

Military Buy Back for Veterans

This is a benefit for all veterans with active duty military service time to receive credit for their military service time to be added to their years of civil service with the government and increases their retirement annuity.

All Veterans who qualify,

Some veterans may not be aware of a benefit and the process to get their military time added to their current time working for the government. When they were hired a DD 214 was submitted that was used to determine their leave and sick time calculations. This does not automatically add the years to your present time for retirement. There is a process they will need to adhere to in order to get the time added to their retirement years.

They are eligible to apply for up to two (2) years once they are hired with no penalty. After that point, they will be paying an additional interest charge per year on what they may owe to buy back their years. The eligible military service time is added to their retirement date immediately upon finalizing their buy back process.

The buy back process **MUST** be completed prior to filling out their retirement papers for processing. It will not be accepted after they apply for retirement and they will lose the service time. This will take approximately six months to complete. They must buy back their military service time to have it added to their civil service time (3 % for FERS and 7% for CSRS of base pay).

There have been questions about when to apply. **NOW!**

This is significant for them and any of their beneficiaries.

To begin the process:

Obtain the form for Request for Earnings (Form RI 20-97), complete the form and send to the appropriate military affiliation to receive their official calculated military time and earnings. They may want to call the military branch and they will be very helpful to assist them with their request.

When the verified completed form is returned, they will need to forward it to the designated human resources department individual that will handle the processing. The human resources department will compute the amount due for them to buyback your time.

Once the amount has been determined and they receive confirmation, they will need to make arrangements for payment by check or payroll deductions (minimum of \$25.00) to be sent to their payroll processing group. An important note is once you start your payback selection the annual penalty interest charges stop accruing.

When the payment is completed their SF 50 will be updated and you will see the Retirement SCD Date change in the leave and earnings statement.

References and forms from government resources:

Service Credit Payments for Post-'56 Military Service

(Chapter 23 of the CSRS and FERS Handbook)

<http://www.opm.gov/retire/pubs/handbook/C023.pdf>

Estimated Earnings Military Service

http://www.opm.gov/forms/pdf_fill/RI20-97.pdf

Military Deposit Election Form

http://www.opm.gov/forms/pdf_fill/opm1515.pdf

Application to Make Service Credit Payment (CSRS)

http://www.opm.gov/forms/pdf_fill/SF2803.pdf

Application to Make Service Credit Payment (FERS)

http://www.opm.gov/forms/pdf_fill/SF3108.pdf

Social Security Eligibility

<http://www.ssa.gov/pubs/10035.html>

Buy Back Military Service Organization Addresses

<http://www.dfas.mil/rapay/retirementpay/buybacktime.html>

Additional Reference pertaining to the Military Buyback Program.

Government Exec:

<http://www.govexec.com/dailyfed/0206/022406rp.htm>