

Top 10 Assignment Satisfaction Key-Enlisted Module (ASK-EM) FAQs:

1. Q: What is YMAV?

YMAV stands for Year/Month Available to Move. This is the date the Soldier is projected to be available to report to a new assignment. A Soldier's YMAV is aligned to an Enlisted Manning Cycle (EMC) and was built to establish potential movement timelines for Soldiers while providing predictability to Commanders, Soldiers, and their families.

2. Q: How is the YMAV determined?

YMAV is based on several factors, such as, your DEROS, your special duty assignment tour length, any approved stabilization you may have, and when you arrived to your CONUS duty station. Most YMAVs are set to a 36 month time on station rule, with some set to 24 (like Drill Sergeants or CONUS CTC O/Cs), or 48 (for certain USASOC assignments).

3. Q: Why does my YMAV say "999912"?

It was determined First Term Soldiers would not receive a YMAV because their primary tool for reassignments would be through the use of their reenlistment options, unless they were an OCONUS Soldier. If a Soldier has a YMAV of 999912 in the ASK Website or EDAS, this is a "placeholder" value which in most cases indicates that Soldier is a first term and the YMAV will eventually be blank. EPMD is working to correct it but the system automatically gives a default of 999912 if no YMAV date has been established. Once a Soldier reenlists the first time, their career status changes and a YMAV is issued.

4. Q: Can the YMAV be adjusted or broken?

Yes. Soldiers could be placed on assignments with report dates earlier than their established YMAV in order to fill nominative and/or emerging Army priorities. Examples include DA selection (or volunteer) for Drill Sergeant, AIT Platoon Sergeant, or Detailed Recruiter. Soldiers/NCOs requiring Language Training or Voluntary/Involuntary reclassification may also PCS prior to their established YMAV.

5. Q: Is the YMAV the date the Soldier will be put on assignment?

No. In most instances a Soldier will be put on assignment 6-10 months prior to their YMAV with a report date within a 60-day window of their YMAV. Markets will occur prior to the assignment process.

6. Q: How do I know my YMAV? Where can I find out my YMAV without contacting HRC?

Soldiers can view their YMAV by logging onto the ASK website and finding it located at the top center of the web page next to the ASK logo, listed as year and month. Units can view a Soldier's YMAV via EDAS PS Screen or webEDAS.

7. Q: What is the ASK-Enlisted Module (ASK-EM)?

ASK-EM is a temporary bridge to Integrated Pay and Personnel –Army (IPPS-A) marketplace and talent management functionality. ASK-EM was built as an addition to the ASK website to allow active component SGTs(P) up to MSG (non-USASMA-select) an ability to view and rank preferences of all available assignments for their assignment cycle. Market participants will also be able to view their manager's notes on recommended assignments based on their KSBs, professional development, and promotion potential.

8. Q: How long does the ASK-EM market remain open?

With the transition to four EMCs per year beginning Calendar Year 2021, market times have increased to give market participants additional time to provide their preferences when real-world situations arise. Markets will now be open for six weeks. Market participants can make as many submissions or changes as they wish throughout the open period as long as they make their final submission before the market closes. Market participants are highly encouraged to provide preferences as failing to do so only removes their vote – they will still be considered for reassignment.

9. Q: Can I still call my branch to discuss assignments?

Absolutely! You can still receive additional details and coaching on assignments which best support your career or any other issues. Anyone with questions on YMAV or ASK-EM should contact their respective EPMD branch managers at the earliest opportunity. For website issues, try calling your branch first prior to submitting a trouble ticket request so your manager can verify if you are available for assignment in the EMC and if you have also been given access to the market.

10. Q: I have heard I will get one of my top choices. If I'm not guaranteed to get one of my top choices, how is this any better than the old system?

Transparency! Market participants will be able to see all available assignments EPMD plans to fill during their cycle. ASK-EM provides an ability for market participants to provide their preference of EMC assignments as well as an ability to see their popularity based on how the other market participants are ranking them. After the market closes, EPMD will slate against the market preferences by optimizing one of a participant's top five preferences against prioritization of market assignments to support Army Readiness. It is important to note, Soldiers with EFMP/MACP enrollment may affect how EPMD optimizes the slating outcome due to the importance and emphasis EPMD and the Army places on those programs.

Other Notes:

If you are interested in learning which EMC you are aligned to, look for the most recent ASK-EM MILPER message and compare your YMAV to the YMAVs listed for the upcoming cycles. If your YMAV is not listed, it is either expired/expiring (please contact your branch) or it is aligned to a future EMC EPMD is not yet preparing for.

ASK-EM performs optimally on computers using an Internet Explorer web browser with JavaScript enabled. If unable to access the ASK-EM tab within ASK, this does not mean there is a JavaScript issue, it likely means that Soldier or NCO is not in an open market at the time.