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FRA Backs Efforts to Support ERB Sailors

The Fleet Reserve Association (FRA) is adding its support to Rep. Scott Rigell's (Va.) effort to provide retirement benefits for an additional 172 Sailors who have been cut from the Navy by last year's Enlisted Retention Boards (ERB). Nearly 3,000 Sailors have been selected to involuntarily separate from the Navy, but less than 10 percent of them qualify for retirement benefits. Only those who will complete 15 years of service before September 1, 2012, will be eligible for recently-reauthorized Temporary Early Retirement Authority (TERA) benefits.

Rigell, who represents Virginia's 2nd Congressional District and a sizable Navy population, is asking the Navy to extend the TERA retirement option for an additional year, to include those who'll hit the 15-year mark by September 30, 2013. In a recent letter to Vice Admiral Scott Van Buskirk, Chief of Naval Personnel, Rigell asks that a one-year extension be applied, so more ERB Sailors "may be eligible to apply for TERA benefits ... [and have the] opportunity to apply for the maximum benefits allowable by law."

FRA's National Executive Director Joe Barnes thanked Rigell for his effort to assist these additional Sailors who are in the senior enlisted grades of E-6 and E-7 and would benefit from the policy extension.

"Given the widespread concern throughout the Fleet regarding how the ERB process was managed, anxiety about the possibility of similar actions in the near term and the number of affected personnel, FRA believes extending the involuntary separation deadline is the right thing to do," [said Barnes in a letter to Rigell](#), who is also a member of the House Armed Services Committee. "This action would go a long way in reassuring career enlisted Sailors that the Navy understands these concerns."

About FRA

FRA is a congressionally chartered, non-profit organization representing the interests of current and former enlisted members of the U.S. Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard. In addition to its advocacy work on Capitol Hill, FRA also sponsors a national Americanism Essay Contest and assists its members with disaster relief grants. The Association also sponsors an Education Foundation that awards scholarships to deserving college students.

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