



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.

You are eligible for **Sole Survivorship Preference (SSP)** if you have been granted early separation from the armed forces and you are the only surviving child in a family in which the father or mother or one or more siblings (1) served in the armed forces and (2) was killed, died as a result of wounds, accident, or disease, is in a captured or missing in action status, or is permanently 100 percent disabled or hospitalized on a continuing basis (and is not employed gainfully because of the disability or hospitalization) where (3) the death, status, or disability did not result from the intentional misconduct or willful neglect of the parent or sibling and was not incurred during a period of unauthorized absence.

Under the new sole survivorship preference, the individual (1) does not receive veterans' preference points as other preference eligibles do when the "rule of 3" is applied; (2) is entitled to be listed ahead of non-preference eligibles with the same score on an examination, or listed ahead of non-preference eligibles in the same quality category when agencies are using category rating; (3) is entitled to receive the same pass over rights as other preference eligibles; and (4) is entitled to credit experience in the armed forces to meet the qualification requirements for Federal jobs.

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 August 31, 2010 (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>.