

VETS4VETS

FROM YOUR NFFE VETERANS COMMITTEE

Volume 3, Issue 1

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Special points of interest:

- Veterans and Social Security
- Buying Back Military Time
- DS Logon

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Veterans make up growing share of federal workforce so why is their morale faltering?

The federal government has found success onboarding veteran employees, new questions have been raised about the workplace environments veterans are encountering.

What are the root causes of these feelings?

Current and former federal employees, who are also veterans, cite a few key factors: the often-difficult transition to civilian life, in general, and federal managers' perceptions of — and misconceptions about — veterans as employees.

Veterans are used to taking charge: The transition from military to civilian, in even the most ideal circumstances, is

trying for many veterans. Most civilian jobs lack the structure and discipline of the military. Veterans may find it hard to relate to co-workers in those jobs who simply don't have the same experiences veterans have racked up on their resumes.

Friedman said he wonders whether the military is doing enough to prepare vets for the world of civilian employment, and what role that might play in the veteran discontent the survey uncovered.

"Veterans are used to a very structured environment; they're used to having their leaders mentor them and take care of them in ways that you

don't often find in the private sector and sometimes in government," he said. "They're also used to taking charge of situations — leading people. And a lot of times, those opportunities aren't there [in government]."

"If you can create a team environment for veterans, do so," Bogue said.

For the full article please visit: <http://www.federalnewsradio.com/?nid=538&sid=3576326&pi>



Military Buyback 101

It is this editor's opinion that if you are retired military it will not benefit you in the long run to sell back your military time to increase your federal retirement. I have polled several military retirees and

they all agree that it will not benefit you in the long run. However if you did not retire it may be worth selling your military time back to increase your federal retirement.

Make sure to speak with

a Human Resources Benefits Counselor and do the math both ways.

Could a military buyback towards your federal creditable service make sense for you?

Lots of Federal Employees have had prior military service. When we talk about buying back military

DS Logon



DS logon

What is a DS Logon?

.A DS Logon is a secure identity (username and password) that is used by DoD and VA self-service websites, including eBenefits, to provide identity authentication. If you are already registered in DEERS, you are eligible for a DS Logon. Once you have a DS Logon, it's valid for the rest of your life.

Your DS Logon username

will include your first name, last name, and possibly a few numbers to make it unique. You can set your own password, but it must follow strict password guidelines. Passwords expire after 150 days.

To get a DS Logon, you need to visit a VA Regional Office and verify your identity in person by a Public Contact

Representative

To find your Regional Office [click here](#).

Want to register for a DS Logon [click here](#).

Sites accepting DS Logon credential today

- TRICARE Online (TOL) <https://www.tricareonline.com/>
- TRICARE For Life Portal <https://www.tricare4u.com/>

Military Benefits



Military Buyback 101 (continued)

time in my federal retirement classes - most federal employees want to know, "Does it make sense for me?"

If you have active honorable military service that isn't already being 'used' towards a military retirement - there is a very good chance that you can 'buy' that time back

and have it count towards your federal retirement.

If you do a military buyback - it will increase the number of years in service that are used for your annuity/pension calculation. The more years you have - the larger your federal pension



How much you will have to pay to buy back your military time depends on many factors.

Please click here for full article: <http://www.plan-your-federal-retirement.com/military-buyback.html>

ATTENTION! Special Military Social Security Rate

Under certain circumstances, military veterans who served between 1940 and 2001 can be credited for **special extra earnings** for Social Security purposes.

These extra earnings may help you qualify for Social Security or increase the amount of your Social Security benefit.

Depending on the length and time frame of military service, some veterans may find that the benefit increase may be minimal.

These special extra earnings are granted for periods of active duty or active duty for training. Special extra earnings are **not** granted for inactive duty training..

The information that follows applies **only** to active duty military service earnings from 1940 through 2001. This program adds to your overall income factor and may have little affect on your actually monthly Social Security benefit, as the increased earnings does not equate to an



What is a DS Logon? (continued)

•MedRed, LLC. Access for Patients to Complete Clinician Assigned Forms Online <https://myaccess.dmdc.osd.mil/identitymanagement/authenticate.do?gotoUrl=https://myaccess.dmdc.osd.mil/opensso/SAMLAwareServlet?TARGET=https://eauth.va.gov/TBI/Portal/SignIn.aspx>

•Beneficiary Web Enrollment (BWE) <https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/appj/bwe/>
 •myDoDbenefits <http://mydodbenefits.dmdc.osd.mil/>
 •VA/DoD eBenefits portal <https://www.ebenefits.va.gov/>
 •DS Logon Self-Service website <https://myaccess.dmdc.osd.mil/>

[dsaccess/](#)
 •Health Net Federal Services <https://www.hnfs.com/>
 •Address Update <https://pki.dmdc.osd.mil/identitymanagement/logoff/address.dmdc.osd.mil/proceed.do>
 •Tramatic Brain Injury <https://pki.dmdc.osd.mil/identitymanagement/logoff/tbi.va.gov/proceed.do>



Retiree's Thoughts on Transition

Your military pension is one of the best, if not the best, pensions that exists in America today — Cost of Living Allowances (COLA) protected, income for life starting the month following your retirement. It is so valuable that there are

companies willing to "buy" your pension from you. Do not be tempted, these schemes are egregious rip-offs. Your pension is the first element of your financial plan. Another piece of advice is to use the "myPay Account" feature available on-line with

DFAS (<https://mypay.dfas.mil>) to monitor and make changes to your retirement account. Remember in almost all cases your active-duty allotments will carry right over to your retired pay account.

For the entire article please click here: <http://www.military.com/money/retirement/military-retirement/transitioning-to-military-retirement.html>

Special Military Social Security Rate (continued)

equal increase in monthly benefits.

<http://www.ssa.gov/agency/contact/>

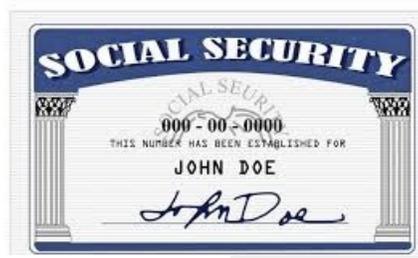
For more details visit: <http://www.military.com/benefits/veteran-benefits/special-military-social-security-rate.html>

Call the toll-free number, 1-800-772-1213.

TTY" 1-800-325-0778.

Contacting Social Security

Call or visit your local Social Security Office.





HOOAH!



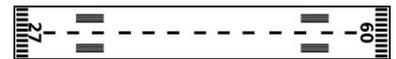
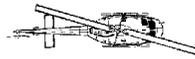
ATTITUDE

A Sense of Humor Can Help Make Even the Toughest Job Easier

You Can Find Us
On The Web At:

[http://www.nffe.org/
ht/d/sp/i/33381/
pid/33381](http://www.nffe.org/ht/d/sp/i/33381/pid/33381)

On the Glide Path?



Do you know a Veteran who deserves our recognition? Let's celebrate our fellow Veterans who are also Union brothers and sisters. Let's recognize those who've dedicated themselves to not only military uniformed service to country, but all those added years serving the civilian forces. Please submit your worthy Veteran's name and why we are celebrating them to nffevets@gmail.com

