

## FAQ (COVID 19)

Enlisted Promotions applicable to the Regular Army (RA) and U.S. Army Reserve (USAR).

### **1. When will this suspension take place and terminate? (Both Semi-Cent & Centralized)**

Starting in May 2020, throughout the rest of FY20 (30 Sept 2020) or guidance directed by Army G1 to terminate.

### **2. How can I be eligible for the ETP for PME?**

ETP is for promotion to SSG and SFC only. Soldiers must attain a promotable status by a Centralized Board or by attending a Semi-Centralized Board. Soldiers must have completed proper DLC to have been eligible to attend either board. SM must make proper HQDA monthly cutoff score IAW their MOS.

### **3. How will Soldiers attend the Local Promotion Boards? (Semi-Cent)**

The Promotion Authority Commanders in the rank of LTC and above to determine, either of the following can take place:

- a. Virtual board
- b. Battalion Command Sergeant Major to determine, in lieu of physically conducting unit promotion boards, whether a Soldier should be integrated onto a promotion recommended list based on personal knowledge/observation
- c. Input from the Chain of Command/NCO support channel

### **4. What if my APFT expire, will I lose my eligibility status? (Semi-Cent)**

No! SM are authorized to use the last record APFT to qualify Soldiers for promotion recommendation and pin-on (to include award of promotion points) regardless of when the APFT was last administered. APFT expiration will be suspended until 30 September 2020 or unless terminated sooner.

### **5. What if my Weapons card is about to expire? (Semi-Cent)**

Weapons expiration will be suspended as it pertains to award of promotion points within the semi-centralized promotion system. Points will remain in place. Weapon's expiration will be suspended until 30 September 2020 or unless terminated sooner.

### **6. How can I get promoted if I'm unable to attend PME? (Both Semi-Cent & Centralized)**

During this period of suspension, Soldiers are eligible for promotion to the rank of SSG/E6 and SFC/E7 without regards to PME completion, provided they are otherwise fully qualified. This temporary suspension of PME does not waive the PME requirement for promotion pin-on to SGT/E5, Master Sergeant/E8, or Sergeant Major/E9. Basic Leaders Course (BLC) and Master Leaders Course (MLC) can be conducted via distance learning.

### **7. How much time do I get to complete my PME?**

Soldiers must fully qualify themselves for Promotion Consideration to the following grade by the time they reach the primary zone for their next grade, if not they are subject to HQDA BAR to continued service which must be reviewed every 3 months.

**8. Why isn't BLC suspended for promotion to SGT/E5?**

At this time, the Army plan is to continue providing training opportunities for SPC/CPL to attend BLC by means of distance learning. Army G-1 will review the status of these promotion exceptions (to include NCO readiness) every thirty day.

**9. If I'm fully qualified will I get selected before those who are not? (Both Semi-Cent & Centralized) with those on the specified list.**

Yes! Soldiers who have previously completed the requisite level of PME to fully qualify themselves for promotion to SSG/E6 or SFC/E7 will be selected for promotion pin-on before all others based on Army requirements and specified Centralized List. Soldiers must remain fully eligible (i.e., not flagged, etc.) to qualify for promotion pin-on.

**10. FY19 List... Soldiers who have completed PME will they be promoted before others on the FY19 list who have not completed PME?**

Yes. A PME-qualified Soldier is more qualified than a Soldier higher on the OML who has not been trained (STEP). Therefore, a trained Soldier who doesn't need an exception of the PME will be selected for promotion before a Soldier who has not been trained. We will promote PME-qualified Soldiers firsts (against MOS requirements) Soldiers must remain fully eligible (i.e., not flagged, etc.) to qualify for promotion pin-on.

**11. Will the cutoff scores be modified for promotion to E6/SSG?**

A COVID-19 based cutoff score for Promotion to SSG will be created to identify all otherwise fully qualified Soldiers who are being selected as a result of the suspension of PME.

**12. Will the cutoff scores be modified for promotion to E5/SGT?**

A Deployed Cutoff score for Promotion to SGT will be created.

**13. Does the ETP only apply to Soldiers who have had an ALC or SLC cancelled due to COVID-19? (Both Semi-Cent & Centralized)**

No. The ETP applies to All SGT (P) and All SSG (P) unable to attend ALC and SLC. Regardless if scheduled or unscheduled school date.

**14. Is DLC still a requirement?**

Yes. DLC is still a requirement to still be eligible for Promotion consideration. Nothing has changed.

**15. Do I still get promoted without PME if I'm deployed during this suspension? (Both Semi-Cent & Centralized)**

No. PME ETP for deployed Soldiers will NOT apply to SSG and SFC promotions. The ETP for deployed Soldiers will remain in effect for SGT and MSG promotions only.

**16. Are the ETPs for BLC for Rangers, PME for SFABs and PME for Special Operators Course still authorized? (Both Semi-Cent & Centralized)**

Yes. The ETPs for BLC for Rangers, PME for SFABs and PME for Special Operators course are still authorized during the suspension period.

**17. When will the Evaluation Boards take place and will the Criteria Change? (Centralized)**

Currently the Army has suspended the Evaluation Boards, between now and 11 May 2020. Suspended boards will be rescheduled, a MILPER Message will be released when a final date is established. Eligibility may or may not be adjusted but that will not be determined until the new board dates are finalized.

**18. Has there been any guidance in regards to DA photo's for the FY 20 MSG Evaluation board?**

The board will be advised that a missing photo, "due to this outbreak and unavailability of labs isn't to be construed as negligence on the part of a member"

**19. What does the unit need to submit in order to request the PME ETP due to COVID-19?**

No action will be needed from the unit. HRC will run the monthly promotion model for SSG and SFC promotions considering Soldiers that are fully eligible for promotion first and continue to make selections based on the Army's needs with Soldiers that do not have ALC or SLC. PPW automations personnel are preventing Soldiers from being removed from PPRL for expired APFT and point's removal for Weapons.

**20. Will monthly promotion announcements be delayed?**

Yes, most likely there will be a slight delay in identifying Soldiers for promotion selection and pin-on. HRC will do their best to accurately identify Soldiers for promotion and release that information as quickly as possible.

***Please continue to read all MILPER messages, Monitor the HRC Promotion Sites and Army G1 Memos as they will help answer all questions. Best way to contact HRC Enlisted Promotions is via mailboxes below:***

**Senior Promotion**

usarmy.knox.hrc.mbx.tagd-sr-enlisted-promotions@mail.mil

**AGR & IMA Promotions**

usarmy.knox.hrc.mbx.tagd-agr-enlisted-promotions@mail.mil

**STAB**

usarmy.knox.hrc.mbx.tagd-stab-enlisted-promotions@mail.mil

**Junior Promotions**

usarmy.knox.hrc.mbx.tagd-jr-enlisted-promotions@mail.mil