

## **2015 Annual Report Regarding Public Act No. 14-131**

### ***AAC The Findings of the Military Occupational Specialty Task Force***

In accordance with Public Act 14-131, the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP)/Special Licensing and Firearms Unit (SLFU) is required to waive both the security officer training requirements and the one hundred dollar (\$100) fee for security guard license applicants meeting the statutory criteria.

Pursuant to Section 14 of this act, 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 to 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;

For calendar year 2015, a total of twenty (20) service members applied to DESPP for a military training evaluation. Service member applicants represented the Air Force (1), Army National Guard (16), Marine Corps (2) and Navy (1). Eleven (11) applicants were active duty and nine (9) were retired/honorably discharged. The gender composition of the applicants was eighteen (18) males and two (2) females.

- (2) the number of service members whose application was approved;

Nineteen (19) of the twenty (20) applications were approved (95%).

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

One (1) service member application was denied because his discharge from the armed forces was over two years prior to application and therefore he was ineligible for the waiver pursuant to C.G.S. 29-161q(b).

- (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, with all service members submitting such application in person receiving same day review, waiver approval/denial, and licensing where applicable. Comparatively, the processing time for a majority of security guard applicants who provide proof of completion of required training generally meets the same less-than-one-day processing average, 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;

The DESPP website includes information regarding the training and fee waiver for security guard license applicants along with a link to Public Act 14-131. Such posting also directs military personnel to contact security licensing personnel from SLFU for additional information and specific requirements. In addition, all SLFU licensing personnel were provided notice and applicable procedural information relative to Public Act 14-131 so that they would be better able to assist 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

It continues to be DESPP's experience that existing law appropriately addresses the challenges service members face when applying for relevant military security training and licensing fee waivers 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.

Based on our ability to provide same-day review, approval and licensure in most cases, 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.

Inclusion of SLFU licensing personnel in job fair or informational sessions hosted by the Department of Veteran Affairs or the Department of Labor where feasible may assist us in better serving the occupational needs of service members seeking specific information on specific occupational training and licensing.