



**U. S. Army Human Resources Command
Public Affairs Office
1600 Spearhead Division Avenue
Fort Knox, KY 40122
(502) 613-4416**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 3, 2011

Media Release

Revised enlisted promotion system requires Soldier input

By Master Sgt. Christina Steiner
Public Affairs Office
U.S. Army Human Resources Command
christina.steiner@conus.army.mil

FORT KNOX, Ky.– Starting May 8 Soldiers who are interested in promotion to sergeant or staff sergeant must update their promotional data for the June 1 board.

Though the revisions to the automated promotion system will affect all enlisted, it will impact sergeant and staff sergeant boards the most.

“Revisions to the semi-centralized promotion system will help the Army promote the best-qualified junior enlisted Soldiers,” said William Wright, the chief of junior enlisted promotions at the Adjutant General Directorate (TAG), U.S. Army Human Resources Command (HRC).

“It will also level the playing field by ensuring Soldiers receive points for verified data entered in the Army Training Requirements and Resources System (ATRRS) and the Electronic Military Personnel Office (eMILPO),” he said.

The revisions are designed to focus on Soldier skills and ensure fairness, Wright said. The active component will go live with an automated promotion point worksheet (DA Form 3355) May 2. The Army Reserve will adopt the automated system simultaneously but will use a revised hard copy promotion point worksheet. When automated support becomes available, the Army Reserve will replace the hard-copy DA Form 3355 with an automated version.

In order for Soldiers to receive correct promotions points under the revised system, promotable junior-enlisted Soldiers must visit their human resource or personnel specialists (S-1s), military

-MORE-

2-2-2 Promotions

personnel divisions (MPD) or unit administrators and ensure their personnel and training records are up-to-date no later than May 8.

The revisions of the semi-centralized promotions system affect several key areas. First, promotion points will be redistributed for promotion to sergeant and staff sergeant. Points calculated for sergeant focus on Soldier skills, while those for staff sergeant focus on leadership. Second, the new system eliminates commander and selection-board points. The elimination of these points does not minimize the chain of command's role in the promotions process because the chain of command must recommend the Soldier to the next grade. Third, Soldiers will only receive promotion points for completed correspondence courses instead of earning points for completion of sub-correspondence courses. Fourth, combat deployments are worth promotion points, but combat-service support deployments aren't.

Army-level enterprise systems, including ATRRS, will pull promotion data automatically to update the promotion point worksheet. These systems have been redesigned to award points based upon new criteria. The automatic feed of promotion data will reduce human-resources service-support requirements for S-1s and MPDs.

Make sure your promotion points accurately reflect creditable promotion-point data, according to chief, enlisted promotions, in the TAG at HRC. If you fail to do this and don't meet the cutoff score because of it, you won't receive an exception to policy for addition to the by-name list. Failure to update records is considered lack of due diligence and not a valid justification for an exception to policy, according to Sgt. Maj. Debra J. Sturdivant, chief, enlisted promotions, TAG.

The new promotion system is a win-win situation, Sturdivant said. It reduces paperwork, and it's faster and more accurate. The 800-point format will remain in place, and the revision of the system won't reduce the number of monthly promotions that the Army has forecast.

You may not have had the opportunity to deploy, she said. You may have taken advantage of continuing your civilian education with a nationally and regionally accredited institution to gain points. You can be promoted faster than ever, according to Sturdivant.

Don't wait to update your enlisted records brief (ERB) and personnel and training records; provide yourself the best opportunity to advance your career ... now, she added.

Send inquiries to hrc.tagd.jr.enlistedpromotions@conus.army.mil.