

Officer Voluntary Retired Return to Active Duty

Frequently Asked Questions

8 Feb 2024

VRRAD FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Every question listed here is also answered by the information on the VRRAD public website:

<https://www.retirees.af.mil/Library/Return-to-Active-Duty/>

Q1. Who is eligible for the officer VRRAD Program?

A1. Retired Line of the Air Force (LAF) officers or current LAF officers with an approved retirement who voluntarily agree to return to active duty. Only officers retired/retiring under 10 U.S.C. § 9311 are eligible under 10 U.S.C. § 688. Further, under the statutory provision, officers who retired/are retiring pursuant to, or in lieu of, a Selective Early Retirement Board are NOT eligible.

Officers must be under age 58, and medically qualified for active duty. In addition, rated officers must have been qualified in an Air Force aircraft within 10 years of application for flying positions.

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 officers who return to active duty under VRRAD?

A3. Retired rated officers selected for return to active duty will fill rated staff jobs and active flying staff, that do not require requalification in a major weapon system. LAF officers will primarily fill instructor positions within AU and other critical billets that would otherwise remain vacant.

Q4. What locations are available for officers 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.

Officers, 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 officers participating in VRRAD be eligible for promotion?

A5. No, officers participating in this return to active duty are not eligible for promotion consideration IAW Title 10 USC § 641 (4).

Q6. How do retired officers apply for VRRAD?

A6. VRRAD application procedures, to include detailed eligibility criteria, are located on the Air Force's Personnel Center website at <https://www.retirees.af.mil/Library/Return-to-Active-Duty/>. Eligibility criteria and application requirements vary amongst each authorized program.

Q7. Will officers in VRRAD be required to deploy?

A8. Officers 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 officers returned to active duty under VRRAD will be required to meet Air Force standards to include physical fitness.

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Q10. Do officers 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 Officers in VRRAD get annual performance evaluations?

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

Q12. What is the tour length for retired officers 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. Are officers who originally returned to active duty under previous VRRAD program eligible to apply for VRRAD ?

A13. Yes. Officers currently serving on active duty under the 2017/2018 VRRAD programs provided they are eligible in accordance with the provisions outlined on the VRRAD web page located on the Air Force Personnel Center (AFPC) public website at <https://www.retirees.af.mil/Library/Return-to-Active-Duty/>.

Q14. Will retired rated officers participating in VRRAD receive the Aviation Bonus?

A14. No. Officers returned under VRRAD are not eligible for the Aviation Bonus.

Q15. Will retired rated officers returned to active duty under VRRAD be eligible for flight pay?

A15. Officers 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.

Q16. Are re-employment rights protected for retired officers participating in VRRAD?

A16. Yes. Service under 10 U.S.C. § 688 is exempt from the five-year window of statutorily protected re-employment rights. Participating Officer's rights are protected, and this service does not count toward their five years of Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA).

Q17. How long will the Air Force accept applications for VRRAD?

A17. Applications will be accepted until 31 January 2026, with no more than 1,000 retired enlisted or officer personnel ordered to active duty at any given time.

Q18. If accepted to VRRAD with an approved retirement application in the system, should the Officer still proceed with retirement plans?

A18. Yes. Active duty officers 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.

Q19. If accepted to VRRAD will I be able to apply for the Skillbridge prior to the end of my VRRAD tour?

A19. No. Retired Officers are not eligible to apply for Skillbridge. However, officers may apply to participate in Skillbridge while on active Duty prior to the start of VRRAD tour, provided they are eligible.

Q20. If accepted to VRRAD what grade will I return as?

A20. Officers accepted into VRRAD will be returned to AD in the grade they retired.

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Q21. What happens to an active duty officer's leave if accepted to VRRAD with an approved retirement application in the system.

A21. Active duty officers 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.

Q22. How long does the application process take before retired officers can return to an active duty assignment?

A22. 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 Officer's retirement date will process faster than those who have been retired for more than a year. **Officers should refrain from making any binding or irrevocable commitments due to a tentative assignment selection until EAD orders are received.**

Q23. What effect does the time spent returned to active duty have on years of service for retirement for retired Officers participating in VRRAD?

A23. Officers 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.

Q24. How does participation in VRRAD affect retired Officer's retirement pay?

A24. 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.

Q25. How do retired officers exiting the VRRAD program restart their retirement pay?

A25. AFPC Retirements will send the required information to the Defense Finance & Accounting Service to restart retired pay when officers revert to retired status. For more information, visit DFAS's [Recall to Active Duty](#) web page.