



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES COMMISSIONER WILTON SIMPSON

Report on Credit for Relevant Military Training and Education - 2023

Section 493.61035, Florida Statutes, requires the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (Department) to report to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives on the status of its efforts to comply with awarding credit for relevant military training and education to applicants for licensure of professionals regulated by Chapter 493, Florida Statutes (F.S.), including private investigators, security officers, and recovery agents.

All numerical values provided herein are for the period of October 1, 2022, through September 30, 2023.

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| 1. s. 493.61035(a), F.S. Applicants who identified as veterans: | 2,193 |
| 2. s. 493.61035(b), F.S. Veterans whose applications were approved: | 1,861 |
| 3. s. 493.61035(c), F.S. Veterans whose applications were denied with denial reason: | 118 |
- 3 applicants for a Class “C” Private Investigator license were denied for failure to provide proof of lawfully gained, verifiable experience or training.
 - 35 applicants for a Class “D” Security Officer license were denied for failure to provide evidence of completion of required training.
 - 28 applicants for a Class “D” Security Officer license were denied for failure to respond to a letter requiring additional information to show that their criminal history did not disqualify them from licensure.
 - 18 applicants for a Class “D” Security Officer license were denied for failure to provide legible fingerprints and required fees.
 - 8 applicants for a Class “D” Security Officer license were denied for failure to provide evidence of completion of required training, completed fingerprint card, and fees.
 - 8 applicants for a Class “D” Security Officer license were denied for disqualifying criminal history.
 - 1 applicant for a Class “D” Security Officer license was denied for failure to provide evidence of completion of required training and failure to respond to a letter requiring additional information to show that their criminal history did not disqualify them from licensure.
 - 1 applicant for a Class “D” Security Officer license was denied for failure to provide evidence of completion of required training, license photo, completed fingerprint card, and fees.

- 1 applicant for a Class “D” Security Officer license was denied for failure to provide legible fingerprint card.
- 1 applicant for a Class “D” Security Officer license was denied for failure to provide legible fingerprints and required training.
- 1 applicant for a Class “EE” Recovery Agent Intern license was denied for failure to provide evidence of completion of required training.
- 5 applicants for a Class “G” Statewide Firearm license were denied for failure to respond to a letter requiring additional information to show that their criminal history did not disqualify them from licensure.
- 3 applicants for a Class “G” Statewide Firearm license were denied for failure to provide evidence of completion of required training.
- 3 applicants for a Class “G” Statewide Firearm license were denied for disqualifying criminal history.
- 1 applicant for a Class “K” Firearms Instructor license was denied for failure to provide evidence of completion of required training.
- 1 applicant for a Class “M” Security and Private Investigative Agency Manager was denied for failure to provide required fees.

Note: Of the remaining applications, 7 applications were withdrawn, and 207 applications were incomplete and the department has requested additional information from the applicant.

4. s. 493.61035(d), F.S. Processing time for veteran applicants (in days): Mean Median

• Class C/CC Private Investigator or Intern License:	55	43
• Class D Security Officer License:	31	1
• Class DI Security Officer Instructor License:	35	25
• Class G Statewide Firearm License:	30	9
• Class K Statewide Firearm Instructor License:	70	60
• Class M/MA/MB Manager Licenses:	41	23
• All License Types:	32	5

5. s. 493.61035(e), F.S. Efforts to assist veterans in identifying programs for training and education to meet licensure requirements:
- Detailed information regarding benefits available to veterans as well as training, education, and other licensure requirements can be found on the Department’s website at <https://www.fdacs.gov/Divisions-Offices/Licensing> and <https://www.fdacs.gov/Consumer-Resources/Military-Consumer-Protection>.
 - The Division of Licensing has designated staff within the Bureau of License Issuance available as an industry point of contact for veterans with questions or concerns about licensure.
 - Rule 5N-1.119, FAC, *Credit for Relevant Military Training and Education* identifies specific areas for military training equivalency. This rule provides veterans with specific information related to how occupational training in the military translates to meeting licensure requirements for several license types.

6. s. 493.61035(f), F.S. Identification of common overlaps and gaps between requirements for licensure and the military training and education received by the veterans:
 - The department recognized a gap for veterans in sustaining licensure as a Class K Statewide Firearms Instructor. Veterans with military training as a firearms instructor were able meet initial licensure requirements, but had difficulty obtaining the continuing education training required by s. 493.6113(d), F.S., in order to renew their license. Legislation was passed during the 2023 session, and enacted July 1, 2023, allowing proof of having taught six or more 28-hour firearms instruction courses during the previous three years as proof of continued eligibility for the license to close this gap.
 - The department recognized that some military education and training may not be documented on a DD Form 214 or other official training document. Often veterans of special forces units receive applicable training which is unable to be documented. In these cases, in accordance with Rule 5N.1.119, F.A.C., *Credit for Relevant Military Training and Education*, the department continues to allow former commanding officers or non-commissioned officers that supervised the veteran to provide a letter on official letterhead documenting how a veteran's training or job duties meet the specific needs for licensure qualification.

7. s. 493.61035(g), F.S. Recommendations on ways to improve the department's ability to meet the needs of veterans separating from the armed services and seeking licensure:
 - The Division of Licensing will continue to annually review Rule 5N-1.119, F.A.C., *Credit for Relevant Military Training and Education*, to ensure updated information is provided to veterans seeking to apply their experience to licensure under Chapter 493, F.S..
 - The Division of Licensing will continue to share veteran-specific information on becoming licensed and maintaining licensure within the professions via the website.