

VETERANS' PREFERENCE INFORMATION

The Okaloosa County Board of County Commissioners, in accordance with Chapter 295 of the Florida Statutes dealing with Veteran's Preference, provides preference in employment and retention to those veterans who were honorably discharged who fall in categories 1, 4, or 6 or to the spouses of veterans who fall in categories 2, 3, or 5 as identified below.

STATUS OF PREFERENCE

- 1) Honorably discharged disabled Veteran who has a service connected, compensable disability.
- 2) The spouse of a totally disabled Veteran, who because of this disability cannot qualify for employment.
- 3) The spouse of any person missing in action, captured in the line of duty or forcibly detained.
- 4) A Veteran of any war who served during a wartime era. "**Wartime era**" includes:
 - a) **World War II:** December 7, 1941 to December 31, 1946;
 - b) **Korean Conflict:** June 27, 1950 to January 31, 1955;
 - c) **Vietnam Era:** February 28, 1961 to May 7, 1975;
 - d) **Persian Gulf War:** August 2, 1990 to January 2, 1992;
 - e) **Operation Enduring Freedom:** October 7, 2001 to date to be determined;
 - f) **Operation Iraqi Freedom:** March 19, 2003 to date to be determined.
- 5) The unmarried widow or widower of a Veteran who died of a service connected disability;
- 6) A Veteran of U.S. Combat Campaigns or Expeditions that qualify for preference as defined by law (possesses Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal – AFEM).

Should you qualify for the preference under any category and wish to assert it, please **state the status of your preference (one of the above listed categories) on the application for employment in the military section. Documentation (DD214 or comparable documentation substantiating your claim) MUST BE FURNISHED AT THE TIME OF APPLICATION TO BE ELIGIBLE. Please mail, fax, or bring in the documentation immediately after submitting your application for employment. If claiming preference due to disability, a letter that is less than one year old from the Veteran's Administration stating disability percentage must be submitted in addition to the DD214.**

If you qualify for the Veteran's Preference, the county will give you special consideration at each step of the employment selection process. For positions where a score exam is the sole employment criteria, applicants qualifying under categories 1, 2, or 3 and passing the exam shall be given a 10% increase in their score. If the applicant qualifies under categories 4, 5, or 6 and passes the exam, 5% will be added to his or her passing score.

Should the position for which you are applying be filled by someone who does not qualify for Veteran's Preference and you feel that proper consideration of the Veteran's Preference law has not been provided to you by the county, or that the county has not complied with the Veteran's Preference rules, please contact the Okaloosa County Human Resources Department at (850) 689-5870 or via e-mail at hinfo@co.okaloosa.fl.us.

You also have a right to initiate an investigation by the Florida Division of Veteran's Affairs. You may do so by notifying the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs, Division of Benefits and Assistance, P.O. Box 31003, St. Petersburg, FL 33731 within 21 calendar days from the date you receive notice that you were not selected for the position.