels.

Q4. What locations are available for Enlisted Airman who return to active duty under VRRAD?

A4. Depending on the VRRAD program, the Air Force's Personnel Center may match VRRAD participants to stateside or overseas requirements.

Airman, once assigned, may be asked to move via Permanent Change of Assignment or Station due to unit or Air Force mission changes. Those who decline such a move will voluntarily terminate their contract.

Q5. Will retired Enlisted Airman participating in VRRAD be eligible for promotion?

A5. No, Enlisted Airman participating in this return to active duty are not eligible for promotion consideration..

Q6. How do retired Enlisted Airman apply for VRRAD?

A6. Retired Enlisted Airman will determine their VRRAD application procedures by finding the closest recruiting station on <https://www.airforce.com/find-a-recruiter> . Eligibility criteria and application requirements vary amongst each AFSCs.

Q7. Will Enlisted Airman in VRRAD be required to deploy?

A8. Enlisted Airman returned under VRRAD are only deployable in a volunteer status unless assigned to a combat-coded unit.

Q9. Will VRRAD participants be required to take the Air Force Fitness Test?

A9. Yes. All Enlisted Airman returned to active duty under VRRAD will be required to meet Air Force standards to include physical fitness.

Q10. Do Enlisted Airman returned to active duty under VRRAD incur an active duty service commitment?

A10. Participation in VRRAD does not incur any additional active duty service commitment beyond the length of the extended active duty (EAD) orders.

Q11. Will Enlisted Airman in VRRAD get annual performance evaluations?

A11. Yes. VRRAD participants will have their performance documented on an Enlisted Performance Brief on the Static Closeout Date for the specific grade.

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Q12. What is the tour length for retired Enlisted Airman returned to active duty under VRRAD?

A12. Active duty tour lengths will be in accordance with DAFI 36-2110 for selected assignment but must not exceed 48 months.

Q13. Will retired Enlisted Airman participating in VRRAD receive enlisted bonuses?

A13. No. Enlisted Airman returned under VRRAD are not eligible for enlisted bonuses.

Q14. Will retired Enlisted aviation careers returned to active duty under VRRAD be eligible for flight pay?

A14. Aviation Enlisted Airman returned to active duty under VRRAD will be eligible for flight pay provided they are medically qualified for aviation service and hold a current aeronautical rating. Additionally, those selected for EAD whose aviation service has been inactive for more than 180 days will require revalidation of their aeronautical orders.

Q15. Are re-employment rights protected for retired Enlisted Airman participating in VRRAD?

A15. Yes. Service under 10 U.S.C. § 688 is exempt from the five-year window of statutorily protected re-employment rights. Participating Enlisted Airman's rights are protected, and this service does not count toward their five years of Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA).

Q16. How long will the Air Force accept applications for VRRAD?

A16. Applications will be accepted until January 2026, with no more than 1,000 retired enlisted or officer personnel ordered to active duty at any given time.

Q17. If accepted to VRRAD with an approved retirement application in the system, should the Enlisted Airman still proceed with retirement plans?

A17. Yes. Active duty Enlisted Airman accepted into VRRAD with an approved retirement application should proceed with all out-processing appointments, terminal leave and retirement ceremony. The only difference will be that instead of being retired on the first day of the month after retiring, he or she will remain on active duty.

Q18. If accepted to VRRAD will I be able to apply for the Skillbridge prior to the end of my VRRAD tour?

A18. No. Retired Enlisted Airman are not eligible to apply for Skillbridge. However, Enlisted Airman may apply to participate in Skillbridge while on active Duty prior to the start of VRRAD tour, provided they are eligible.

Q19. If accepted to VRRAD what grade will I return as?

A19. Enlisted Airman accepted into VRRAD will be returned to AD in the grade they retired.

Q20. What happens to an active duty Enlisted Airman's leave if accepted to VRRAD with an approved retirement application in the system.

A20. Active duty Enlisted Airman with an approved retirement application who apply and are accepted to VRRAD may have up to three options regarding their current leave. If they are eligible, they can sell their leave, they can take the leave and return to active duty on their first day of retirement, or they can choose to lose or forfeit their leave.

Q21. How long does the application process take before retired Enlisted Airman can return to an active duty assignment?

A21. On average, the application process takes about 140 days from application acceptance to publication of EAD orders; however, processing time can vary depending upon medical processing. Applications submitted prior to an Enlisted Airman's retirement date will process faster than those who have been retired for more than a year.

Enlisted Airman should refrain from making any binding or irrevocable commitments due to a tentative assignment selection until EAD orders are received.

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Q22. What effect does the time spent returned to active duty have on years of service for retirement for retired Enlisted Airman participating in VRRAD?

A22. Enlisted Airman will receive credit for the time served on active duty via a DD Form 214, *Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty*. The Defense Finance & Accounting Service will only adjust retired pay accordingly. The original retirement date or grade will not change.

Q23. How does participation in VRRAD affect retired Enlisted Airman's retirement pay?

A23. Retired pay stops the day before resuming active duty. Upon return to retirement, retired pay is calculated according to how long the service member served on active duty.

Q24. How do retired Enlisted Airman exiting the VRRAD program restart their retirement pay?

A24. AFPC Retirements will send the required information to the Defense Finance & Accounting Service to restart retired pay when Airman revert to retired status. For more information, visit DFAS's [Recall to Active Duty](#) web page.

Q25. Will relocation cost be authorized for VRRAD tours?

A25. Relocation costs will be authorized IAW the Joint Travel Regulations (JTR) upon initial EAD and upon separation. Relocation costs may also be authorized if members are requested to relocate due to Air Force mission needs (i.e., PCS/PCA).

Q26. Will I be eligible to apply to transfer my education benefits (TEB) participating in VRRAD?

A25. To transfer education benefits (TEB) upon returning to active duty, you must apply on the day you reenter service and be retainable for 4 years from that date. If you don't meet the retainability requirements an extension isn't allowed (except for Purple Heart recipients), you won't be eligible.