

Military Buyback Post-56 Deposit (CSRS)

The Office of Personnel Management will not accept the Chronological Statement of Retirement Points, ARPC Form 249-E, or any other equivalent points forms from other military branches, as proof of active duty military service. The ARPC Form 249-E, or any other equivalent points forms, does not provide the actual to and from active duty dates, condition of service (honorable, other than honorable, etc.), lost time or type of active duty service completed. Additionally, the ARPC Form 249-E does not indicate if the duty performed was for weekend drills, yearly two week training or activation to complete required training (Basic, PLDC, BNCOC etc). In order for OPM to grant active duty military service credit under the CSRS or FERS retirement systems, the employee must provide proof of honorable service, type of active duty service and the actual to and from active duty dates. Please feel free to contact the ABC-C at (877) 276-9287 for additional guidance.

What Is Military Service? Military service for the Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) purposes is any honorable active service in the following uniformed services: Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard and after 06-30-1960, in the Commissioned Corps of the Public Health Service, and after 06-30-1961, service in the Commissioned Corps of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and its predecessor agency.

Can I Receive Credit For Service In The Military Reserves? Active duty in the various reserve components of the branches listed above is creditable for CSRS. That is, service in any reserve component is creditable when you are called for an active duty period only. Such periods include annual active duty training periods. (NOTE: when you perform annual active duty training service during which you are on military leave with pay from a civilian position, the period is credited as civilian, not military, service.)

When Is A Period Of Military Service Creditable For Retirement Purposes? A period of military service may be credited for retirement and death benefits purposes, subject to the following conditions:

- a. The military service was performed before the date of separation upon which title to an annuity is based;
- b. It was active duty;
- c. It was not included in the computation of military retired pay, or if it was included in retired pay, the retired pay was awarded based on disability incurred in combat with an enemy of the United States or caused by an instrumentality of war and incurred in the line of duty during a period of war; or granted under the provisions of Chapter 1223, Title 10, of the U.S. Code (Reserve or National Guard retirement).
- d. It was honorable service;
- e. A deposit is made for Post-56 military service. For CSRS employees, the requirements for a deposit is dependent upon whether you were first employed before 10-01-1982 or on or after 10-01-1982. The specific rules are identified below.
 - o **First Employed Before 10-01-1982:**
 - If you are eligible for Social Security Benefits at retirement or at age 62 and:

- Deposit paid. Your Post-56 military service will be credited for title (eligibility for retirement) and computation of the annuity.
- No deposit is made. Your Post-56 military service will be credited for title. If you are not eligible for Social Security at retirement, but will become eligible at age 62, your Post-56 military service will be credited for computation of your annuity until age 62. At that time the credit for Post-56 military service is eliminated. Your annuity will be re-computed by subtracting the years of Post-56 service from the total number of years of combined civilian and military service. This typically reduces the CSRS annuity by 2% for each year of Post-56 military service. For example, an employee age 55 with 30 years of combined service (4 years of which is Post-56 military service) would be eligible for retirement. However, if he/she does not make a military deposit and becomes eligible for Social Security at age 62, his/her annuity would then be recomputed and reduced by 8% (4 years x 2% = 8%). If you are eligible for Social Security at the time of retirement (normally age 62 or older), the Post-56 service will not be used in the computation of your annuity.
- If you will not be eligible for Social Security at 62 (or retirement, if later), no deposit is required and you will receive full credit for Post-56 military service with no future reduction.
- **First Employed On or After 10-01-1982:** Credit for retirement depends upon payment of the deposit alone, not on whether or not you will be eligible for Social Security benefits. You must pay the deposit to receive credit for retirement eligibility and annuity computation.

How Much Does The Military Deposit Cost? For periods of active duty service prior to 1999, the deposit equals 7% of base pay earned during the Post-56 military service. For periods of service performed during 1999, the deposit equals 7.25% of base pay. For military service performed during 2000, the deposit equals 7.4% of base pay. After 2000, the deposit is 7% of military base pay. (NOTE: Base pay does not include allowances.) If the military service falls under the provisions of the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA), the deposit is the lesser of the applicable percentages of military base pay, or the amount of the CSRS contributions you would have paid if you had worked instead of being on active military duty.

Is Interest Due On The Military Deposit? The earliest interest begins to accrue is 10-01-1986 or 2 years after you are reemployed into a CSRS position. Variable rates of interest are assessed. Click [here](#) for the interest rates. No interest is charged if you pay the deposit in full before the first interest accrual date (IAD).

How Long Do I Have To Pay The Military Deposit? The sooner you pay the deposit the less interest you will have to pay, so the sooner you pay the deposit the better. The deposit must be paid in full before your date of retirement or separation.

Will my leave Service Computation Date (SCD) be re-calculated once there is proof of a military deposit in my eOPF? Your leave SCD does not pertain to military deposits (you get credit for your military service for your leave accrual regardless if you make a military deposit or not). In order to receive additional leave accrual credit for your military service, you must provide a DD 214 or orders to your local CPAC to have your leave SCD adjusted.

Will my retirement Service Computation Date (SCD) be re-calculated once there is proof of a military deposit in my eOPF? No. Your retirement SCD will be re-computed at the time you submit a retirement application to the Army Benefits Center - Civilian. Your retirement SCD may be different from your leave SCD.

How Do I Pay The Military Deposit?

Step 1.

- a. You must complete the [RI 20-97](#), Estimated Earnings During Military Service, and mail it to the appropriate military finance center (click [here](#) for the mailing addresses), with a copy of all DD Forms 214. If you already have your estimated earnings, go to Step 2.
- b. If your military service is USERRA, you will need to specify periods of military service when you were on paid leave from your civilian position (military leave, annual leave, credit hour or compensatory time).
- c. U.S. Air Force Reservists with USERRA service will need to take the RI 20-97 to their Reserve unit to get the estimated military earnings if they had periods of paid leave during the military service, or if they are documenting the military service with certified military orders (AF Form 938 or equivalent) instead of DD form 214.
- d. If you have service with more than one branch of the military, you will need to complete a separate RI 20-97 for each and mail to the appropriate military finance office.

Step 2. Upon receipt of the estimated military earnings, complete the [SF 2803](#) and SF 2803A, Application to Make Service Credit Payment (CSRS). Mail the application along with the completed RI 20-97 and DD form 214 to the **Army Benefits Center-Civilian (ABC-C), 301 Marshall Avenue, Ft. Riley, KS 66442-5004.**

Step 3. ABC-C will receive the application, review for accuracy, calculate an estimate of the amount of the military deposit and send to DFAS. You will receive a notice from eOPF that your military deposit estimate has been uploaded into your personnel file. You can then log into eOPF to view the amount of your military deposit.

Note: National Guard employees will receive a letter from ABC-C that will include an estimate of the amount of military deposit due.

Step 4. When you receive the response from the DFAS office, you must make arrangements with DFAS to pay the deposit. If the letter is not received from DFAS, you may still begin paying the deposit when the amount of the military deposit shows in Block 20 of your Leave and Earnings Statement (LES).

Payment Options

Lump Sum Payment. Make your check payable to DFAS-CL-DSSN 8522. The check must have "Catch-62 Military Deposit" and your Social Security Number written on it. Mail to: **DFAS Cleveland Center, PO Box 99559, Cleveland, OH 44199.**

Partial Payments. This is any amount you choose but must be a minimum of \$25.00 per pay period. Follow the instructions in the paragraph above (Lump Sum Payment). Partial payments can be made along with payroll deductions.

Payroll Deductions. This is any amount you choose but must be a minimum of \$25.00 per pay period. There must be a request in writing (no particular form) submitted to your payroll office which includes the following: (1) Social Security Number; (2) name; (3) amount of deduction per pay period; (4) date to start the deduction; (5) signature. Fax the request to 1-866-401-5849.

Online Payment. Go online to <https://www.pay.gov>. In the search engine, type in 8522 and click on search. On the next page, click on the red 'Continue to the Form' button. Follow the instructions to complete the form and make your online payment for your military deposit. Under the Database dropdown, if you are Army or Army National Guard, choose OMA; if you are Air National Guard, choose CP1; and if you are DCMA, choose ZKA.

Step 5. Once your military deposit has been paid in full, you will need to request proof of payment. Contact your local Customer Service Representative (CSR) and have a Remedy sent to DFAS requesting the proof of payment. When the proof of payment is received, provide a copy to your local Civilian Personnel Advisory Center (CPAC), Human Resources Officer (HRO), or Human Resources representative, to be placed in your Official Personnel Folder (OPF).