



STATE OF OKLAHOMA
FIREFIGHTERS PENSION AND RETIREMENT SYSTEM

MEMO

Friday, September 14, 2018

From: Chase Rankin, Executive Director

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Chase Rankin".

Re: New Rules for Military Service

The Oklahoma Firefighters Pension statutes grant credited service time for military service during certain defined periods of war or combat military operations under 11 O.S. 49-138. The Oklahoma Firefighters Pension Board recently adopted rules, which go into effect September 14, 2018, that further clarify military service dates for purposes of credited service time. To be consistent with these pension statutes the new dates enumerated in the Administrative Rules must be administered in the following manner:

Military Credited Service under 11 O.S. Section 49-138(C)(2) includes **service in the following areas of responsibility AND during the following time periods:**

- (A) former Yugoslavia (including Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, and Macedonia) from November 21, 1995 to October 12, 1998;
- (B) Kosovo from March 24, 1999 to May 1, 2000;
- (C) the U.S. war in Afghanistan from September 14, 2001 to December 18, 2014; and
- (D) the Iraq war from March 3, 2003 to December 15, 2011.

Please note the major difference for the newly defined dates per above is that only service IN THE AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY will be granted. Previously, the military service dates as defined by statute only required active service. While the methodology for older dates will not change, service credit granted under the new rules will **require the member to prove active service IN THE AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY**

The burden of proof will be on the member requesting the service time to be granted.

The Required Documentation is:

1. Defense Department Form 214 (DD 214)
2. Proof of service in the area of responsibility, such as orders of deployment

Once **both** of these have been received and verified, military service credit will be granted at that time.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact our office.