

**Annual Report of the Department of Emergency Services and
Public Protection Special Licensing and Firearms Unit
Regarding
Security Guard Licensing of Military Veterans**

January 1, 2015

In accordance with Public Act 14-131, effective changes to C.G.S. 29-161q require the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) to waive both the training requirement for security officer certification as well as the statutorily required licensing fee of one hundred dollars (\$100) for a security guard license (valid for five years) for certain individuals with relevant military training.

Pursuant to Section 14 of PA 14-131, on or before January 1, 2015, and annually thereafter, DESPP is required to submit a report to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to military and veterans' affairs, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the General Statutes, and the Labor Department, that shall include the following:

- (1) The number of service members who applied for a military training evaluation pursuant to this act:

Since October 1, 2014, four service members -- one active Army National Guard and three retired/honorably discharged Army service members -- applied for a military training evaluation by DESPP. The gender composition of such members consisted of three males and one female.

- (2) The number of service members whose applications were approved:

All four service members who applied were approved with all having received basic military training and specific Military Occupational Specialties (MOS) including Combat Engineering, Construction, Plumber and Infantry training.

- (3) The number of service members whose application was denied, and data on the reasons for any such denial:

There were no service member application denials.

- (4) The licensing authority's processing time for applications submitted by service members and the average processing time for all applications:

The average processing time for service member applications was less than one day per application, with all service members who submitted such application in person receiving same day review, waiver approval, and licensing. Similarly, the processing time for a majority of security guard

applicants who provide proof of completion of required training also generally takes less than one day to process, absent a concerning or disqualifying criminal history requiring further review.

- (5) Information on the licensing authority's efforts to inform and assist service members in accessing programs that provide the education and training necessary for meeting the requirements for licensure, certification, registration or educational credit:

Prior to October 1, 2014, DESPP/ SLFU posted notice and information regarding relevant military training and fee waiver specific to applicants seeking security officer licensure along with a link to Public Act 14-131 on the agency website. Said post also directed military personnel to contact security licensing personnel from the Special Licensing and Firearms Unit (SLFU) for additional information and specific requirements. In addition, all SLFU licensing personnel were provided notice of and information relative to Public Act 14-131 so that they would be better able to assist and/or direct military personnel seeking such licensure to "subject matter experts" within SLFU having prior or active military service and specifically designated to assist service members in the application review and licensing process.

- (6) Information on whether existing law effectively addresses the challenges that service members face when applying for an occupational or professional license, a certificate, a registration or an educational credit upon discharge from military service or relocating to the state; and

Existing law appropriately addresses the challenges service members face when applying for relevant military security training and licensing fee waiver with this agency.

- (7) Recommendations on improving the licensing authority's ability to meet the occupational needs of service members, including, but not limited to, the issuance of temporary or provisional licenses, certificates or registrations.

Given current statutory training and licensing guidelines delineated within C.G.S. 29-161q as amended by Public Act 14-131, the issuance of temporary or provisional security licenses would likely not have any significant impact on DESPP's ability to meet the occupational needs of service members. Based upon DESPP's training and fee waiver reviews to date, such approvals have largely been based upon applicants' military training and prior experience all of whom, upon application submission, received expeditious review and licensure. It is recommended that DESPP and other licensing agencies are included in job fair and informational sessions hosted by the Department of Veteran Affairs or the Department of Labor to augment publications and information on licensing agency websites, to better meet the occupational needs of service members seeking information on specific occupational training and licensing.