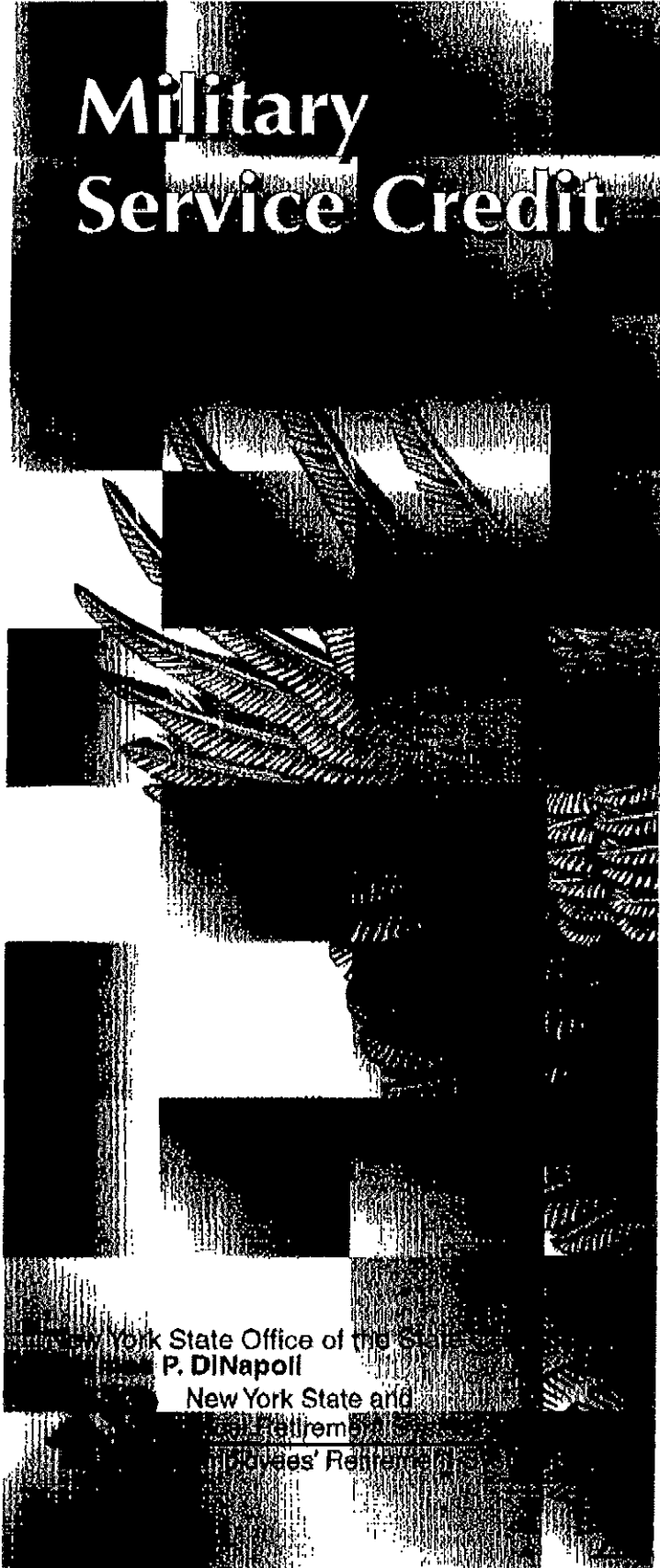


Military Service Credit



New York State Office of the State Comptroller
P. DiNapoli
New York State and
Federal Retirement
Employees' Retirement

**A Message from
Comptroller
Thomas P. DiNapoli**



If you are a veteran, or are currently serving in any of the branches of the United States military, you have our sincere appreciation. We at the Retirement System, and in fact all New Yorkers, owe a debt of gratitude for your service to our country.

As a past or present member of the military, you should know that you may be eligible to receive retirement credit for your military service. Since your retirement benefit is based, in part, on your service credit, additional service could improve your benefit when you retire.

This brochure can help determine if you are eligible to purchase or receive any additional credit for your military service. Please read it carefully and contact us with any questions you might have. Remember, we are here to ensure that you get the best possible retirement benefit.

Sincerely,

Thomas P. DiNapoli
State Comptroller

Eligibility

If you were honorably discharged from service in the United States Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps or Coast Guard, or as a commissioned officer in the United States Public Health Service, and you served in certain specified combat theaters or during certain periods of wartime, you may be eligible to purchase military service credit or to receive it at no cost.

Buying Military Service Credit

In most cases, buying additional service credit will increase your pension. However, if you are close to the maximum service allowed for your retirement plan coverage, or in a special plan, the additional service credit may not benefit you.

How to Estimate Your Pension

To estimate your pension with and without military service credit, use the benefit projector calculator on our website at www.osc.state.ny.us/retire/members/projecting-your-pension.htm.

In the box for total years of service, enter your estimated service credit at retirement, with and without the military service. This may help you decide whether purchasing military credit is a good choice for you.

How to Get Military Service Credit

To find out if you qualify, or to request credit for your military service, send a letter and a copy of your Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty form (DD-214) for all periods of active service to:

New York State & Local
Retirement System
Military Unit
110 State Street
Albany, NY 12244-0001

After we receive your request, we will advise you of your eligibility and the cost, if any, to purchase this credit. We will calculate what this amount is and give you the following options on how to pay it:

1. Through payroll deductions. (The length of time to purchase your military credit cannot exceed the total credit you are purchasing. For example, if you are buying one year of military credit, payment must be completed within a year.)
2. Sending us a single lump sum payment.
3. Authorizing a trustee-to-trustee transfer from your deferred compensation (457) or tax-sheltered annuity (403b) plan.

Obtaining Your Military Records

If you do not have your DD-214 form and were discharged from the U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps or Coast Guard, you may request a copy by contacting the National Archives and Records Administration at:

National Personnel Records Center
Military Personnel Records
9700 Page Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63132-5100

Phone: 1-314-801-0800

Website: www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/dd-214.html

If your military records were destroyed in the 1973 fire at the National Personnel Records Center, they will issue you a Certification of Military Service that we will also accept. Veterans who have been separated from active service, but have Reserve status, should contact the Reserve component of the appropriate branch of service.

Veterans currently in the National Guard should contact the Adjutant General's Office of New York State. Recently discharged National Guard members, in most cases, will not be able to get their military records from the NPRC until six months after discharge because of required processing.

Where To Get More Information

For more information regarding military service credit, you can visit our website at: www.osc.state.ny.us/retire/members/military-service-credit.htm. You can also contact our Call Center toll-free at 1-866-805-0990, or 518-474-7736 in the Albany, New York area.

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