



News Release

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

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AIR FORCE RELEASES SELECT CAREER FIELDS FROM STOP-LOSS

CHARLESTON AIR FORCE BASE, S.C. – Air Force personnel officials announced an ease in the Stop-Loss program for a number of career fields Jan. 29, releasing 24 officer and 40 enlisted career fields.

Stop-Loss is a personnel program that prevents separations and retirements by involuntarily extending duty-service commitments, according to Gen. John Jumper, Air Force Chief of staff.

"Requirements for both Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Noble Eagle are evolving daily, which makes it difficult to release people from the Air Force," said Jumper.

The announcement was the result of a planned 90-day review, officials at the Pentagon said in the release. An initial 30-day review, conducted in early November, resulted in the continuation of Stop-Loss restrictions on all Air Force specialties. Subsequent reviews will take place at 60-day intervals.

A number of different factors went into the process of deciding which career fields could be released, according to the release.

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“We had to consider the balance between the active duty and the air reserve component, as well as the need to remain flexible to changing events worldwide,” said Lt. Col. Jan Middleton, chief of promotion, evaluation and separation policy at the Pentagon, in the release. “In addition, homeland defense is still being shaped and defined. So, there were a lot of factors to consider in the decision-making process,” she said.

Charleston AFB had 48 people with Dates of Separation or Retirement that are now exempt from Stop-Loss. Those people are eligible to separate or retire as of March 1, said Staff Sgt. Gerald Thompson, Retirements and Separations NCOIC.

Of 292 people here affected by Stop-Loss, the largest group is pilots and loadmasters, who are not being released right now, Holman said.

Reserve and Guard component members who are involuntarily on active duty (partial mobilization) or voluntarily on active duty in support of operations Noble Eagle or Enduring Freedom or related operations, will not be released until they return from deployment or are demobilized.

(Media interested in interviews with personnel affected by Stop-Loss should contact Capt. Krista Carlos at 963-5589 or 2nd Lt. Jennifer Andrews at 963-5537)