

October 2014
Quarterly Issue #1



A QUARTERLY insight into
TREASURY VETERANS EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

Veteran's *focus*

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This is the first quarterly Veteran's Focus newsletter for Fiscal Year 2015. We are excited about bringing veterans relevant and pertinent information to assist with career transition needs. We look forward to serving you.

CALLING ALL VETERAN EMPLOYEES

Veterans who are disabled or who served on active duty in the Armed Forces during certain specified periods or in military campaigns are generally entitled to preference over non-veterans both in federal hiring practices and in retention during a reduction in force. Take responsibility for your benefits; verify that your veteran's preference is accurately noted in your personnel file.

Documenting Veterans' Preference

Veterans who qualify for veterans' preference will need to ensure their veterans' preference is documented in their personnel record. As a federal employee any changes or updates to your personnel record will be documented on a Standard Form (SF) 50 (Notification of Personnel Action), which is generally processed by the agency's Human Resources Office. To learn more, visit [Veterans' Preference](#).

- You can verify your Veterans' Preference, which is noted in Block 23 of the SF-50.
- If you were awarded a service-connected disability rating after you were hired, contact your Human Resources Office to update your personnel record to reflect your change in veterans' preference.

Veterans' Preference in Reduction in Force

Layoffs in the federal government are called reduction in force (RIF) actions. The RIF regulations determine whether an employee keeps his or her present position, or whether the employee has a right to a different position. Certain veterans have advantages over non-veterans in a RIF. Generally, determination of veterans' preference eligibility during a RIF are made following the rules governing preference in federal appointments except that military retirees must meet an additional condition to be considered a preference eligible for RIF purposes. Additional RIF information can be located within the Office of Personnel Management's [Reduction in Force Resources Portal](#).

- If you qualify for veterans' preference for RIF purposes, review your SF-50 to ensure the qualification is annotated in Block 26.

You can review your SF-50 in your electronic personnel record or by contacting your designated Human Resources Specialist. For additional information about your eligibility, contact your agency's Personnel or Human Resources office.

EMPLOYEE DATA			
23. Veterans Preference			
1 - None 3 - 10 Point/Disability 5 - 10 Point/Other			
2 - 5 Point 4 - 10 Point/Compensable 6 - 10 Point/Compensable/30%			
24. Tenure		25. Agency Use	
0 - None 2 - Conditional			
1 - Permanent 3 - Indefinite			
27. FEGLI		28. Annuitant Indicator	
30. Retirement Plan		31. Service Comp. Date (Leave)	
32. Work Schedule		26. Veterans Pref for RIF	
		YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>	
		29. Pay Rate Determinant	
		33. Part-Time Hours Per Biweekly Pay Period	

Excerpt of SF-50

GET THE TOOLS YOU NEED for Federal Employment Opportunities

Feds for Vets

The Department of Treasury leverages the VA for Vets (rebranded as *Feds for Vets*) online Career Center to recruit and hire veterans to its workforce. Veterans are encouraged to apply for Treasury employment opportunities on the *Feds for Vets* [Featured Jobs](#) or USAJobs.gov. In addition, Treasury utilizes the VA for Vets Resume Database for searchable veteran resumes. Upload your resume in the [VA for Vets Resume Database](#) and make your resume searchable to allow veteran recruiters to view your resume for potential employment opportunities.

The *Fed for Vets* Career Center will help you smoothly transition to a new civilian career. All of the Career Center tools work together to help you market your experience and find the career that is right for you. To begin, register for an account using your personal email address. You will need to log in to your account to use some of the tools. Follow each step indicated to prepare for a new federal career and enhance your job search.

[Learn more about Feds for Vets](#)

EDUCATION AND TRAINING Opportunities for YOU

Post 9/11 GI Bill

The Post 9/11 GI Bill is an education benefit program for individuals who served on active duty after September 10, 2001. A veteran may be eligible if the veteran served at least 90 aggregate days on active duty after September 10, 2011 or was honorably discharged from active duty for service-connected disability after serving 30 continuous days following September 10, 2011. The Post 9/11 GI Bill provides a percentage of the school tuition and fee payment, a monthly housing allowance, and a books and supplies stipend up to \$1,000 per year. Post 9/11 GI Bill can be used at colleges, universities, trade schools, on-the-job training, apprenticeships, distance learning, flight schools, and much more. For more details on other programs approved by the VA benefits, visit http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/post911_gibill.asp.



VA Releases New Version of the GI Bill Comparison Tool

On August 28, 2014, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) launched an improved version of the GI Bill Comparison Tool. The GI Bill Comparison Tool has made it easier for veterans, servicemembers, and dependents to research colleges and employers' of apprentice and training programs approved by the GI Bill. The tool provides key information about college affordability and value so beneficiaries can choose the best education program for their needs. The updated version of the GI Bill Comparison Tool has new functionality, more robust GI Bill benefits calculator, and additional information pertinent to the veteran community. The GI Bill calculator provides a personalized estimate of the Post 9/11 GI Bill tuition and its additional benefits. Get the most of your veteran education benefits; use the [GI Bill Comparison Tool](#). For more information on the news release, visit [VA News Release August 28, 2014](#).

**GOING BACK TO SCHOOL?
MAKE THE GI BILL COMPARISON TOOL YOUR FIRST STOP
ON YOUR PATH TO AN EDUCATION.**

DID YOU KNOW?

Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program

The Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program (PSLF) is intended to encourage individuals to enter and continue to work full-time in public service jobs. Under this program, you may qualify for forgiveness of the remaining balance due on your William D. Ford Direct Loan Program (Direct Loan Program) loans after you have made 120 qualifying payments on those loans while employed full-time by certain public service employers. Since you must make 120 qualifying payments on your eligible federal student loans after October 1, 2007 before you qualify for the loan forgiveness, the first forgiveness of loans balances will not be granted until October 2017. To learn more about the federal student loans eligible for forgiveness under the PSLF Program and how to apply, read the [PSLF Program Fact Sheet](#) or visit <https://studentaid.ed.gov/repay-loans/forgiveness-cancellation/charts/public-service>.

If the GI Bill didn't cover your full tuition cost; maybe PSLF Program can help.

Take Control of Your Health and Wellness: My HealtheVet



Are you registered in My HealtheVet (MHV)? MHV's goal is to empower and improve veterans' healthcare, independent of where they receive care. Its online resources and tools offer veterans greater control over their healthcare and wellness. Using MHV allows veterans to make informed decisions about their healthcare, and to access portions of online personal health records, refill prescriptions, and view VA appointments and VA lab results. My HealtheVet allows veterans to communicate with their healthcare provider through Secure Messaging. MHV provides veterans the opportunity to read their health care team's appointment notes and to use many more features at the veteran's convenience.

Thinking about visiting your VA Health Clinic? My HealtheVet could save you a trip next time you have a health inquiry. Register for a basic account or upgraded account to take advantage of this veteran benefit. Learn more at <https://www.myhealth.va.gov/index.html>.

Don't Stand in Line; Go Online.

Reduced Fare Program for People with Disabilities

Veterans who have been granted a 60% or greater disability rating by the Department of Veteran Affairs qualify for the Reduced Fare Program for People with Disabilities (Metro Disability ID/SmarTrip® card). The Metro Disability ID/SmarTrip® Card provides people with disabilities a discounted rate. The card can be used to:

- Pay the Fare when using Metrobus and Metrorail
- Buy a 7-Day regional pass
- Pay half the peak fare on Metrorail
- Pay 85¢ with cash or if paying with the Metro Disability ID/SmarTrip® on regular Metrobus routes and other regional bus services

For more information, application details, and discounted rates, visit the **Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority** - Reduced Fare Program for People with Disabilities internet site at http://www.wmata.com/accessibility/reduced_fare.cfm. Veterans outside the Washington Metropolitan Area should visit their local transit authority websites for veteran benefits.

Excellent way to reduce your work travel expenses!

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY VETERAN SPOTLIGHT



DONALD WILLAR

U.S. Navy

Quartermaster (Third Class Petty Officer (SW))

What is your background? I was born in Florida but spent most of my youth in Massachusetts. I graduated from high school in Flagler Beach, FL and soon joined the Navy. I was attached to the USS Rodney M. Davis (FFG-60) stationed in Everett, WA. I worked two years in the ship's engine room maintaining gas turbine electric and mechanical propulsion systems, and was promoted to become the vessel's chief Navigator. While working nights full time I received my Undergraduate and double Masters Degrees in fewer than 5 years. Prior to joining Treasury, I was a legislative analyst for the Florida Senate, and a sustainable energy planner for a private firm.

What is your current position at Treasury?

I'm a 2013 Presidential Management Fellow with Department Offices (DO) in the Office of Emergency Preparedness. I'm currently at work on a very challenging Lean Six Sigma project regarding the safety of our Treasury personnel overseas. Other projects include coordinating, planning, and implementing various plans to help better serve DO staff in the event of an emergency.

Why were you attracted to military service?

My grandfather was a World War II naval veteran and I fondly recall those nighttime talks at the kitchen table when he would relive his naval exploits. He had traveled extensively throughout the Pacific theatre of war and had seen areas of the world that I could only imagine. I guess I always felt a calling to serve my country and the Navy was a natural extension of this calling; I sincerely embraced the notion of giving comfort to the less fortunate among us.

What was your most memorable experience in the military?

My most memorable experience in the Navy was when I had the opportunity to help build houses for disadvantaged families in Thailand. What a rewarding deed I was offered as I worked side by side with family members who would soon occupy the home. My shipmates poured the footings for the home; we mixed the concrete, hammered the footings boxes and laid concrete for the foundation. It was hot and humid with a blazing sun that seemed to be just inches from my back, but it was so worthwhile.

How did the skills you gained in the military translate to your success as a federal employee?

Luckily for me I've had great mentors that instilled in me the qualities that underpin leadership, empathy, command of the subject matter, and sound decision making abilities. In the Navy, as in the federal government, you must possess strong communication skills. After all, leadership is the ability to clearly define the issue and the measurement tools to determine success. Being able to communicate with people from all socioeconomic backgrounds has really given me an advantage.

What hobbies do you enjoy and how do you spend your leisure time? I enjoy spending time with my friends and my family when I can. I enjoy running, wood projects, writing songs, and writing scripts.



IMAGINE YOURSELF HERE



“INFORMATION CORNER”

Veterans Preference and Special Hiring Authorities

By law (Title 5 USC, Section 2108), veterans with and without disabilities are entitled to preference over others in hiring from competitive lists of eligible applicants and may be considered for special noncompetitive appointments for which they are eligible. If you are not sure of your preference eligibility, visit the Department of Labor's [Veterans' Preference Advisor](#). Federal agencies may use "special hiring authorities" to hire individuals with disabilities outside the normal competitive hiring process, and sometimes may even be required to give preferential treatment to veterans, including disabled veterans, in making hiring decisions. For information on special hiring authorities that may apply to you, visit [Feds Hire Vets](#).



Opportunities at Treasury

For career opportunities with the Department of Treasury, visit <https://treasury.usajobs.gov/>. The link will direct you to the current job vacancies at Treasury; narrow the search by job category, location, and Treasury bureau. Remember, when applying for career opportunities on USAJOBS, attach the required documentation. Based on the job vacancy and veteran status, applicant must include transcripts, DD-214, Civil Service Preference Letter (known as VA letter), disability determination from a branch of the Armed Forces, and SF-15.

A Message from the Veterans Employment Program Office (VEPO)

The VEPO values your opinion. Let us know what you would like to see in the next quarterly Veteran's Focus. We hope the Veteran's Focus provides you with tools and resources for a smoother transition into a federal government career and provide continual support for our Treasury veteran employees. If you would like to see a colleague recognized in the Treasury Veteran Spotlight, please submit the employee's name and contact information to the VEPO. Send your recommendations and comments to vets@treasury.gov.

The VEPO maintains a veteran's email distribution list and provides job opportunities and other veteran resources on a frequent basis. If you would like to be added to the Treasury veterans mailing list, email vets@treasury.gov.

Transition to a federal government career at the Department of the Treasury

- [Read more about Careers at Treasury](#)

GET CONNECTED

If you work for the Department of the Treasury and are interested in helping with veteran recruitment activities, referring veterans for career or intern opportunities or want to find out about the Veteran Affinity group or Employee Organization in your bureau, send an e-mail to Vets@treasury.gov to get connected to your bureau's Veteran Employment Representative (VER).

Griselda V. Wallace
VETERANS EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM MANAGER
PHONE: 202.927.VETS (8387)
EMAIL: VETS@TREASURY.GOV

**NOTE: THE DEPARTMENT OF
TREASURY VETERANS EMPLOYMENT
PROGRAM OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED:**

October 13, 2014 – Columbus Day
November 11, 2014 – Veterans Day
November 27, 2014 – Thanksgiving Day
December 25, 2014 – Christmas Day
January 1, 2015 - New Year's Day

