

Priority placement for Military Reserve and National Guard Technicians is a Department of Defense (DoD) program derived from Section 3329(b) of Title 5, United States Code (U.S.C.). It applies to military technicians who lose their military membership through no fault of their own after completing at least 15 years of technician service and a minimum of 20 years of military service creditable for non-regular retirement.

For the purposes of this FAQ sheet, the term “Military Reserve Technicians” is a common reference to both Reserve and National Guard Technicians. Since 1968, military reserve technicians have been required to register in Programs C, D, or K of the Priority Placement Program (PPP); however, an alternative process has been established enabling them to actively pursue various positions available in the DoD by applying for job vacancies and selectively exercising their priority status directly through USAJOBS.

The Air Force has designated Headquarters Air Force Reserve Command as the sole point of contact for counseling and providing guidance to Air Force military reserve technicians occupying officer-level positions regarding their priority placement eligibility via the application-based process.

WHAT ARE THE ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR MILITARY RESERVE TECHNICIANS?

Military reserve and National Guard technicians are eligible for priority placement when they lose their military membership through no fault of their own after completing at least 15 years of technician service and a minimum of 20 years of military service creditable for non-regular retirement and are in receipt of a proposed separation notice in accordance with Section 3329(b) of Title 5, U.S.C.

National Guard technicians without competitive status cannot exercise their entitlement as a priority placement candidate for competitive service positions until after the date of separation. Prior to the separation date, their entitlement as a priority placement candidate is limited to excepted service positions only.

The following military technicians are NOT eligible for priority placement:

- Military reserve and National Guard technicians who lose their military membership through no fault of their own and who do not meet the provisions of Section 3329(b) of Title 5, U.S.C.
- Military reserve and National Guard technicians who request and are permitted to be retained beyond their mandatory separation date for the purpose of obtaining military retirement eligibility.
- Military reserve and National Guard technicians whose separations are considered voluntary in nature in accordance with Component regulations.
- Military reserve and National Guard technicians who are involuntarily separated for cause on charges of misconduct or delinquency.

WHEN DOES PRIORITY PLACEMENT ELIGIBILITY TERMINATE FOR MILITARY RESERVE TECHNICIANS UNDER SECTION 3329(b) OF TITLE 5, U.S.C.?

Eligibility for priority placement terminates upon:

- Placement in a permanent Federal position regardless of the grade level;
- Declination of a PPP job offer; or
- One year from date of separation

HOW DO I EXERCISE PRIORITY STATUS AS A MILITARY RESERVE TECHNICIAN?

Military reserve technicians should be aware that the PPP process has been simplified by eliminating the need to register in the PPP. It allows military reserve technicians to exercise their priority status for a variety of positions by simply applying to the job opportunity announcement (JOA).

To receive priority status through the application-based process, military reserve technicians must:

- Create a login.gov account to sign in to USAJOBS (first time users). Login.gov is a service that offers secure and private online access to government programs, such as Federal benefits, services, and applications. To establish a login.gov account, the PPP applicant must:
 - Use the same email address for login.gov and USAJOBS.
 - Create a new password.
 - Have a working phone number (mobile or landline); login.gov will send a unique security code each time the account is accessed.
- Create a USAJOBS profile using the same email address for the login.gov account (first time users).
- Build or post a resume to the USAJOBS profile and upload essential documents.

WHAT ESSENTIAL DOCUMENTS SHOULD A MILITARY RESERVE TECHNICIAN HAVE AVAILABLE DURING THE HIRING PROCESS?

To facilitate a smooth hiring process, it is recommended that the following documents are available and used as applicable:

- Military Reserve and National Guard Technician PPP Self-Certification Checklist, which must be included with each job application.
- Notification of Personnel Action, Standard Form (SF)-50, effecting the military technician's separation from the military technician position; if not yet separated, the most recent SF-50; and,
- A copy of the proposed or actual notice of separation from the military technician position confirming loss of military membership through no fault of their own after completing at least 15 years of technician service and a minimum of 20 years of military service creditable for non-regular retirement in accordance with Section 3329(b) of Title 5, U.S.C.

- Apply to and submit all required documentation listed in the JOA for which interested and available.

WHAT TYPES OF POSITIONS CAN I APPLY FOR?

The following guidelines will govern your JOA choices:

- You must meet all established Federal and DoD qualification requirements.
- You may apply for permanent DoD appropriated-funded positions at your current, permanent, or retained grade. If separated, you may apply for positions at the permanent grade held immediately prior to separation.
- You may include any or all DoD installations/organizations within your commuting area. .

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THE JOA CLOSES?

- Once the JOA closes, the HRO will evaluate the applications and refer eligible applicants to the selecting official for consideration.
- When exercising priority placement status through the application-based process, military reserve technicians, if determined well qualified, will preclude new appointments, conversions, and transfers unless a PPP exception applies.
- Eligibility for PPP terminates upon:
 - Placement in a permanent Federal position;
 - Declination of a PPP job offer; or
 - One year from the date of separation.

ARE THERE ANY PERMANENT CHANGE OF STATION (PCS) ENTITLEMENTS FOR A MILITARY RESERVE TECHNICIAN PLACED THROUGH THE PPP?

No. Priority placement entitlement for military reserve PPP applicants is limited to vacancies in the commuting area of where the military technician resides. There are no permanent change of station (PCS) entitlements when exercising your priority status unless PCS is authorized outside of the PPP

DOES PRIORITY PLACEMENT FOR MILITARY RESERVE TECHNICIANS APPLY TO ALL DoD JOB VACANCIES?

No. Priority placement eligibility is limited to permanent DoD appropriated-funded positions in the military reserve technician's commuting area and at the military reserve technician's current permanent grade or retained grade. If separated, eligibility is limited to the permanent grade held immediately prior to separation.

WHAT ELSE DO I NEED TO KNOW?

In all cases, when you apply for DoD positions as a military reserve technician priority placement eligible, you must follow all instructions as required by the JOA. This process is necessary in order for the HRO to determine if you are well qualified for the position. The evaluation factors used to rank you are the same factors that apply to all candidates. If you do not submit an application and required documentation, you will not be considered for the position.

WHERE CAN I FIND MORE INFORMATION?

The PPP is too complex to adequately explain in such an abbreviated format. This FAQ sheet only provides an overview of the program's basic policies and procedures. For more details, you can find information on:

<https://www.fedshirevets.gov/job-seekers/federal-employment-overview/>
<https://www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/hiring-information/veterans-authorities/>