



MWRA

Employees' Retirement System

Since July 1, 1985

MEMO TO: All Active Members of the MWRA Employees' Retirement System
RE: Military Service and Retirement Benefits
DATE: March 26, 2015

We are reminding all of our active members of their retirement rights associated with military service. If you are a veteran, or have served on active military duty since becoming a member, please ensure that the MWRA Employees' Retirement System has a copy of all of your DD214's and military orders, so that we may ensure that you have been credited with all of the benefits to which you are entitled. Please return this information to the MWRA Employees' Retirement System, 2 Griffin Way, Chelsea, MA 02150 by April 23, 2015. Thank you.

Outlined below is a general summary of the retirement laws which pertain to military service and Veteran's status:

- **Veteran's Benefit:**

If you are a veteran, upon retirement you will be entitled to \$15 a year extra for every year or fraction thereof of creditable service, up to a maximum additional benefit of \$300.00 per year. To be eligible for retirement Veteran's benefits, one must be a "veteran" as defined under MGL c4 §7, cl. 43rd as amended by the Acts of 2005, c130. See Below.

- **Veteran's Military Service Credit:**

G.L. c. 32, § 4(1)(h) grants eligible honorably-discharged veterans the right to purchase up to four years to add to their creditable service due to service in the armed forces of the United States. National Guardsman and Army Reservist who qualify as veterans may also be eligible on a pro-rated 5:1 ratio. Payment of 10% of your salary when you last became a member of a retirement system per year of creditable service purchased is required. No interest is owed on this purchase and the MWRA Employees' Retirement System allows you the option to wait until you are close to retirement to purchase this time.

- **Active Military Duty While a Member:**

When a member is called to military service and then returns to their job, they are granted creditable service for this time towards their retirement, subject to certain statutory restrictions. The military duty time "...shall not be construed to include service for more than four years unless such further period of service in excess of four years was involuntary service required by the government of the United States." (Please note that a member needs to return to work after returning from their tour of duty in order to be credited with this time). There is usually a limit of four (4) years of time that may be credited for military service towards your retirement, but if you were involuntarily called up to duty, this time can be exceeded. Again, in order to receive this time, the member must return to work.

Please contact this office for more information at 617.305.5595.

The MWRA Employees' Retirement Board thanks all of its members for their military service!

DEFINITION OF A "VETERAN"

Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 32, §1, and c. 4, §7, cl.43, you qualify as a veteran if you meet ONE of the following three requirements:

- 1) You have at least 180 days of regular active duty service and you were honorably discharged or released.
- 2) You have at least 90 days of active duty service, at least one day of which was during wartime per the chart below, and you were honorably discharged or released.

To qualify as a veteran of this conflict...	...you must have at least one day of wartime service during this period
World War II Merchant Marine	September 16, 1940 through December 21, 1946 December 7, 1941 through December 31, 1946
Korea	June 25, 1950 through January 31, 1955
Korea-Vietnam	February 1, 1955 through August 4, 1964
Vietnam	August 5, 1964 through May 7, 1975
Lebanon*	August 25, 1982 through [date to be determined]
Grenada*	October 25, 1983 through December 15, 1983
Panama*	December 20, 1989 through January 31, 1990
Persian Gulf	August 2, 1990 through [date to be determined]

*Naval and Marine DD214 must indicate Expeditionary Medal. All DD214s must specify campaign: Lebanon, Grenada and Panama.

Please note that, pursuant to M.G.L. c. 4, §7, the six months of active duty for training in the Active Reserves and the National Guard does not qualify as active service toward the minimum period listed here. If your only active duty was active duty training, you are not eligible to purchase credit for your military service.

- 3) You served in wartime and were awarded a Purple Heart or service-connected disability, regardless of whether you completed the minimum length of active duty service in the chart under (2) above. A person who has died in wartime service will also qualify as a veteran even if the minimum service requirements are not met.

Exceptions to Minimum Service Requirement

It is not necessary that an applicant have completed the minimum service for wartime or peacetime campaign if he or she served some time in the campaign and was awarded the Purple Heart, or suffered a service-connected disability, or died in the service under honorable conditions.

Training Not Considered Active Service

Active service in the armed forces as used in this clause shall not include active duty for training in the Army or Air National Guard or active duty for training as a Reservist in the Armed Forces of the United States.

Creditable Service for Active Reserve and Massachusetts National Guard

Veterans who also have Active Reserve and Massachusetts National Guard Service may receive creditable service for such guard/reserve service on a ratio of five years of such service to equal one year of creditable service, provided they have the qualifications noted above.