

NEW JERSEY VETERANS PREFERENCE / DISABLED VETERANS PREFERENCE

To be eligible for Veterans preference under New Jersey Law, one must have served on active duty during one of the following periods. Proper documentation is required: WD Form 53-55, DD Form 214, Honorable Discharge Certificate, and VA Disability Award Letter if applicable.

1. World War II: 90 days active duty on or after September 16, 1940 and must have begun on or before December 31, 1946.
2. Korean Conflict: 90 days active duty on or after June 23, 1950 and must have begun on or before January 31, 1955.
3. Vietnam Conflict: 90 days active duty on or after December 31, 1960 and must have begun on or before May 7, 1975.

To be eligible for Veterans preference under New Jersey Law for the following peacekeeping missions, one must have served in Lebanon, Grenada, Panama, the Persian Gulf, Bosnia, Herzegovina, Haiti, Operation Enduring Freedom, or Operation Iraqi Freedom, or on board any ship actively engaged in patrolling the territorial waters of that nation for a period of at least 14 days beginning on or before the date of termination of that mission or operation. Proper documentation of DD Form 214, Honorable Discharge Certificate, and VA Disability Award Letter (if applicable) is required.

1. Lebanon Crisis: 14 days on or after July 1, 1958, commencing on or before November 1, 1958.
2. Lebanon: 14 days on or after September 26, 1982 and must have begun on or before December 1, 1987.
3. Grenada: 14 days on or after October 23, 1983 and must have begun on or before November 21, 1983.
4. Panama: 14 days on or after December 20, 1989 and must have begun on or before January 31, 1990.
5. Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm: 14 days on or after August 2, 1990 to February 28, 1991.
6. Somalia: 14 days on or after December 5, 1992 and must have begun on or before March 31, 1994.
7. Bosnia and Herzegovina (Operation Joint Endeavor/Operation Joint Guard): 14 days on or after November 20, 1995 and on or before June 20, 1998.
8. Haiti (Operation Uphold Democracy): 14 days on or after September 19, 1994 and on or before March 31, 1995.
9. Operations Southern and Northern Watch: 14 days on or after August 27, 1992.

10. Operation Enduring Freedom: 14 days on or after September 11, 2001.
11. Operation Iraqi Freedom: 14 days on or after March 19, 2003.

To be eligible for disabled Veterans preference, one must be a “Veteran” as described above and must have incurred a disability for which the Veteran is receiving 10 percent or greater disability compensation from the US Department of Veterans Affairs. Spouses of disabled Veterans, surviving spouses of disabled Veterans or Veterans and parents of Veterans who died in service are eligible for preference, if the Veteran would have been eligible for Veterans preference. Proper documentation is required (DD Form 214, Honorable Discharge Certificate, and VA Disability Award Letter).

NOTE: Individuals whose only active service was for training (basic training, advanced training, officer candidate school, weekend drills, and annual training) in connection with a Reserve or National Guard obligation are not eligible for Veterans’ preference.

NOTE: Merchant Marine Personnel who served in World War II, and who present a DD-214 which establishes 90 days of active service during the period noted above, are entitled to Veteran’s preference.

PL 2007, Chapter 115, S2430/A3147/A3874, signed on July 18, 2007, changes when proof of veteran status is required for civil service examinations for certain Veterans. Veterans will be able to establish Veteran preference eight days prior to list issuance.