

TRAINING AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE RESERVE  
AVIATION COMMAND RETENTION BONUS  
PROGRAM INFORMATION

1. Introduction. The Department of the Navy authorizes the Training and Administration of the Reserve (TAR) Aviation Command Retention Bonus (ACRB) to enhance retention of career-minded aviation officers. The intent of the TAR ACRB is to retain the invaluable and irreplaceable experience and skill sets of the Navy's cadre of O-5 commanding officers.

2. Contract Terms

a. The FY26 TAR ACRB offers eligible officers a total bonus of \$120K spread over three installments (three \$40K initial payments (pre-tax amount) in return for three years of obligated service.

b. If a contract is approved by PERS-46, then that officer's three-year ACRB obligation period is normally his or her 20<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> year of commissioned service.

c. The obligation shall include a full 36 month Post Command Commander (PCC) tour and will end at the completion of the officer's 22<sup>nd</sup> year of commissioned service (YCS) for those who signed a contract on or before 19 YCS or PCC tour projected rotation date (PRD), whichever is later. For those who sign a contract after 19 YCS, the obligation shall be three years from contract approval date, or PCC tour PRD, whichever is later.

d. The first installment will be issued immediately upon contract receipt and approval by PERS-46. The remaining installments will be paid on the anniversary of contract approval.

3. Eligibility

a. TAR ACRB applicants must be active duty Unrestricted Line aviators with a 1317 or 1327 designator.

b. Eligible commands are those operational, operational training, special mission and Navy Talent Acquisition Group/Reserve Talent Acquisition Group (NTAG/RTAG) commands for which the annual Aviation Commander Command Screen Board (ACCSB) selects officers to serve as commanding officer, excluding second-in-grade/sequential/bonus commands.

c. Only individuals that screened for command during the ACCSB are eligible for this ACRB program. Individuals are eligible until leaving the command for which they screened on the ACCSB.

d. ACRB applicants who are under a current Aviation Department Head Bonus obligation may apply. However, contract payment and service obligation will not commence until completion of all prior Aviation Bonus (AvB) obligations.

e. Reserve aviators (Selected Reserve or Individual Ready Reserve) who are recalled to active duty, mobilized reserve officers, and officers under Active Duty Operational Support orders are not eligible to apply for the TAR ACRB.

f. An officer who has been selected for and has accepted transfer to another community is not eligible to apply for the TAR ACRB.

g. All requirements for AvB participation delineated in SECNAVINST 7220.88 and OPNAVINST 7220.18A apply. The final determination of an officer's ACRB eligibility shall be made by PERS-46.

#### 4. Prohibitions While Under TAR ACRB Contract

##### a. Lateral Transfer/Redesignation

(1) Aviation officers obligated by an ACRB contract are not eligible to apply for a lateral transfer/re-designation board or other programs that require a change of designator until they are within 12 months of expiration of ACRB obligated service.

(2) If selected for lateral transfer, re-designation, or other programs that require a change of designator, re-designation of the officer to the new community will neither be executed, nor will the officer be released to the new community for duty, until completion of ACRB service obligation or PRD from current orders, whichever is later.

##### b. Separation/Retirement

(1) Aviation officers obligated by an ACRB contract are not eligible for separation until expiration of ACRB obligated service.

(2) Aviation officers obligated by an ACRB contract are not eligible for retirement until expiration of ACRB obligated service.

5. Repayment Policy. In order to maintain TAR ACRB eligibility while under contract, officers must remain on active duty in aviation service in their 1317 or 1327 designator and continue to meet all eligibility requirements listed in this memo, SECNAVINST 7220.88 and OPNAVINST 7220.18A. Officers who fail to fulfill the terms of the contract will be subject to the repayment stipulations delineated in the DoD FMR Volume 7A Chapter 2, SECNAVINST 7220.88, OPNAVINST 7220.18A and 37 U.S.C. 334 & 373. An individual who is detached for cause (DFC), relieved, or removed from an assigned billet for adverse reasons, is no longer eligible for the TAR ACRB. In these cases, scheduled future payments will be cancelled as of DFC date, relief date, or removal date. If ACRB eligibility is terminated for DFC or other adverse circumstances, eligibility for any future ACRB offering will not be reinstated for any reason.

## 6. Application Procedures

a. E-mail a signed copy of the TAR ACRB contract to the TAR Aviation Placement Officer LCDR Aaron Howell (PERS-46) [aaron.d.howell6.mil@us.navy.mil](mailto:aaron.d.howell6.mil@us.navy.mil)

b. Applications must be received at PERS-46 while the applicant is still eligible or the application will be rejected. The TAR ACRB constitutes a binding legal contract and will be considered binding as of contract approval date by PERS-46. As such, applicants must sign and submit the ACRB contract exactly as written in the enclosure, verbatim. Applications containing language or content deviations will be rejected. Please use the Microsoft Word template provided at:

<https://www.mynavyhr.navy.mil/Career-Management/Detailing/Officer/Pers-46-TAR/Aviation/>

c. Applications must be received by 28 August 2026.

7. PERS-46 is the program manager for all TAR AvB program execution issues to include policy, eligibility, and termination. Upon acceptance of an officer's agreement by the program manager, the amount of the bonus becomes fixed and the officer will incur a firm service obligation.

8. Adjudication. PERS-46 is the final adjudication authority for all AvB program execution issues to include policy, eligibility, contract termination, and repayment. This does not include remission of indebtedness cases. Any request for remission of indebtedness will be adjudicated by proper authority in accordance with applicable statute, Department of Defense regulations, and Department of the Navy guidance.

## 9. Point of Contact:

TAR Aviation Placement Officer:

LCDR Aaron Howell at (901) 874-4064 / DSN 882-4064

E-mail: [aaron.d.howell6.mil@us.navy.mil](mailto:aaron.d.howell6.mil@us.navy.mil)