

I served active duty in the Navy from November 2014 to September 2023. I started the transition from being an active duty Sailor to a civilian in December 2022.

I opted to do the in person TAPs class in Naval Station Norfolk. I didn't find the week long class to be overly helpful since majority of the required topics that had to be covered were merely skimmed over with in person guest speakers to not be knowledgeable enough to answer majority of the questions that were asked me and fellow transition military members. The guest speakers just "regurgitated" what was on the slides in the PowerPoint that was shown to us by the speaker. The class has good intentions, but it is not nearly long as it should be to ensure that we have a good understanding in what is available to us while transitioning and to us as we became veterans.

My transition experience with my last command was not pleasant for me. My leadership was not very helpful. I ended my contract on a obliserve. I took 76 days of "separation" leave which took me from the 10th of July 2023 to the end of my contract on the 23rd of September 2023. When I had to file my leave chit, my obilserve accumulated leave days were not in the the system and I had to provide many extra documents to prove that I had those the days days to take for leave. Many of the leadership that had to approve my chit, didn't understand or simply didn't care to read the provided documents to understand my situation and kept rejecting it until I finally begged an E-7 that technically wasn't in my chain of command to help me and explain it to the people who kept rejecting my request for leave. That E-7 got leave chit approved for me.

My next biggest issue was dealing Suddath for shipping my personal household goods from Hampton, Virginia to Warrens, Wisconsin. The movers in VA didn't know how to pack things, so my mother and I had to go in behind them and repackage fragile items, such as glassware and dinnerware. They stood on my washing machine ,that survived two prior moves in the area, and I had to bend the lid back close to its original shape. They placed one of my tvs in a way that the screen broke. And on top of it all, I was never able to get reimbursed for my damaged items because they changed their system and I couldn't get into it and submit anything cause they were asking for codes and numbers that I didn't have.

I thank you for your time and for the opportunity to share my experience of transitioning from active duty to being a civilian.

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