

ATTENTION: OAPFF MEMBERS WITH MILITARY SERVICE WHILE AN ACTIVE MEMBER OF FD

GRANTING OF SERVICE TIME

If a member served in the military while an active member of the FD, it is not automatically counted as service time. With the SB340 changes beginning July 1st, 2013, particularly the 15 year service time deadline, it is important that the member request this time be counted as pension service credit ASAP, **preferably by the first week of June.**

However, there are some important points in the granting of military service time. One year of military service time may not be one year of pensionable service credit. It all depends on the deployment (by order), time actually served (some members may take a few weeks of "home time" before deploying or after), and if the discharge was honorable.

Importantly, it is the member's responsibility to notify OPF upon their return, not the employer's. The employer will begin payroll reporting when the member returns to work and receives pay. The employer does not know the status of the member's military career. This leads to the question if the employer must pay the employer contribution while the member is away - the answer is no. The employer is responsible for the employer's share (employee does not have to pay anything to OPF) of actual time served. Thus, the proper military records reviewed by OPF after the member returns. The employer is then billed for the proper amount. The employer must pay OPF their portion of the pension's contribution. This amount is equal to that which would have been paid had one continued police or fire employment during the period of military service.

Therefore, to qualify for the granting of service credit for military service that interrupts full-time police or fire service, ***the MEMBER must:***

- 1) Apply for reinstatement with the police or fire department where they worked within 90 days of the military discharge;
- 2) Forward a copy of the DD214 or other military papers with an entry date, discharge date, and a honorable characterization of one's military service to OPF;
- 3) Sign and return the "*Member's Certification for Military Service Credit Grants*" form (available on OPF website or request via phone).

Again, once this is done, and the proper time reconciled, the employer is then billed and the proper service time granted.