

**\*Note:** The Department of Labor revised the regulations located at 29 C.F.R. part 541 with an effective date of January 1, 2020. WHD will continue to enforce the 2004 part 541 regulations through December 31, 2019, including the \$455 per week standard salary level and \$100,000 annual compensation level for Highly Compensated Employees. The final rule is available at: <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2019/09/27/2019-20353/defining-and-delimiting-the-exemptions-for-executive-administrative-professional-outside-sales-and>.

**U.S. Department of Labor**  
Wage and Hour Division



## **Fact Sheet #17K: Veterans and the Part 541 Exemptions Under the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA)**

This fact sheet provides general information on the exemption from minimum wage and overtime pay provided by Section 13(a)(1) of the FLSA as it applies to veterans.

The [FLSA](#) requires that most employees in the United States be paid at least the federal [minimum wage](#) for all hours worked and [overtime pay](#) at not less than time and one-half the regular rate of pay for all hours worked over 40 in a workweek.

However, Section 13(a)(1) of the FLSA provides an exemption from both [minimum wage](#) and [overtime pay](#) for employees employed as bona fide [executive](#), [administrative](#), [professional](#) and [outside sales](#) employees. Section 13(a)(1) and Section 13(a)(17) also exempts certain [computer](#) employees. To qualify for exemption, employees must meet certain tests regarding their job duties and be paid on a salary basis at not less than \$684\* per week.

### **Veterans**

Veterans are not exempt administrative, executive or professional employees under Section 13(a)(1) based upon their status as veterans. Military training, for example, generally is not sufficient to meet the requirements for the professional exemption in [29 C.F.R. Part 541](#). Specifically, the learned professional exemption requires:

1. The employee's primary duty must be to perform work requiring advanced knowledge;
2. The advanced knowledge must be in a field of science or learning; and
3. The advanced knowledge must be customarily acquired by a prolonged course of specialized intellectual instruction.

**No amount of military training will satisfy the requirements of the learned professional exemption because the exemption applies only to employees who are in *occupations* that have attained recognized professional status, which requires that an advanced specialized academic degree is a standard prerequisite for entrance into the profession. No amount of military training can turn a "blue collar" occupation or a technical field into a profession. For example, a veteran who has received substantial military training as a veteran but works on a manufacturing production line or as an engineering technician is not exempt under Section 13(a)(1) from the [minimum wage](#) and [overtime](#) requirements of the FLSA.**

### **Where to Obtain Additional Information**

**For additional information, visit our Wage and Hour Division Website: <http://www.wagehour.dol.gov> and/or call our toll-free information and helpline, available 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. in your time zone, 1-866-4USWAGE (1-866-487-9243).**

When state law differs from the federal FLSA, an employer must comply with the standard most protective to employees. Links to your state labor department can be found at [www.dol.gov/contacts/state\\_of.htm](http://www.dol.gov/contacts/state_of.htm).

This publication is for general information and is not to be considered in the same light as official statements of position contained in the regulations.

U.S. Department of Labor  
Frances Perkins Building  
200 Constitution Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20210

1-866-4-USWAGE  
TTY: 1-866-487-9243  
[Contact Us](#)