

Reserve Selective Continuation Fact Sheet

Air Force policy basically states that "Subject to the needs of the Air Force, fully qualified captains and majors identified for separation because of twice failing promotion to the next higher grade..." are eligible for continuation. Here are some common FAQs regarding the selective continuation process.

1. Am I eligible for continuation if I'm twice-deferred? The eligibility criteria are based on current and projected Air Force needs (manning and AFSC) and can change from board to board and year to year. Eligibility for continuation is dependent upon whether or not the candidate has met their MSO, total federal commissioned service and critical skills or AFSC. If the candidate is a captain, he/she cannot be continued beyond 20 total federal commissioned years. If the candidate is a major, he/she cannot be continued beyond 24 total federal commissioned years.

2. Will I find out if I will be offered continuation before a board convenes? The MPS/MPE is notified of tentative candidates approximately 3-4 months prior to the board convene date. However, the list is not official until AF/RE confirms manning levels, usually just prior to the board convening date.

3. How long is the continuation period? This is subject to Air Force's needs, however recent history has been 2-3 years per continuation board.

4. What is a critical skill? A "critical skill" is an AFSC identified by a Competitive Category or Corps. Typically critical skills are determined by low manning level, rated, medical/dental corps.

5. If I'm offered continuation and the period runs longer than my normal retirement date, am I required to fulfill the continuation period? As long as the officer doesn't incur other commitments that take them beyond the normal retirement date, then the individual can retire. Otherwise, the officer will be required to retire not earlier than the end of the longest commitment date.

6. If I'm twice deferred, is continuation automatic or do I have to apply? Typically, continuation boards are held immediately following a promotion board. Those individuals meeting the continuation eligibility criteria will be considered. There is no quota and all can be continued.

7. What meets the selective continuation board? The Officer Selection Record (OSR) minus the PRF and any letter written to the board. Commanders can submit a Not Qualified for Continuation recommendation as soon as he or she deems an officer not qualified for continuation.

Remember, eligibility for selective continuation is continually reviewed and changed based on Air Force needs. A group of officers continued from one promotion board may not be the same group offered continuation on the next promotion board. We stand ready to help you in any way we can, but understand we may not be able to provide you with absolute and definitive guidance.