

§ 353.204 Notice to employer.

To be entitled to restoration rights under this part, an employee (or an appropriate officer of the uniformed service in which service is to be performed) must give the employer advance written or verbal notice of the service except that no notice is required if it is precluded by military necessity or, under all relevant circumstances, the giving of notice is otherwise impossible or unreasonable.

§ 353.205 Return to duty and application for reemployment.

Periods allowed for return to duty are based on the length of time the person was performing service in the uniformed services, as follows:

(a) An employee whose uniformed service was for *less than 31 days*, or who was absent for the purpose of an examination to determine fitness for the uniformed services, is required to report back to work not later than the beginning of the first regularly scheduled work day on the first full calendar day following completion of the period of service and the expiration of 8 hours after a period allowing for the safe transportation of the employee from the place of service to the employee's residence, or as soon as possible after the expiration of the 8-hour period if reporting within the above period is impossible or unreasonable through no fault of the employee.

(b) If the service was for *more than 30 but less than 181 days*, the employee must submit an application for reemployment with the agency not later than 14 days after completing the period of service. (If submitting the application is impossible or unreasonable through no fault of the individual, it must be submitted the next full calendar day when it becomes possible to do so.)

(c) If the period of service was for *more than 180 days*, the employee must submit an application for reemployment not later than 90 days after completing the period of service.

(d) An employee who is hospitalized or convalescing from an injury or illness incurred in, or aggravated during uniformed service is required to report for duty at the end of the period that is necessary for the person to recover,

based on the length of service as discussed in paragraphs (a), (b), and (c) of this section, except that the period of recovery may not exceed 2 years (extended by the minimum time required to accommodate circumstances beyond the employee's control which make reporting within the period specified impossible or unreasonable).

(e) A person who does not report within the time limits specified does not automatically forfeit restoration rights, but, rather, is subject to whatever policy and disciplinary action the agency would normally apply for a similar absence without authorization.

§ 353.206 Documentation upon return.

Upon request, a returning employee who was absent for more than 30 days, or was hospitalized or convalescing from an injury or illness incurred in or aggravated during the performance of service in the uniformed services, must provide the agency with documentation that establishes the timeliness of the application for reemployment, and length and character of service. If documentation is unavailable, the agency must restore the employee until documentation becomes available.

§ 353.207 Position to which restored.

(a) *Timing.* An employee returning from the uniformed services following an absence of more than 30 days is entitled to be restored as soon as possible after making application, but in no event later than 30 days after receipt of the application by the agency.

(b) *Nondisabled.* If the employee's uniformed service was for less than 91 days, he or she must be employed in the position for which qualified that he or she would have attained if continuously employed. If not qualified for this position after reasonable efforts by the agency to qualify the employee, he or she is entitled to be placed in the position he or she left. For service of 91 days or more, the agency has the option of placing the employee in a position of like seniority, status, and pay. (NOTE: Upon reemployment, a term employee completes the unexpired portion of his or her original appointment.) If unqualified (for any reason other than disability incurred in or aggravated

during service in the uniformed services) after reasonable efforts by the agency to qualify the employee for such position or the position the employee left, he or she must be restored to any other position of lesser status and pay for which qualified, with full seniority.

(c) *Disabled.* An employee with a disability incurred in or aggravated during uniformed service and who, after reasonable efforts by the agency to accommodate the disability, is entitled to be placed in another position for which qualified that will provide the employee with the same seniority, status, and pay, or the nearest approximation consistent with the circumstances in each case. The agency is not required to reemploy a disabled employee if, after making due efforts to accommodate the disability, such reemployment would impose an undue hardship on the agency.

(d) *Two or more persons entitled to restoration in the same position.* If two or more persons are entitled to restoration in the same position, the one who left the position first has the prior right to restoration in that position. The other employee(s) is entitled to be placed in a position as described in paragraphs (b) and (c) of this section.

(e) *Relationship to an entitlement based on veterans' preference.* An employee's right to restoration under this part does not entitle the person to retention, preference, or displacement rights over any person with a superior claim based on veterans' preference.

§ 353.208 Use of paid leave during uniformed service.

An employee performing service with the uniformed services must be permitted, upon request, to use any accrued annual leave (or sick leave, if appropriate), or military leave during such service. (Note, however, that under 5 U.S.C. 6323, military leave cannot be used for inactive duty, e.g., drills.)

§ 353.209 Retention protections.

(a) *During uniformed service.* An employee may not be demoted or separated (other than military separation) while performing duty with the uniformed services except for cause. (Re-

duction in force is not considered "for cause" under this subpart.) He or she is not a "competing employee" under § 351.404 of this chapter. If the employee's position is abolished during such absence, the agency must reassign the employee to another position of like status, and pay.

(b) *Upon reemployment.* Except in the case of an employee under time-limited appointment who finishes out the unexpired portion of his or her appointment upon reemployment, an employee reemployed under this subpart may not be discharged, except for cause—

(1) If the period of uniformed service was more than 180 days, within 1 year; and

(2) If the period of uniformed service was more than 30 days, but less than 181 days, within 6 months.

§ 353.210 Department of Labor assistance to applicants and employees.

USERRA requires the Department of Labor's Veterans' Employment and Training Service (VETS) to provide employment and reemployment assistance to any Federal employee or applicant who requests it. VETS staff will attempt to informally resolve employment disputes brought to them. If informal dispute resolution proves unsuccessful, VETS may ask the Office of the Special Counsel to represent the individual in an appeal before the Merit Systems Protection Board (MSPB).

§ 353.211 Appeal rights.

An individual who believes an agency has not complied with the provisions of law and this part relating to the employment or reemployment of the person by the agency may—

(a) File a complaint with the Department of Labor, as noted in § 353.210, or

(b) Appeal directly to MSPB if the individual chooses not to file a complaint with the Department of Labor, or is informed by either Labor or the Office of the Special Counsel that they will not pursue to the case.

Subpart C—Compensable Injury

§ 353.301 Restoration rights.

(a) *Fully recovered within 1 year.* An employee who fully recovers from a compensable injury within 1 year from