



## Veterans' Preference Information

**Veterans' Preference** gives eligible veterans preference in appointment over many other applicants. Veterans' preference applies, to virtually all new appointments in both the competitive and excepted service. Veterans' preference does not guarantee veterans a job and it does not apply to internal agency actions such as promotions, transfers, reassignments and reinstatements.

Only veterans discharged or released from active duty in the armed forces under honorable conditions are eligible for veterans' preference. This means you must have been discharged under an honorable or general discharge.

If you are a "retired member of the armed forces" you are not included in the definition of preference eligible unless you are a disabled veteran OR you retired below the rank of major or its equivalent.

There are basically two types of preference eligibles, disabled (10 point preference eligible) and non-disabled (5 point preference eligibles).

You are a **5 point preference eligible** if your active duty service meets any of the following:

1. 180 or more consecutive days, any part of which occurred during the period beginning September 11, 2001 and ending on a future date prescribed by Presidential proclamation or law as the last date of Operation Iraqi Freedom, **OR**
2. Between August 2, 1990 and January 2, 1992, **OR**
3. 180 or more consecutive days, any part of which occurred after January 31, 1955 and before October 15, 1976.
4. In a war, campaign or expedition for which a campaign badge has been authorized or between April 28, 1952 and July 1, 1955.

You are a **10 point preference eligible** if you served at any time, and you:

1. Have a service connected disability, **OR**
2. Received a Purple Heart.

If you are not sure of your preference eligibility, visit the Department of Labor's [Veterans' Preference Advisor](#).



To learn more about veterans' preference, special veteran appointing authorities, and other veteran related topics, please visit <http://www.fedshirevets.gov>.

For more veterans' preference information click here: [Veterans' Preference Information](#).

To obtain a copy of your DD-214 from the National Archives go to <http://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records>.