

What is a BrADSO?

A BrADSO (Branch of Choice Active Duty Service Obligation) is a contract option where a cadet commits to serve three additional years if given their branch of choice. Cadets will serve their three additional years subsequently to their initial active duty service obligation (commonly three to four years for ROTC and five years for USMA). It does not add to overall service obligation, but converts three years of Individual Ready Reserve time into Active Duty time.

How does a BrADSO help me get the branch of my choice?

Branches 'bucket' cadets into three categories: most preferred, preferred, and least preferred. The Army's officer accession system then selects a cadet's branch based upon their branch preference, commissioning source's order of merit list (OML) and the branches number of slots. The branch's OML list does not affect the cadet's selection, only the bucket they place a cadet in. ROTC cadets will only compete against fellow ROTC cadets, and USMA cadets will only complete against fellow USMA cadets.

The BrADSO system breaks the 'bucketing' system down into six categories: most preferred (BrADSO), preferred (BrADSO), most preferred, preferred, least preferred (BrADSO) and least preferred. The Army allocates branches a percentage of potential BrADSO slots (usually around 33% of total slots). These new buckets allow a cadet only preferred by a branch to jump over a cadet the branch most preferred (if the preferred cadet is willing to BrADSO).

The officer accession system and the advantages of a BrADSO can be seen in this short [video](#). Additionally, here is another [video](#) that explains how cadet and branch decisions affect a cadet's accession outcome.

Does a BrADSO increase my chances of getting Active Duty?

Yes. Prior to the current officer accession model there was a cut line on the ROTC OML and everyone below it was forcibly entered into the Guard or Reserves. The new system allows for any cadet to increase their chances of Active Duty with a BrADSO; this is especially true for cadets ranking lower on the OML. By willing to BrADSO lower OML cadets can potentially receive Active Duty by jumping over higher OML peers not willing to BrADSO.

If my OML rank is high enough to not need a BrADSO, will I still be charged the three additional years?

No. If you do not need the Branch of Choice option to get your desired branch the ADSO will not be charged.

What is Branch Detail and how does it relate to BrADSO?

Branch Detail is a program that takes Lieutenants from donor branches (Adjutant General, Engineers, Finance, Military Intelligence, Signal, Chemical) that require a large amount of captains but fewer Lieutenants, and gives them to a control branch (Infantry, Armor, Field

Artillery, Chemical, and Explosive Ordnance Disposal) that requires a large amount of Lieutenants but fewer captains. You serve your Lieutenant time in the control branch and then revert to your basic branch at Captain, typically at the completion of the basic branch Captain's Career Course.

A willingness to branch detail increases your chances of getting a branch, but it is not directly tied to BrADSO. However, it is possible to BrADSO for a branch detail; for example BrADSOing for Chemical branch detail to Explosive Ordnance Disposal.

If you have BrADSO questions, please contact the Ordnance proponency at:
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