

Bars to Reenlistment

1. **PURPOSE:** To provide soldiers guidance on appealing a bar to re-enlistment.
2. **FACTS:**
 - a. **References:** ART 601-280 (Appealing in, "Enlisted Ranks Personnel" Update 16 at Chapter 6, p. 26).
 - b. There are dozens of reasons why a bar to re-enlistment may be put in place. AR 601-280, Paragraph 6-4 lists about twenty reasons. However, a soldier can also be barred for reasons that are not listed in that paragraph. The following are some of the reasons listed in Paragraph 6-4: untrainable soldier (soldier fails to perform basic PMOS tasks, qualify with individual weapons, or fails APFT); unsuitable soldier; soldiers who do not have on file within two months after counseling an approved family member care plan as described in AR 600-20, Chapter 5; late for formation; AWOL; losses of clothing and equipment; traffic violations; sham sick calls; failure to manage personal, marital, or family affairs; and many more.
 - c. A Soldier receiving a bar to re-enlistment has seven days from day of receipt to respond. An extension may be granted by the commander initiating the bar. The commander does not have to grant the extension. AR 601-280, Paragraph 6-5b(4).
 - d. One way to overcome a bar is to call evidence for the bar into question. AR 601-280, Paragraph 6-5a(2) provides guidance as follows:

A bar to re-enlistment procedure should not be based on generalities, approximate dates, vague places or times. It should be based on specific incidents substantiated by official remarks made at the time of each occurrence. The soldier should be counseled on each occurrence and told that all instances are made matter of official record when acts considered unworthy AR 601-280, Paragraph 6-5a(2).
 - e. A bar to re-enlistment should be served on the soldier along with any documents the commander is relying on in support of the bar. If the underlying records are not supplied along with the bar to re-enlistment the soldier should request them.
 - f. **In conclusion:** In order to submit a persuasive appeal to a bar to re-enlistment the soldier needs to have the facts. A soldier should make sure both he and the initiating commander have the facts straight by obtaining the documents supporting the bar and reviewing them to ensure they are authentic and that they actually support the commander's contentions.