

Military Service Credit

How to receive credit for your military service when you are vested

You may be eligible to receive up to five years of Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS) credit for your active military service in the U.S. Armed Forces, if you are vested and you were honorably discharged. PERS retirees, deferred vested members, and surviving spouses of members who had served in the armed forces, may also be eligible to receive this credit.

Members first hired under the PERS after June 30, 1986, are not eligible for PERS military credit if they are retired from regular military service and eligible for a federal benefit for the same service. Retired National Guard and Reserve Unit members may be eligible to claim active military service even though they are eligible to receive a federal retirement benefit for the same service.

Military credit does not count towards retirement eligibility; however, it is used in the calculation of your monthly benefits.

Military service also includes active service as:

1. A foreign service officer, foreign service reserve officer, or limited foreign service reserve officer with the U.S. Department of State in Vietnam, Cambodia or Laos from August 4, 1964, through November 7, 1975; and
2. A member of the U.S. Merchant Marines from December 1941, through September 30, 1945.

You may claim your military service by:

- Completing side one of the Application for Military Service Credit (form 02-1895); and
- Attaching the required military documentation.

The application and other forms are available on the Division of Retirement and Benefits website at drb.alaska.gov, by calling the Member Education Center at (800) 821-2251, or by email at doa.drb.rcsc@alaska.gov.

After your application is received and accepted, an indebtedness will be established and you may begin making payments.

The Cost

The cost for claiming military service (indebtedness) will depend on when you are first eligible (date first vested) to claim it.

Members first eligible:

- After December 31, 1986, will be charged 8.5% of their annualized vesting year salary for each year claimed.
- Before January 1, 1987, will be charged 6% of their 1976 or annualized vesting year salary, whichever is later, for each year claimed.

Interest on an indebtedness for the previously mentioned active military service under (1) and (2) begins accruing on July 1, 1987, or one year following the member's vesting date, whichever is later. For other military service, interest begins accruing on July 1, 1977, or one year following vesting, whichever is later. Seven percent interest will continue to accrue until the indebtedness is completely paid or you retire, whichever occurs first.

The total military credit that may be claimed in the PERS and Teachers' Retirement System (TRS) is five years for those persons who have served in both systems.

If you are employed by a PERS employer on the date that you are called to active military duty and you return to PERS employment within 90 days following your discharge, you are not required to pay contributions for that period of military service. You are required to contact the Division to claim this time.

Please note: Call to active duty does not count towards the five-year limit of claimed military service.

What Tier Am I?

Members who first entered a PERS position and were making contributions:

- **Tier I** – Before 7/1/86.
- **Tier II** – On or after 7/1/86, but before 7/1/96.
- **Tier III** – On or after 7/1/96, but before 7/1/06.

The information included here only applies to Tiers I, II, and III.

Alaska Division of Retirement and Benefits

6th Floor, State Office Building | 333 Willoughby Ave. | P.O. Box 110203 | Juneau, AK 99811-0203

Member Education Center

Hours: Monday-Thursday 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. | Friday 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Toll-Free: (800) 821-2251 | In Juneau: (907) 465-4460 | Fax: (907) 465-4668 | TDD: (907) 465-2805

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