

ing duties during the first 10 years of aviation service, 8 years of operational flying duties during the first 15 years of aviation service, or 12 years of operational flying duty during the first 20 years of aviation service. The authority of the Secretary concerned under this paragraph may not be delegated below the level of the Service Personnel Chief.

(4) If the eligibility of an eligible career enlisted flyer to continuous monthly incentive pay ceases under subsection (b)(2) or paragraph (2), the member may still receive month-to-month incentive pay for subsequent frequent and regular performance of operational flying duty. The rate payable is the same rate authorized by the Secretary concerned under subsection (d) for a member of corresponding years of aviation service.

(d) **MONTHLY MAXIMUM RATES.**—The monthly rate of any career enlisted flyer incentive pay paid under this section to a member on active duty shall be prescribed by the Secretary concerned, but may not exceed the following:

Years of aviation service	Monthly rate
4 or less	\$150
Over 4	\$225
Over 8	\$350
Over 14	\$400.

(e) **ELIGIBILITY OF RESERVE COMPONENT MEMBERS WHEN PERFORMING INACTIVE DUTY TRAINING.**—Under regulations prescribed by the Secretary concerned, when a member of a reserve component or the National Guard, who is entitled to compensation under section 206 of this title, meets the definition of eligible career enlisted flyer, the Secretary concerned may increase the member's compensation by an amount equal to $\frac{1}{30}$ of the monthly incentive pay authorized by the Secretary concerned under subsection (d) for a member of corresponding years of aviation service who is entitled to basic pay under section 204 of this title. The reserve component member may receive the increase for as long as the member is qualified for it, for each regular period of instruction or period of appropriate duty, at which the member is engaged for at least two hours, or for the performance of such other equivalent training, instruction, duty or appropriate duties, as the Secretary may prescribe under section 206(a) of this title.

(f) **RELATION TO HAZARDOUS DUTY INCENTIVE PAY OR DIVING DUTY SPECIAL PAY.**—A member receiving incentive pay under section 301(a) of this title or special pay under section 304 of this title may not be paid special pay under this section for the same period of service.

(g) **SAVE PAY PROVISION.**—If, immediately before a member receives incentive pay under this section, the member was entitled to incentive pay under section 301(a) of this title, the rate at which the member is paid incentive pay under this section shall be equal to the higher of the monthly amount applicable under subsection (d) or the rate of incentive pay the member was receiving under subsection (b) or (c)(2)(A) of section 301 of this title.

(h) **SPECIALTY CODE OF DROPSONDE SYSTEM OPERATORS.**—Within the Air Force, the Secretary

of the Air Force shall assign to members who are dropsonde system operators a specialty code that identifies such members as serving in a weather specialty.

(i) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) The term “aviation service” means participation in aerial flight performed, under regulations prescribed by the Secretary concerned, by an eligible career enlisted flyer.

(2) The term “operational flying duty” means flying performed under competent orders while serving in assignments, including an assignment as a dropsonde system operator, in which basic flying skills normally are maintained in the performance of assigned duties as determined by the Secretary concerned, and flying duty performed by members in training that leads to the award of an enlisted aviation rating or military occupational specialty designated as a career enlisted flyer rating or specialty by the Secretary concerned.

(Added Pub. L. 106-65, div. A, title VI, § 628(a)(1), Oct. 5, 1999, 113 Stat. 657.)

EFFECTIVE DATE

Pub. L. 106-65, div. A, title VI, § 628(b), Oct. 5, 1999, 113 Stat. 659, provided that: “The amendments made by subsection (a) [enacting this section] shall take effect on October 1, 1999.”

§ 321. Special pay: judge advocate continuation pay

(a) **ELIGIBLE JUDGE ADVOCATE DEFINED.**—In this section, the term “eligible judge advocate” means an officer of the armed forces on full-time active duty who—

- (1) is qualified and serving as a judge advocate, as defined in section 801 of title 10; and
- (2) has completed—

(A) the active duty service obligation incurred through the officer's original commissioning program; or

(B) in the case of an officer detailed under section 2004 of title 10 or section 470 of title 14, the active duty service obligation incurred as part of that detail.

(b) **SPECIAL PAY AUTHORIZED.**—An eligible judge advocate who executes a written agreement to remain on active duty for a period of obligated service specified in the agreement may, upon the acceptance of the agreement by the Secretary concerned, be paid continuation pay under this section. The total amount paid to an officer under one or more agreements under this section may not exceed \$60,000.

(c) **PRORATION.**—The term of an agreement under subsection (b) and the amount payable under the agreement may be prorated.

(d) **PAYMENT METHODS.**—Upon acceptance of an agreement under subsection (b) by the Secretary concerned, the total amount payable pursuant to the agreement becomes fixed. The Secretary shall prepare an implementation plan specifying the amount of each installment payment under the agreement and the times for payment of the installments.

(e) **ADDITIONAL PAY.**—Any amount paid to an officer under this section is in addition to any

other pay and allowances to which the officer is entitled.

(f) REPAYMENT.—An officer who has entered into a written agreement under subsection (b) and has received all or part of the amount payable under the agreement but who does not complete the total period of active duty specified in the agreement, shall be subject to the repayment provisions of section 303a(e) of this title.

(g) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary concerned shall prescribe regulations to carry out this section.

(Added Pub. L. 106-65, div. A, title VI, § 629(a)(1), Oct. 5, 1999, 113 Stat. 659; amended Pub. L. 109-163, div. A, title VI, § 687(b)(29), Jan. 6, 2006, 119 Stat. 3332.)

AMENDMENTS

2006—Subsec. (f). Pub. L. 109-163 amended heading and text of subsec. (f) generally, substituting provisions referring to repayment provisions of section 303a(e) for specific provisions relating to repayment required when officer fails to complete total period of agreed upon active duty.

EFFECTIVE DATE

Pub. L. 106-65, div. A, title VI, § 629(c), Oct. 5, 1999, 113 Stat. 661, provided that: “The amendments made by subsection (a) [enacting this section] shall take effect on October 1, 1999.”

SAVINGS PROVISION

For savings provision relating to payment or repayment of any bonus, incentive pay, special pay, or similar pay obligated to be paid before Apr. 1, 2006, under a provision of this section amended by section 687(b) of Pub. L. 109-163, see section 687(f) of Pub. L. 109-163, set out as a note under section 510 of Title 10, Armed Forces.

[§ 322. Renumbered § 354]

[§ 323. Renumbered § 355]

§ 324. Special pay: accession bonus for new officers in critical skills

(a) ACCESSION BONUS AUTHORIZED.—Under regulations prescribed by the Secretary concerned, a person who executes a written agreement to accept a commission or an appointment as an officer of the armed forces and serve on active duty in a designated critical officer skill for the period specified in the agreement may, upon acceptance of the agreement by the Secretary concerned, be paid an accession bonus in an amount determined by the Secretary concerned.

(b) DESIGNATION OF CRITICAL OFFICER SKILLS.—The Secretary concerned shall designate the critical officer skills for the purposes of this section. A skill may be designated as a critical officer skill for an armed force under this subsection if—

(1) in order to meet requirements of the armed force, it is critical for the armed force to have a sufficient number of officers who are qualified in that skill; and

(2) in order to mitigate a current or projected significant shortage of personnel in the armed force who are qualified in that skill, it is critical to access into that armed force in sufficient numbers persons who are qualified in that skill or are to be trained in that skill.

(c) LIMITATION ON AMOUNT OF BONUS.—The amount of an accession bonus under subsection (a) may not exceed \$60,000.

(d) PAYMENT METHOD.—Upon acceptance of a written agreement under subsection (a) by the Secretary concerned, the total amount of the accession bonus payable under the agreement becomes fixed. The agreement shall specify whether the accession bonus will be paid by the Secretary in a lump sum or installments.

(e) RELATION TO OTHER ACCESSION BONUS AUTHORITY.—An individual may not receive an accession bonus under this section and section 302d, 302h, 302j, or 312b of this title for the same period of service.

(f) REPAYMENT.—An individual who, having received all or part of the bonus under an agreement referred to in subsection (a), is not thereafter commissioned as an officer or does not commence or complete the total period of active duty service specified in the agreement shall be subject to the repayment provisions of section 303a(e) of this title.

(g) TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.—No agreement under this section may be entered into after December 31, 2012.

(Added Pub. L. 107-107, div. A, title VI, § 621(a), Dec. 28, 2001, 115 Stat. 1139; amended Pub. L. 107-314, div. A, title VI, § 614(e), title X, § 1062(c)(2), Dec. 2, 2002, 116 Stat. 2568, 2651; Pub. L. 108-136, div. A, title VI, § 614(e), 623, Nov. 24, 2003, 117 Stat. 1502, 1505; Pub. L. 108-375, div. A, title VI, § 614(f), Oct. 28, 2004, 118 Stat. 1948; Pub. L. 109-163, div. A, title VI, §§ 624(f), 687(b)(32), Jan. 6, 2006, 119 Stat. 3295, 3332; Pub. L. 109-364, div. A, title VI, § 614(f), Oct. 17, 2006, 120 Stat. 2249; Pub. L. 110-181, div. A, title VI, § 614(e), Jan. 28, 2008, 122 Stat. 149; Pub. L. 110-417, [div. A], title VI, § 614(e), Oct. 14, 2008, 122 Stat. 4485; Pub. L. 111-84, div. A, title VI, § 615(5), Oct. 28, 2009, 123 Stat. 2354; Pub. L. 111-383, div. A, title VI, § 615(5), Jan. 7, 2011, 124 Stat. 4237; Pub. L. 112-81, div. A, title VI, § 615(5), Dec. 31, 2011, 125 Stat. 1450.)

AMENDMENTS

2011—Subsec. (g). Pub. L. 112-81 substituted “December 31, 2012” for “December 31, 2011”.

Pub. L. 111-383 substituted “December 31, 2011” for “December 31, 2010”.

2009—Subsec. (g). Pub. L. 111-84 substituted “December 31, 2010” for “December 31, 2009”.

2008—Subsec. (g). Pub. L. 110-417 substituted “December 31, 2009” for “December 31, 2008”.

Pub. L. 110-181 substituted “December 31, 2008” for “December 31, 2007”.

2006—Subsec. (f). Pub. L. 109-163, § 687(b)(32), amended heading and text of subsec. (f) generally, substituting provisions referring to repayment provisions of section 303a(e) for specific provisions relating to repayment required when individual receives accession bonus payment but fails to accept commission or appointment as officer or to commence or complete agreed upon period of active duty.

Subsec. (g). Pub. L. 109-364 substituted “December 31, 2007” for “December 31, 2006”.

Pub. L. 109-163, § 624(f), substituted “December 31, 2006” for “December 31, 2005”.

2004—Subsec. (g). Pub. L. 108-375 substituted “December 31, 2005” for “December 31, 2004”.

2003—Subsecs. (a), (f)(1). Pub. L. 108-136, § 623, inserted “or an appointment” after “commission”.