

1: 10 Military Habits That Make Service Members Stand Out

Every year, thousands of Americans consider serving in the military. You can make the military a very rewarding growth experience if you prepare yourself before joining.

The Reserve Components of the Armed Forces are: What are the qualifications to join the Reserves and National Guard? The following are the basic requirements for joining. To enlist, you must be a U. Seventeen year olds need parental consent. Or between the ages of 17 and 59 for those with prior service PS and are able to complete 20 years of creditable service for retirement by age Pass an Armed Forces Physical Examination. Must be available for initial active duty training. Must agree to participate in an initial tour of active duty training of at least 12 weeks. Types of Status in the Reserve and National Guard. There are three categories of the Ready Reserve: If you leave a drilling National Guard unit before the end of your enlistment you will be placed in the Inactive National Guard, unless you specifically request to be placed in the Individual Ready Reserve see below. In this category you cannot drill for pay or retirement points. Likewise, you cannot take part in any annual training or be promoted. Though you are considered "inactive", you are still required to present yourself, or "muster" with your last unit once a year. Also, in the event of a full scale mobilization you could be recalled to service with that unit. Individual Ready Reserve If you enter the Reserves or Guard through the delayed entry program this is most likely the category you will fall in while awaiting basic training. If you have an enlistment that runs out after 4 years, you may also find yourself classified as Individual Ready Reserve, or IRR, in order to complete six years of total service. In the IRR, though it is not required, you can still be promoted, compile retirement points, and participate in annual training. While in the IRR you are not affiliated with any drilling unit, so it is up to you to complete any correspondence courses that may be required by your MOS for drill points. Also, it will be up to you to find a command that has funding to send you to annual training if you want to keep accruing retirement points. Postings for annual training slots open to IRR members can usually be found on the branch website or by contacting your personnel officer. There are other AGR members who serve as recruiters or instructors. This affords the opportunity to continue a military career but not have to move as often as those in the active duty. If you want to follow this path in the Navy, then you will be required to pull some sea duty as part of the Training and Administration of Reserves TAR , but when you are ashore you will be assigned to administer a reserve unit. So in a time of war or national emergency you could be called up quickly to bring your unit up to strength. You will be required to train with your active duty unit for two weeks a year. However, in addition to annual training you will be required to earn 40 extra "drill" points per year for retirement. These points can be earned through working at your unit "for points only" meaning you will not get paid , or by taking correspondence courses. All of the services have IMAs in a variety of ranks and skills, the Navy mainly uses the category for senior officer levels. Selected Reserve Units This is what most people think of when they think of the "weekend warrior". As a reservist or guardsman you will most likely fall into this category. This where you will serve "one weekend a month, two weeks a year". You will be required to complete 40 unit training assemblies or "drills," and two weeks of annual training. For the most part, drills are held once a month on weekends. During your drill you will be paid for four days work, five if the drill weekend starts on a Friday. Also be aware, with the downsized military, the Guard and Reserve are contributing more to the duties that were once performed by active duty units. So be prepared to deploy. Also, if you are in a job that directly supports an active duty unit, your drills may not fall into the "one weekend a month" category. Positions in these units drill whenever they are able, sometimes even during the week. This can be a benefit if your civilian job has irregular hours. Military Technicians These are full-time federal civilian employees who are also reservists. They are also known as "dual-status," and perform the administrative and training duties for the reserve units they serve. What makes them different from AGR personnel is that they do not qualify for active-duty military pensions. They do receive federal employee and retirement benefits and qualify for reserve military pensions. Retired Reserve Though this area may not seem pertinent to you as you enter the Reserve or Guard, we will throw it in anyway as something to aim for while you are in the "front leaning rest" position at boot camp. Following a career in

active or reserve duty, individuals are placed in what is known as the Retired Reserve while they continue to collect their military pensions and benefits. Also in this area are "gray area reservists," who are reservists who are eligible for retired pay but have not reached their 60th birthday, to enable them to begin collecting their military pension. To reach the status of Retired Reserve you must be an active duty enlisted retiree of the Army or Air Force with more than 20, but less than 30, years of combined active and inactive service. Once you hit 30 years, you are fully retired. If you are a retired enlisted member of the Navy or Marine Corps with 20, but not 30, years in, you are moved into what is called the Fleet Reserve or Fleet Marine Reserve. These categories depend on your age, physical fitness, and date of retirement from service. If you are not yet 60 years old or disabled you will be placed in Categories 1 or 2. Which category you are assigned to will depend on your physical condition and how critical your skill is. Here you are still considered eligible to be mobilized in the event of a national emergency or war. If you are a disabled veteran or over 60 years old, you are still not free from being called back to the colors. However in Category 3 your case is evaluated on an individual basis.

Standby Reserve The Standby Reserve are reservists or members of the Guard who maintain their military affiliation, but are not members of the Ready Reserve. Normally these reservists are key federal employees, such as senators, congressmen and senior agency officials. They can also be civilians in the defense industry whose employers designate them as crucial to the national security. This status allows them to maintain their rank and standing in the reserves while serving the government in other ways.

Active Status These reservists can voluntarily participate in training for retirement, but receive no pay. They are eligible for promotion, with the exception of promotion to the flag or general officer level.

Inactive Status These reservists are not authorized to participate in training for retirement points and cannot be promoted. Those who elect to be transferred to this status because of hardship or health reasons are allowed to maintain their military status because they have skills the reserve might need in the future. It takes an Act of Congress to get the Standby Reserve recalled to active duty, and then only when there are not enough Ready Reservists to do the job. It consists of ten short individual tests covering word knowledge, paragraph comprehension, arithmetic reasoning, mathematics knowledge, general science, auto and shop information, mechanical comprehension, electronics information, numerical operations and coding speed. When you take the ASVAB prior to enlisting, not only do you receive scores on each of these individual tests, but several individual test results are combined to yield three academic composite scores: Take a practice test. What are some benefits of joining? You are paid twice a month, on the 1st and 15th, every month, based on your pay grade and service requirements. You are promoted based on job knowledge, your performance, time in pay grade and service requirements. You choose your career path based on your aptitude, physical abilities, security clearance, motivation and determination. While on active duty, you will receive complete medical and dental care at no cost. While serving on active duty, you will receive additional tax-free money for Basic Allowance for Subsistence BAS, if government food facilities are not available in the area you are stationed; and a uniform allowance for enlisted personnel only to help maintain your uniform. Only your basic monthly pay is subject to Federal or State income tax. The Montgomery GI Bill will help pay for college education or vocational training. While in the Reserves or Guard, you may continue your education, and may be helped in defraying the cost of college-accredited courses. Additionally, if you are in the National Guard some states offer substantial benefits such as free tuition to state colleges or universities. To find out more on this bonus, talk to your recruiter or education officer. There are exchange and commissary privileges, temporary lodging expenses, travel, Veterans Administration home loans and more. Do I have to join another branch of service first? You do not have to join another service prior to joining the Reserve or National Guard. Do the Reserve and National Guard take people with prior service? The Reserve and National Guard accept people with prior service. What if I am not a U. Applicants must speak, write and read English fluently. Can the Reserve and National Guard help me obtain U. What if I live overseas? Regulations prohibit the forwarding of recruiting information through international mail, even to U. Use our online form to reach a recruiter electronically. How long is boot camp? Basic training, or boot camp, lasts from eight weeks to 13 weeks depending on the branch. Should I do anything before I go to boot camp? Prepare yourself for running and physical fitness training, and lots of it. How do I become an officer? The Reserve or National Guard seeks commissioned officers through

several different sources. This is on-the-job training and was designed to relieve a shortage of junior officers in the Army National Guard. An SMP cadet performs the duties of a second lieutenant under the supervision of a commissioned officer.

2: How to Prove Military Service - Documents, Forms, and Proof of Service

*Now That You're in Military Service: A Handbook for Christian Military Personnel [David Grosse] on www.enganchecubano.com *FREE* shipping on qualifying offers.*

You storm the job boards and job fairs. A more impressive candidate captured our attention, or maybe, through no fault of your own, we found someone internally or received a referral from one of our own employees. The irony is that many veterans and servicemembers have the skills and experience to make the cut, or even get the second interview, but blow it. When I talk to a recruiter about my level of entry, what would they tell me? On day one, something as basic as sending an email to a flag officer could go very sour very quickly. This is because even though I may have transferable skill sets, I lack the knowledge of industry norms and protocol experience to succeed. A senior military professional transitioning into the private sector faces the same dynamic. Just as I would have been far better informed had I spoken to a military recruiter before I left my civilian job, so should you be similarly informed before entering your last year of service. Use recruiters, headhunters, employment counselors, hiring managers, etc. In , an average of , resumes were posted on Monster each week. Essentially, for every job opening in the U. This is the challenge you face in relying on job boards as your sole method of getting a job. Are job boards still relevant? Even worse, a resume that has neither definition nor clarity is guaranteed to be placed in the trash. Your resume should be a windshield document. Click here to tweet this thought. It should contain keywords, which websites such as wordle and tagcrowd can help you identify in both job announcements and your resume. This is because your resume will most likely be filtered by Applicant Tracking Software before it even gets to a human resources screener. Find about 15 to 20 job announcements that match up with your ideal target job title. Incorporate their language into your resume and make it contextual by inserting your metrics. The actual length of your resume? It depends on your audience. Have your resume reviewed and critiqued free of charge by as many eyes as possible. Seem a bit excessive? Well, if I see misspellings and poor grammar on your resume, what will I expect from you if I need you to communicate with my clients? Your knowledge of managing your online presence lets me know how proficient you are in using technology to communicate. If you have an incomplete profile, it may communicate that you might also expect me to complete your work for you. Take the time and get your LinkedIn profile set up right. Talk about a time saver! The reality is that two out of three job seekers will get their next job using social media. What does that mean to you? It translates to lesser-qualified people using technology to their advantage to get hired. They know how to use each of the social networking sites to the maximum extent in their transition action plans. It seems to make sense that you should have no problem interviewing. Practice with someone who regularly hires or who has hired people at your level recently. Why do you need to practice? Did we make the news recently? Google News is a great way to find this out. I want you to distinguish yourself from the regular job seeker. Remind me of those things that excited you during our interview and, if there were any areas you looked vulnerable in, ease my concerns. Which industries are they in? What companies are they working for? Where are they living? What job titles do they have now? Be sure to check it out. Start volunteering to gain professional experience and seek out internships long before you sign your DD Doing an internship or volunteering will help both the employer and you determine if a position is a good fit. Additionally, due to the flood of resumes that come in for each job posting, applicants who have volunteered or performed internships will stand out well ahead of the others. Military professionals, especially senior ones, have a lot to offer our country when they hang up the uniform. The President and American companies are working hard to ensure that servicemembers and veterans have well-paying jobs with opportunities to advance. However, no one is ever guaranteed a job, and the more senior you are, the more challenging the transition can be in terms of education, credentials, certification and relevant industry experience required. Having a powerful network is essential and can open doors for you. That said, your comrades, friends and family can generally get you to the door, but it remains up to you to be fully prepared when the door is opened.

3: Military Leave - Workplace Fairness

In addition to deciding on a military service, if you have a 4-year college bachelors degree (or above), you should decide whether you want to join that service as a commissioned officer, or whether you wish to join as an enlisted member.

Can my employer require any documentation from me before reemploying me? After you have submitted an application for reemployment, your employer can request documentation to establish that: If you cannot provide satisfactory documentation because it is not readily available or does not exist, the employer still must promptly reemploy you. If after you are reemployed, however, documentation becomes available that shows that you did not meet one or more of the reemployment requirements, the employer may then terminate you. The termination would be effective as of that moment, but would not operate retroactively. If you have been absent for military service for 91 or more days, an employer may delay making retroactive pension contributions until you submit satisfactory documentation. However, contributions will still have to be made for you if you were absent for 90 or fewer days. Another Federal law 5 U. About 40 states have similar laws for state and local government employees. Of course, your employer may voluntarily pay you or choose to supplement the difference between your military and civilian salary, but this is not legally required. If an employee is exempt from the Fair Labor Standards Act FLSA overtime rules, the employer is not permitted to make a deduction for a part of a pay period missed because of temporary military leave. For more information, see our overtime exemptions page. What kind of notice am I required to give my employer to take military leave? The law requires all employees to provide their employers with advance notice of military service, but does not specify a particular length for the notice period. Circumstances arise, especially in a mobilization scenario, when you may have very little advance notice from military authorities. Notice may be either written or oral; a copy of their military orders is not required by the law. Notice may be provided by the employee or by an appropriate officer of the branch of the military in which the employee will be serving. However, no notice is required if: The Department of Defense strongly recommends advance notice to civilian employers be provided at least 30 days prior to departure for uniformed service when it is feasible to do so. I have accumulated vacation leave. Does that affect how much military leave I can have? Employees are entitled to earned vacation or leave in addition to time off to perform military service. However, if you request it, you must be permitted to use any vacation that had accrued before the beginning of your military service instead of unpaid leave. I started my current job six months ago. Am I entitled to take military leave? As long as you meet the eligibility requirements described in question 5 above the duration of your employment does not affect your protection under the law, unless your employer can show the job was held for a brief, nonrecurrent period with no reasonable expectation of continuing for a significant period. Even if your job was temporary, and not permanent, you still may qualify for protection if you had a reasonable expectation that the job would continue for a significant period. I am a manager at my company. As long as you meet the eligibility requirements described in question 5 above the nature of your job or job title does not affect your protection under the law. I am a government employee. As long as you meet the eligibility requirements described in question 5 above , the law specifically protects employees of the state or federal government. I am a teacher with three months of leave in the summer. Can I take military leave during the winter? As long as you meet the eligibility requirements described in question 5 above , you may take leave whenever you have been activated for military service. Do I have to tell my employer in advance? You do not have to tell your employer in advance about your intentions, and by doing so, could waive certain rights and benefits that would otherwise accumulate in your absence. If, prior to leaving for military service, you knowingly provide clear written notice of your intent not to return to work after military service, you waive entitlement to leave-of-absence rights and benefits not based on seniority. At the time of providing the notice, you must be aware of the specific rights and benefits to be lost. If you lack that awareness, or are otherwise coerced into giving notice, the waiver will be ineffective. Your notice of intent not to return can only waive leave-of-absence rights and benefits. Providing your employer with this notice does not surrender other rights and benefits that you would be entitled to under the law, particularly reemployment rights. This means that

even if you have given notice, your employer is still obligated to reemploy you upon your return if you change your mind and want to return. During my job interview, I was asked about whether my Guard unit was likely to be activated soon, and was told that since the company was a small business, it was a hassle to have reservists on the payroll. Can the company refuse to hire me due to my membership in the Guard? The law protects from discrimination past members, current members, and persons who apply to be a member of any of the branches of the uniformed services or to perform service in the uniformed services. Hiring a Guardsman or a Reservist makes good business sense. These are disciplined and skilled workers who display pride, leadership, responsibility, and professionalism in what they do. They understand the mission of their civilian jobs and make it a priority to get results, all while displaying a strong work ethic. Service members often possess advanced skills, certifications and education and are more valuable employees and service members and an essential element in sustaining the All-Volunteer Force in the future. The United States benefits from the contributions of those willing to depart the comforts of home to answer the call of duty. Our service members carry out missions compatible with training, mobilization readiness, humanitarian and contingency operations here in the United States as well as in many countries all over the world. Support at home helps them focus on those missions. You may wish to re-emphasize these points in any follow-up conversations you have with the employer. If the employer refuses to hire you, with no other apparent reason for doing so, it may be necessary to pursue a complaint against your employer. My tour of duty is complete. How do I notify my employer so that I can start working again? Once you have completed your service obligation, there is a time limit by which you must report back to your employer. The time limit is generally based upon the duration of your military service. Service of 1 to 30 days, or reporting back from a fitness-for-service examination: You must report to your employer by the beginning of the first regularly scheduled work period that begins on the next calendar day following completion of service, after allowance for safe travel home from the military duty location and an 8-hour rest period. For example, an employer cannot require a service member who returns home at But the employer can require the employee to report for the 6: If, due to no fault of your own, timely reporting back to work would be impossible or unreasonable, you must report back to work as soon as possible. Service of 31 to 90 days: You must submit an application for reemployment no later than 14 days after you complete your military service. If it is impossible or unreasonable through no fault of your own for you to submit a timely application, you must submit an application as soon as possible. Service of 91 or more days: You must submit an application for reemployment no later than 90 days after after you complete your military service. Disability incurred or aggravated. The reporting or application deadlines are extended for up to two years for persons who are hospitalized or convalescing because of a disability incurred or aggravated during the period of military service. I have been on active duty for two years, and am anxious to start working again. Do I have to wait the full 90 days before starting to work again? The 90 days belong to you, not the employer. If you are anxious to get back on the payroll as quickly as possible, you should submit your application for reemployment right away. If you need time to readjust to civilian life, you should wait to submit your application. Once you apply, you are in effect saying that you are ready, willing, and able to return to work. Do not submit the application until that is the case, unless your reporting deadline is expiring. I left for service. Now, I am back from service, and I want my job back. However, experts recommend that returning employees make explicit written applications for reemployment. Here are some sample letters: How long does my employer have to reemploy me? Reinstatement after weekend National Guard duty will generally be the next regularly scheduled working day. On the other hand, if you are seeking reinstatement after five years on active duty, the employer might first need to give notice to an incumbent employee who has occupied the position in your absence, and who might possibly have to vacate that position. However, absent unusual circumstances, the employer must reemploy you within two weeks of your application for reemployment. Do I lose my right to reemployment? For example, if you were one day late in reporting back to work, and if the usual sanction for one day of unexcused absence is a two-week suspension without pay, you would be entitled to the job but would be subject to the two-week suspension. When my friend in the Reserves was activated, I took over his old position. Then I was activated too. Who gets the job back? If two or more persons are entitled to reemployment in the same position, the following reemployment scheme applies: The person who first left the

position has the superior right to it. The person without the superior right is entitled to employment with full seniority in any other position that provides similar status and pay in the order of priority under the reemployment scheme otherwise applicable to such person. So your friend, who left the position first, has the right to be reemployed in the old position, while you are entitled to any other position with similar status and pay. What should I do if my military leave request is denied? You are only required to give your employer notice, not to obtain permission. Your employer has no right to veto the timing, frequency, duration, or any other aspect of leave, and cannot require you to rearrange your schedule or find a replacement. If the timing is a problem, your employer may wish to contact your Commanding Officer. Rescheduling must be kept to a minimum.

4: Congratulations on Your Military Service! 9 Reasons I Won't Hire You!

Rather than use that as an excuse to bar women from combat roles, the military must find ways to more effectively train women for front-line combat and other warfare scenarios that female service members have routinely faced in Iraq and Afghanistan in recent years.

What does the Bible say about a Christian serving in the military? The Bible contains plenty of information about serving in the military. The Bible does not specifically state whether or not someone should serve in the military. At the same time, Christians can rest assured that being a soldier is highly respected throughout the Scriptures and know that such service is consistent with a biblical worldview. Here we see armed forces engaged in a noble task—rescuing and protecting the innocent. Late in its history, the nation of Israel developed a standing army. The sense that God was the Divine Warrior and would protect His people regardless of their military strength may have been a reason why Israel was slow to develop an army. The development of a regular standing army in Israel came only after a strong, centralized political system had been developed by Saul, David, and Solomon. Saul was the first to form a permanent army 1 Samuel What Saul began, David continued. He increased the army, brought in hired troops from other regions who were loyal to him alone 2 Samuel Under David, Israel also became more aggressive in its offensive military policies, absorbing neighboring states like Ammon 2 Samuel David established a system of rotating troops with twelve groups of 24, men serving one month of the year 1 Chronicles The standing army continued though divided along with the kingdom after the death of Solomon until B. In the New Testament, Jesus marveled when a Roman centurion an officer in charge of one hundred soldiers approached Him. Jesus did not denounce his career. Many centurions mentioned in the New Testament are praised as Christians, God-fearers, and men of good character Matthew 8: The places and the titles may have changed, but our armed forces should be just as valued as the centurions of the Bible. The position of soldier was highly respected. The Bible also uses military terms to describe being strong in the Lord by putting on the whole armor of God Ephesians 6: Yes, the Bible does address serving in the military, directly and indirectly. The Christian men and women who serve their country with character, dignity, and honor can rest assured that the civic duty they perform is condoned and respected by our sovereign God. Those who honorably serve in the military deserve our respect and gratitude.

5: Need to prove you're a soldier? Here's a tool to do it - News - Stripes

Congratulations on Your Military Service Now Here Are 9 Reasons Why I Won't Hire You So, you've decided to hang up the uniform after years of distinguished service to our great nation.

Despite the multiple pockets on your spouses uniform, service members are not allowed to keep their hands in their pockets. You might not cause them to break the rule, but you can help by keeping an eye out to remind them. Military personnel are not allowed to hold hands while in uniform. Males may escort women or help the elderly, but affectionate hand holding is a no-no. Your spouse is required to keep his or her right hand empty in order to salute at any time. That means your spouse may need some assistance when carrying heavy loads. Walking Walking is not a complicated task, but service members in uniform have to pay special attention to a few rules. Service members are not supposed to eat or drink anything while they are walking. When you are walking somewhere with your spouse, be sure to walk on their left side. Otherwise you may get in the way when they need to salute. Other Tidbits Some rules are not always clear or enforced, while others are more of community-enforced guidelines. Here are some to consider: There is a lot of variation when it comes to the regulations of smoking. Be sure to learn the protocol of your area. It may be considered unprofessional for your spouse to chew gum in uniform. Your spouse may get in trouble if photos of you or others are seen wearing their uniform. It may also be considered disrespectful for spouses to wear PTs. There is still debate over the umbrella rule across the different branches. Often, uniformed members are not allowed to carry an umbrella. In some cases, females are allowed to carry one as long as it is solid black. What do you think of these rules? Leave us a comment.

6: How to Obtain Military W-2 Tax Forms

A military discharge means that you are being released from your obligation to continue service in the armed forces and that you are relieved from any future military service obligations or recalls. Once again, these early discharges are rare.

You can make the military a very rewarding growth experience if you prepare yourself before joining. Here are the top ten things you need to understand and consider while you prepare to meet with a recruiter:

Self-motivation Joining the Military is nearly always a life defining decision. Make sure you can articulate the basis of your desire to join and then be confident in your decision to meet with a recruiter. This training is rooted in Education, Tradition and yes, physical strength, stamina and in some cases, skill, such as swimming. All services have specific minimum requirements, but just know that this minimum represents a tough starting point for Recruits. Consider getting into shape now, as many weeks before joining as possible.

Personal Initiative Taking the initiative is a skill you will be taught when in the military, but you can start practicing now. Research important things about your future profession. Learn about current events around the world – they affect your potential assignment. Read stories about missions involving all services. Consider what you want to be when you enlist. Plan Your Recruiter Visit Call to make an appointment to meet face to face. Prepare questions ahead of time. Know what you need to bring and what you want to do in the military before visiting. Anticipate what you will need: SSN card, birth certificate, other IDs, transcripts from high school and college, to name a few examples to consider.

Gather Medical Records The military will screen you medically, but if you have any prior surgeries, broken bones, or major illnesses, they need to know about it and file the proper paperwork as some of these may require medical waivers. Yes, you may be able to get a waiver. Know the ailments that are disqualifying – check here for more info. Make copies of all your records when you submit them. Your score on this test can determine where you will live and what you will be doing in the military. You will undergo a background investigation to ensure there are no disqualifying events in your history. Criminal behavior is a typical disqualifier. An omission on your part may be detrimental to progressing further due to a perceived character issue. A successful stint in the Military depends heavily on trust. A Higher Discipline A successful stint in the Military depends heavily on trust, but it relies on discipline. That discipline starts in earnest the minute a recruit arrives at Basic Training. A higher discipline requires acceptance that all feedback is positive and the key to achieving the personal discipline necessary to succeed in the Military. Learning to be led is the most important lesson in learning to lead. See the World Often, enlisting in the Military takes the newly minted Soldier, Sailor, Airman or Marine far from family, loved ones and their geographical roots. It means that you will have travel and professional experiences that will shape the way you see the world, at a very early age. The military experience will shape your life through the development of self-reliance and relationships that sometimes last a lifetime. You will learn how to react quickly to high stress situations, and you will rely on your training to help others through traumatic events. There are many educational opportunities available in the military from occupational training courses to full college tuition paid in undergraduate and graduate programs. Choosing the military as a career also has its benefits retirement and medical and challenges. Do your homework before seeing a recruiter. This is your future profession and possibly even your career. It is your life – make it a good one. Need More Tips on Joining the Military?

7: What You Should Know Before You Join the Military | www.enganchecubano.com

Types of Military Service View transcript 2nd Lt. Amanda Morgan: The best thing that I've gotten out of my experience with the National Guard, and the Military in general, is just the discipline and the responsibility that I've learned from it.

They are well deserved and hard earned. But veterans must prove military service before they are eligible for the various benefits programs. These requirements are in place to protect those who have earned these benefits, and prevent others from taking these limited resources from those who have earned them. How to Tell if Someone Served in the Military I recently received the following question from a reader who works as a volunteer at a Veterans organization: I work as a volunteer for homeless veterans. This is a very nice apartment facility located near the VA. I have been talking to veterans about a few particular people that were allowed to live in the community. My understanding is, to qualify for housing you must have a DD Form and honorably discharged. Some felonies are waived. However, this individual has only a letter from a comrade. The service dismissed this member only 2 days into basic training. The member living among veterans explains their inability to apply for the DD because their service was as a Reservist. My suspicion is the veterans living in this facility have discovered a fraudulent military person. I have further concerns about this. The resident has appeared on television documentaries and taken several donations from the public, all under the umbrella of homeless veterans. Moreover, he is living in a federally subsidized house. In summary, my questions are: How can you find out if someone is lying about their military service? What type of record would a Reservist have? What follows are different official and unofficial ways to prove military service. Each government or veterans organization should have a list of acceptable forms or proof of service requirements. Our goal is to help veterans prove their service. Every active duty member is issued a DD Form when they separate from the military a DD Form is a corrected version of a DD Form , and should also be accepted as a valid record of service. Additionally, there are times when a service member may not have a DD Form , which we will cover later in this article. It may be possible for the veteran to get help obtaining this document from someone at your organization, at the VA, or another veterans organization. Former National Guard members may also have other forms of proof of service, such as a discharge paperwork from their state. But the NGB Form 22 is the generally accepted form for proof of service. These military records should be available through a military records request. This is the first place to look for military service records, unless the individual serve prior to WWI, or was recently separated from the military. Most military records requests are limited to the member or next of kin. However, members of the general public can often request proof of military service through the Freedom of Information Act. This will give the requester access to limited military service records, but not access to the entire information file. That said, the records available to the general public will include name, rank, branch of service, dates of service, and some more info " certainly enough to prove military service. Very old and very recent records may not be in the Archives. Additionally, hundreds of thousands of records were destroyed in the Fire of more on both of these situations later in the article. This information is helpful for anyone doing research, genealogical studies, tracing family roots, or other needs. Records for service members who recently separated or retired may not yet have been transferred to the National Archives. These records are usually maintained from years at the personnel or human resources division for each respective branch of service before being sent for permanent storage at the National Archives: Military Records Destroyed in the National Archives Fire of There was a major fire at the Archives in that permanently destroyed military records for hundreds of thousands of veterans. Most of the affected records were limited to Army and Air Force records. Personnel discharged November 1, to January 1, Estimated loss: Personnel discharged September 25, to January 1, with names alphabetically after Hubbard, James E. Everything after those dates should still exist in the National Archives, unless they are still being maintained by the respective branch of service. Here is more information about the National Archives Fire: Recovery efforts to reconstruct damaged records. But it may not be impossible. Some people may be able to prove their military service from payroll or tax records, copies of old military service documents, orders, copies of military awards or decorations , photos in uniform, written statements from those they served with,

newspaper clippings, old military records from their previous base, unit, or other organization, old state records if they served in the National Guard, or through other means. Not all of these methods would apply to everyone, and not all of them are easy or possible to obtain. I suggest contacting the National Archives to see if they have other methods or ideas that may prove fruitful to your cause. These are the forms usually required for applying for veterans benefits through the Department of Veterans Affairs and other official benefits. For example, you cannot apply for the GI Bill, VA Loan Certificate of Eligibility , VA health care, veterans burial benefits , or other major military veterans benefits without one of these forms. There are other ways veterans can prove they served, and in many cases, a less formal method should be sufficient. Here are a few common methods veterans can use to verify military service:

8: 11 In Uniform Rules Every Military Spouse Should Know

Once you leave the military then you're formally considered a vet and able to apply for benefits from the Veterans Administration. It doesn't mean you can't thank him for his service especially if he is deployed overseas because he's at least a veteran of that conflict.

You may improve this article , discuss the issue on the talk page , or create a new article , as appropriate. November Learn how and when to remove this template message Arguments against inclusion[edit] There are arguments against the inclusion of transgender people in military service based on the view that being transgender is a mental illness , and as such transgender individuals are unfit for service. This is especially pertinent in post sex-reassignment surgery individuals who are unsatisfied with the results; in such cases severe depression is prevalent. Possible complications arising from estrogen and testosterone therapies include an increased risk of thromboembolic disease , myocardial infarction , breast cancer , fertility problems, stroke , abnormal liver function, renal disease , endometrial cancer , and osteoporosis. A further argument is that in order to have an effective, smooth-running military, there must be cohesion within the unit. It is argued that transgender individuals would have a negative impact on unit cohesion. But this argument neglects to deal with the question of what kinds of structural accommodations might be needed to maintain morale and unit cohesion in such situations. Military service forces members into very intimate living quarters. Requiring members to live in situations that make them feel disconcerted and uncomfortable may result in their performance being undermined. The costs alone of allowing transgender people to serve counts heavily against inclusion. It has been recognized by some academics that the inclusion of all LGBT personnel in the military is more than a mere human rights issue, it is argued that for militaries to survive in the twenty-first century diversity is critical. Where being transgender was once considered a paraphilic disorder , the current Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders places being transgender in a separate chapter, terming the condition gender dysphoria. It is argued that militaries that exclude transgender people on grounds of mental illness, whose policies pathologize gender dysphoria, are at odds with the current medical understanding. This argument requires that transgender personnel be treated by the same level of medical care as all other personnel, in accordance with established medical practice. Often cited are factors such as a supposed predisposition of transgender individuals to problems such as depression, anxiety, and suicidal thoughts; this is countered by the prevalence of these same issues in the LGB community, yet in many countries their service is not excluded. For example, militaries often allow hormone treatments for an array of reasons and conditions, besides gender dysphoria; a common hormone treatment being contraceptive. Furthermore, the often cited risks of cross hormone treatment are rare, [16] and not likely to cause any significant issues to the military. Rohall, and Michael D. Matthews presented the American military academy, Reserve Officers Training Corps, and civilian undergraduates with a survey to assess the general attitude on the prospect of the transgender community serving in the U. After statistical analysis, In regards to productivity, Finally, on the subject of visibility, Overall, based on this study one year prior to the ban, the majority of the people that participated in the survey showed overwhelming support towards the inclusion of the transgender community in the United States military. The policy of inclusion was reportedly still in effect in He further stated that he will "be ruthless in ridding the army of people who cannot live up to its values". One service member was whipsawed by initially positive reception in the military, later overruled after a civilian court decision. In , a transgender Adjutant in the French Air Force who had already served 18 years as a man, returned to her unit in Nancy as a woman after a sick leave. Her superiors took stock of the situation, and provided the necessary uniforms and military papers with her new name. The Commissioner for Human Rights of the European Council said that a transgender person "seeking to have their gender identity legally recognized should not be forced to submit to sterilization or to any other medical treatment. Meanwhile, she discovered that the name on her pay stub reverted to her old name, that the military supplement that women service members receive for feminine undergarments had been removed, and that the military was even going to dock her pay for the supplement she received while serving two years as a woman. New military identity

cards listed the subsection of the law dictating this exemption. This practice of identifying transgender individuals put them at risk of physical abuse and discrimination. Although there is no specific reference to transgender people in the New Zealand statute, it has been held by the Solicitor General that protections for transgender people did in fact come under the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act under the sex discrimination provision. Overwatch provides peer support and networking within the defence force to the GLBTI community, both in uniform and out. The organisation also offers education and guidance to command and commanders. All males must show up for the military conscription event on draft day, and kathoeyes are not exempt from this requirement. It is possible for kathoeyes to get an exemption certificate that will allow them to avoid service, but they must still attend, in order to present the document and be dismissed. As a result, on draft day, lines of people awaiting processing may include transgender women in makeup and feminine attire, waiting along with the male draftees. Contrary to the wide impression of acceptance of transgender women in Thailand, many complain about being treated as second-class citizens, and of the stress of being undressed or publicly humiliated. While gay, lesbian, and bisexual service members were allowed to serve openly since , transgender service members risked discharge if they did not pass as their assigned sex. This required that service members conceal their gender identities throughout service. The letter stated that if implemented, the ban "would cause significant disruptions, deprive the military of mission-critical talent and compromise the integrity of transgender troops who would be forced to live a lie, as well as non-transgender peers who would be forced to choose between reporting their comrades or disobeying policy". Trump , but did not address whether federal funds should be used to pay for sex reassignment surgery for service members. The patient, an infantry soldier who is a transwoman, had already begun a course of treatment for gender reassignment. The procedure, which the treating doctor deemed medically necessary, was performed on 14 November at a private hospital, since US military hospitals lack the requisite surgical expertise. However, the Pentagon said they would comply with the court decision until it is reversed. Trump Western District of Washington on 13 April , when the court ruled that the memorandum essentially repeated the same issues as its predecessor order from , that transgender service members and transgender individuals as a class were a protected class entitled to strict scrutiny of adverse laws or at worst, a quasi-suspect class , and ordered that matter continue to a full trial hearing on the legality of the proposed policy.

9: Now That You're Off Duty, We're At Your Service - Knollwood Community

Military benefits are incredibly valuable. They are well deserved and hard earned. But veterans must prove military service before they are eligible for the various benefits programs. These requirements are in place to protect those who have earned these benefits, and prevent others from taking.

For several years, I was a soldier-medical in the US Army. I saw countless military and family members. Now I am a veteran looking back. Source Disclosure Before I begin listing and explaining my points, I want to make it clear that this article is not meant to be disrespectful or insulting to any branch of the military. You can walk around it as many times as you want, maybe even kick the tires. But remember, tires can be changed. You have to look under the hood. If you want to make the right decision about purchasing a car or pursuing a military career, you have to do your homework. This article will help you do that. Take a look at it after you read this one. I know there are many female service members, and I am proud to have served alongside them. Thank you for understanding. The truth is that identity theft is rampant for service members, veterans, and their families. Throughout your entire military career, it will be used so often, and on so much paperwork, that you will get numb to it. It will even be on your dog tags! There are so many people in the military that the quickest, easiest way to identify each individual is to do so by number. Every form you fill out provides another opportunity for a criminal to get your name, SSN, and date of birth. In minutes, you can become an identity theft casualty. Sometimes, large numbers of soldiers are robbed of their personal information all at once. Why would criminals go for a single target when they can take advantage of millions of hardworking, taxpaying Americans all at once? Do any of these government employees get thrown in prison? If anyone has that one figured out, please post your answer in the comment section below. Nowadays, a soldier must fight on two fronts to protect both his country and his identity. Prevention and swift action in the event of identity theft are typically the only ways of addressing this issue. The Identity Theft Resource Center has a lot of information available to specifically help servicemen and veterans navigate identity theft issues because this kind of violation is an unfortunate possibility for people in the military. But still, people who think of the army as an adult daycare facility are out there making life for other soldiers far worse and sometimes more dangerous. Even though the army does have benefits that help soldiers and families throughout their lives, these benefits are not available anywhere else, so it makes sense for civilians to join the military to get them. In fact, if you serve, I highly recommend that you get involved in all the beneficiary programs you can. Doing so will enable you to be a better soldier now and a better civilian afterwards. However, this kind of attitude usually leads to a sub-par performance. An irresponsible soldier might get out of shape, forget minute but important parts of certain procedures, not take inspections seriously, and so on. If one soldier is lax about his responsibilities, then everyone else on the team will have a larger load to bear as a result. My friend, the days of Beetle Bailey are over. I must warn you that the language is rough, but every word of it is true. Every soldier has experienced at least seven of these roles at some point during his military career. I will not re-write what the article says, but I will tell you that every soldier can, at any moment, become: A person who bears the brunt of complaints, but can do nothing to help. A person who will face sleep deprivation and irregular hours. A person who does a job that everyone makes fun of. A person who performs endless tasks with mindless repetition. The rat in a cage: A manager responsible for those he has no authority over. A highly-specialized job that is impossible to explain. The article is hilarious. This is because war never sleeps. Those who think otherwise have another thing coming. This can easily happen at night, and it can easily make no sense to you. No matter what your rank or specialization, the army can wake you up at hrs and make you guard a port-o-potty in the middle of nowhere, thousands of miles from any national security threat. The only items you might have to protect yourself will be a broom and a canteen. That fact came as a shock to me. When you go on vacation, you are expected to fill out a lot more paperwork than you would at a typical company in the private sector. In case of a national emergency, the army has to know where you are so it can summon you if they need you. Even if you are far from your base, you may be contacted to report to a closer one. The people who love to sell their beliefs wrapped in a flag with a pretty yellow ribbon on top will be

annoyed to see that their rights to free speech are tossed right out the window. Still, the army seems to favor Christianity. As a Christian myself, I never did take it personally. However, many other soldiers who identify as Jewish, Muslim, atheist, etc. There is even a non-profit Military Religious Freedom Foundation that fights for the religious equality of American soldiers in the U. Think that was a joke? Later, when my mother was pregnant with my brother, my father decided not to re-enlist. By then, he had saved enough to start his own business. He did so and never looked back. Decisions like this are terrifying to make. Who do you turn your back on: Although military marriages are no more likely to end in divorce than civilian marriages, they are faced with unique challenges that not every couple is prepared for. For example, a military spouse is not as likely to find a career. An article called *How Military Marriage Screws Up Your Career* sheds light on many of the ways that military spouses can struggle professionally. An army wife understands that her soldier can be deployed at any time. During this time, she holds down the fort. It takes a very special woman to be an army wife. Supportive resources on military bases are there to help spouses and families, but they are usually overwhelmed by the number of people they serve. Just remember that when you join, so does your family. **You Will Be Broke** In the service, nobody gets rich. A person may join for the bonus or to pay off student loans. These are definitely great benefits. Also, the military pays for housing, food, medical fees, and so on. Furthermore, bases have gyms and recreational facilities. So what causes soldiers to end up broke? All the aforementioned benefits are real, but the actual take-home pay is low. Unfortunately there are many reasons why a military family may live in poverty. Oddly enough, many people actually believe that poverty in the military is a myth. Poverty in the military is very real, and the possibility of being broke after enlisting is something to heavily consider. You can always join the military and try to strike it rich if you want to try to prove me wrong about this. Make yourself a snack: Then make some more. These eggs are actually for you. It was heartbreaking, right? Throwing away those perfectly fine eggs? The military throws away a lot of food every day. The real punishment is that you will end up seeing a lot of food getting thrown out, and it will be hard to witness all the wastefulness. Perfectly good food that nobody has eaten must be thrown away to prevent food poisoning. Can you throw away a whole chocolate cake that no one has touched? How about a tub of ice cream? Can you do it again and again? You will if you sign up for the military! Even the most profitable companies on earth throw things away. Sometimes it takes too much time and effort to save little things like staples, paperclips, or attack helicopters. Sometimes it takes too much time and effort to bring home thousands of perfectly functioning assault rifles. This practice gives people jobs to do, so technically, everyone wins! Well, except for the taxpayers.

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