

BRIEF ON THE HIRING VETERANS FOR PUBLIC SERVICE POSITIONS

SUBMITTED BY SHAUN L. BROWN

I will endeavour to keep this brief short. I have a total of 27 ½ years of military service (22 regular force and 5 ½ reserve force) . The vast majority of this service (24 ½ years) was as an Administration/RMS Clerk. I specifically chose this trade with the thought that after my service I would be in a good position to continue service to my country with the training and experience I had gained in the military.

Since 2001 I have applied to every public service position that I was qualified and able to do. This included a position I had filled for 3 years at 19 Wing Comox as a civilian under contract to Med-Emerg International working in the Wing Hospital Medical Records section. To date I have received less than 10 interviews. None were successful.

Most of the interviews I received seemed designed for the office involved to say “Yes we considered veterans”, than for any serious consideration. Recently (5 April) I had another interview at the 19 Wing Base Clinic for a position similar to the one I had filled previously. I am not holding my breath.

After 18 years of applying for a public service position my wife asks me why I still bother. She points out the I am 61 years old, disabled (from military service), male and ex military. Thats 4 things against me. I tell her I dont quit, I'm stubborn and maybe a little bit stupid for thinking I might still succeed.

My experience with applying to the public service can perhaps best be summed up by the saying “Soldiers and dogs keep off the grass”. Yes I am bitter. Other countries give retiring military members government jobs on release and real support. Our government gives lip service to supporting veterans.

I would like to appear in person to give you my whole opinion on this problem and the fix for it, unfortunately that isn't possible. Please accept this as a small part of my opinion.

Yours,

Shaun Brown