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**SUBJECT:** Active Military Duty that Interrupts Employment: Effects on MSRS Membership and Service Credit

**DATE:** November 6, 2002

**TO:** Affected Maine State Retirement System Members

**FROM:** Kay R. H. Evans, Executive Director

Maine State Retirement System (MSRS) members who are on a leave of absence from their MSRS-covered positions to serve in the uniformed services of the United States have, under federal and State law, specific protections, or eligibility for protections, with respect to their MSRS membership and related benefits. The single most important thing for affected members to be aware of is this:

Under certain conditions, MSRS members who (1) are on leave of absence from MSRS-covered employment to serve in the United States uniformed services and (2) return to their MSRS-covered position within 90 days of separation from military service are entitled to accrue service credit for the period of military service and to have their member contributions paid by their employer for the period of service. For teachers, for these purposes, "employer" means the State.

In addition to its effects on MSRS membership and service credit, service in the United States uniformed services while on leave of absence from employment also affects group life insurance and disability coverage. Both the federal law and State law are very detailed, setting out definitions, relevant circumstances and conditions, and other specifics that are significant in the application of the laws to affected individuals.

If you are an affected individual, or think you may be affected in the future, or just want to understand this topic more fully, call the Maine State Retirement System at 512-3100 or 1-800-451-9800 and request this Fact Sheet:

**FACT SHEET ON EFFECTS OF MILITARY SERVICE WHILE  
ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE FROM MSRS-COVERED EMPLOYMENT**

The Fact Sheet can be mailed or faxed to you. If you have any questions, please call the above number and ask for the State Unit, the Teacher Unit or the PLD Unit, depending on where you are employed. We encourage you to read the Fact Sheet before you call.

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This memorandum is prompted by the potential call to military service of MSRS members. The information is also relevant for any leave of absence for the purpose of military service.