



SECRETARY OF THE ARMY  
WASHINGTON

15 DEC 2017

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Army Directive 2017-38 (Termination of Temporary Early Retirement Authority)

1. References:

- a. Army Directive 2016-27 (Temporary Early Retirement Authority), 23 June 2016.
- b. Army Directive 2014-17 (Authority to Reduce Minimum Commissioned Service for Voluntary Retirement as an Officer), 17 June 2014.
- c. Memorandum, SASA, 24 Mar 2014, subject: Delegation of Authority.

2. Since 2012, temporary early retirement authority (TERA) has served as an effective tool for drawing down the Army's end strength. However, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114-328) increased Army end strength and we have ceased the drawdown. Therefore, I am terminating the use of TERA and ending the reduction in the minimum years of active commissioned service required for voluntary retirement.

3. To ensure a smooth transition in terminating the use of TERA, the following applies:

- a. Authority to approve requests for TERA from eligible Soldiers will terminate on 28 February 2018.
- b. Soldiers who are eligible must submit requests for TERA to their chain of command no later than 15 January 2018. Commanders will expedite all requests for TERA to the approval authority.
- c. Soldiers whose results from the fiscal year 2017 promotion selection board are released after 15 January 2018 must submit a request for TERA to their chain of command no later than 30 calendar days from the release of the results.
- d. Authority to approve requests for TERA from eligible Soldiers whose results from the fiscal year 2017 promotion selection board are released after 15 January 2018 will terminate 45 calendar days from receipt of the request.

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- e. A Soldier with an approved request for TERA will be retired no later than 1 September 2018. A change in the effective date of retirement beyond 1 September 2018 is not authorized.
- 4. The delegation of authority to approve requests for retirement under TERA (reference 1c) is rescinded, including any further delegations pursuant to the memorandum, effective 1 March 2018.
- 5. Army Directives 2014-17 and 2016-27 are rescinded effective 2 September 2018.
- 6. The provisions of this directive are effective immediately. This directive will be rescinded on 2 September 2018, unless earlier revoked, modified, or rescinded.
- 7. The Deputy Chief of Staff, G-1 is the proponent for this policy and will issue an Armywide message to inform the force of these changes.



Mark T. Esper

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