



# Veteran Status

**Information for:**  
 Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS)  
 Teachers' Pension and Annuity Fund (TPAF)  
 Police and Firemen's Retirement System (PFRS)

**A veteran is a person who holds an honorable discharge from active military or naval service of the United States, and who served during the time periods shown in the chart below:**

WAR ERA	SERVICE DATES
World War II	September 16, 1940, to December 31, 1946
Korean Conflict	June 23, 1950, to January 31, 1955
Lebanon Crisis	July 1, 1958, to November 1, 1958
Vietnam Conflict	December 31, 1960, to May 7, 1975
Lebanon Peacekeeping Mission	September 26, 1982, to December 1, 1987
Grenada Peacekeeping Mission	October 23, 1983, to November 21, 1983
Panama Peacekeeping Mission	December 20, 1989, to January 31, 1990
Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm	August 2, 1990, to February 28, 1991
Operation Northern Watch and Operation Southern Watch	August 27, 1992, to May 1, 2003
Operation Restore Hope in Somalia	December 5, 1992, to March 31, 1994
Operations Joint Endeavor/Joint Guard — Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina	November 20, 1995, to June 20, 1998
Operation Enduring Freedom	September 11, 2001, to present
Operation Iraqi Freedom	March 19, 2003, to present

Members of the Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS) or Teachers' Pension and Annuity Fund (TPAF) who are military veterans may be entitled to special retirement benefits. Applicants to the Police and Firemen's Retirement System (PFRS) may also use these dates to request exception to the maximum age requirement for PFRS membership. This fact sheet will help you determine if you qualify for veteran status in the retirement system.

Veteran status for World War II, the Korean Conflict, or the Vietnam Conflict can be granted as long as the member had at least 90 days of continuous active military service, any part of which fell within the dates previously listed.

Service with the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC) and Women's Army Corps (WAC) qualifies for veteran status.

Any honorably discharged member of the United States Merchant Marine who served at least 90 days during World War II also qualifies for veteran status.

For veteran status during the Lebanon Crisis, Lebanon Peacekeeping Mission, the Grenada Peacekeeping Mission, the Panama Peacekeeping Mission, Operation Desert Shield/Storm, Operation Northern Watch, Operation Southern Watch, Operation Restore Hope in Somalia, Operations Joint Endeavor or Joint Guard in the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Operation Enduring Freedom, or Operation Iraqi Freedom, the member must have served at least 14

days in the country or region, or on ships patrolling in the territorial waters of these nations.

- If the military service began after the starting date of conflict, only one of the 14 days in the areas of hostility must fall within the service dates specified.
- If the member's service started prior to the beginning of the period of hostility, then the member must have served at least 14 days within the dates specified.

The full 90- or 14-day requirement for service is not required if the veteran was discharged because of a service-incurred disability.

## EXCLUSIONS

Absent Without Leave (AWOL) status must be deducted from active service. If this reduces the active service to less than the 90- or 14-day service requirement, veteran status will be denied.

Veteran status cannot be granted if an individual received a dishonorable discharge, a discharge from the draft, disenrollment from the Coast Guard Reserve, or a discharge from the Reserve with no evidence of active service in time of war.

Veteran status cannot be granted if the individual's service was:

- State Militia;
- Student Training Corps during World War II;
- In the Armed Forces of the Allies during World War II, when not a citizen of the United States at the time of that service;
- Military service during peacetime;
- Military service for training purposes. Also, courses of education and training under the Army Specialized Training Program or the Navy College Training Program where the courses

were a continuation of the individual's civilian courses and were pursued to completion;

- As a cadet or midshipman at one of the service academies; or
- Any military service performed pursuant to the provisions of Section 511(d) of Title 10, United States Code, pursuant to enlistment in the Army National Guard or as a reserve for service in the Army Reserve, Naval Reserve, Air Force Reserve, Marine Corps, or Coast Guard Reserve.

## ESTABLISHING VETERAN STATUS

Individuals wishing to establish veteran status with the retirement system should submit copies of their discharge papers (*DD Form 214*) to:

**New Jersey Department of Military  
& Veterans Affairs**  
**ATTN: DVP-VBB**  
**P.O. Box 340**  
**Trenton, NJ 08625-0340**

Since the N.J. Department of Military & Veterans Affairs also makes determinations of veteran's preference for Civil Service and property tax appeals, a note should be attached to say that the discharge is being sent for pension purposes. Include your address on the note.

If you do not have your discharge papers you should write to:

**National Personnel Records Center**  
**Military Personnel Records**  
**9700 Page Avenue**  
**St. Louis, MO 63132-5100**

You can also request your discharge papers online at: [www.archives.gov/research\\_room/vetrecs](http://www.archives.gov/research_room/vetrecs)

To obtain discharge papers for the U.S. Merchant Marine, you should write to:

**Maritime Administration (MAR-250)**  
**400 7th Street S.W., Room 7302**  
**Washington, DC 20590**

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AVAILABLE

For information on purchasing service credit for military service, see the *Purchasing Service Credit* Fact Sheet. For information on the qualifications and benefits for Veteran Retirement, see the *Retirement — How to Apply for PERS and TPAF Members* Fact Sheet on our website at: [www.nj.gov/treasury/pensions](http://www.nj.gov/treasury/pensions)

---

*This fact sheet has been produced and distributed by:*

**New Jersey Division of Pensions & Benefits**  
**P.O. Box 295, Trenton, NJ 08625-0295**

(609) 292-7524

For the hearing impaired: TRS 711 (609) 292-6683  
[www.nj.gov/treasury/pensions](http://www.nj.gov/treasury/pensions)