



Veteran Basics

Understanding Veterans to Provide Services
to the “right Veteran”

In this class you will learn:

1. How to identify Veterans in your population
2. What the definition of Veteran means
3. How to verify Veteran status
4. How to read a Certificate of Discharge (DD214 and NGB-22)
5. Types of Discharges
6. What are VA benefits and compensation
7. Aging Programs at the VA
8. How to access benefits at the VA

What is a Veteran?



Veterans who served on active duty



Widows of Veterans who Passed (Unremarried)



Veterans who served ONLY in National Guard and Reserves

Military Service Types

Active Duty: Veteran serving full-time military service (regular job)

Reservist: Veteran that served part-time forces BUT is under authority of the President of the United States (*ex. "weekend warrior"*)

National Guard: Veteran that served in part-time forces BUT is under authority of the State Adjutant General (TX National Guard)

Veteran Defined

FEDERAL definitions

38 U.S.C. 101 (normal Veteran)

The term "veteran" means:

- **a person who served in the active military, naval, or air service, and who was discharged or released therefrom under conditions other than dishonorable**

The term "**active duty**" means:

- (A) full-time duty in the Armed Forces; other than active duty for training (1 day beyond BASIC/Bootcamp)
- (B) any period of active duty for training during which the individual was disabled or died from a disease or injury incurred or aggravated in line of duty; or
- (C) any period of inactive duty training during which the individual was disabled or died— (Reserve or National Guard)
 - (i) from an injury incurred or aggravated in line of duty; or
 - (ii) from acute myocardial infarction, a cardiac arrest, or cerebrovascular accident occurring during training
- full-time duty in the Armed Forces, other

The background of the slide is a stylized, painterly representation of the United States flag. It features a blue field with white stars in the upper left and red and white stripes in the lower right. The style is soft and artistic, with visible brushstrokes and a slightly textured appearance.

Veteran Defined

FEDERAL definitions

13 CFR § 125.11 (National Guard and Reservists); 38 U.S.C. 101(2)

Reservist or member of the National Guard called to Federal active duty or disabled from a disease or injury incurred or aggravated in line of duty or while in training status also qualify as a veteran

What is a Veteran in Lay Terms?

1. A person who served on active duty for any period of time beyond BASIC training (*aka Boot Camp*)
2. Generally more than 90 days of active military service
3. Has been discharged or released from the military under **other than a Dishonorable status** **regardless of** Active Duty, National Guard or Reserve service

How do you Identify a Veteran



How do I Identify a Veteran?

Asking the Question..

What are you asking now?

Q? Are you a Veteran?

NOT Good

How should I be asking this?

Q? Have you ever served in the military

GREAT



Why does this matter?

- When you ask a Veteran if he is a “Veteran”, it means different things to each Veteran
- Many older Vets do not call themselves “Veteran” unless they have VA disability
(ex. Veteran exited active duty after 10 years, but does not get VA care or disability)
(ex. Veteran who retired from the Army after 20 years and does not get VA care or disability)
(ex. Veteran served in National Guard for 25 years and retired but under 65)

How do I Identify a Veteran?

Asking the Question..

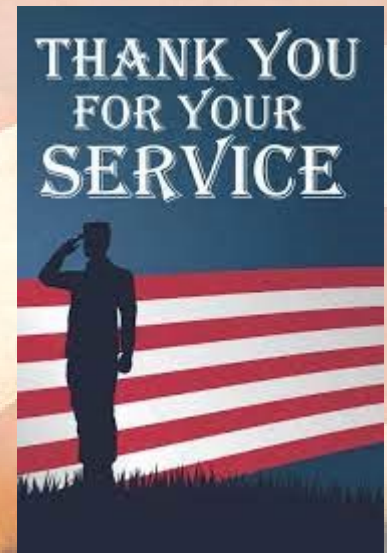
Is it OK to say “thank you for your service”?

A: YES. Don’t feel obligated to say it but don’t feel worried to either

You sometimes might get a little grumble about it, but we encourage anyone who feels comfortable to do so because it shows respect for their military service

Should I address them by their military rank?

A: NO. You could mix up how to say a rank & it might be taken as insulting to the Veteran



How do you Identify a Veteran

DD214 old version

United States of America

STATE OF ARIZONA COUNTY OF GRAHAM

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT

MILLARD E GOOCH O 789 802 Capt

HAS FILED FOR RECORD AN HONORABLE DISCHARGE

FROM U. S. Army

ON THE 14th DAY OF October 1967

AND SAME IS RECORDED IN VOLUME 5

Ernie Collins County Rec

NAME AND TITLE OF RECORDING OFFICER

FORM 1120 1-47 (U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE)

Korean War and older Discharge Card

THIS IS AN IMPORTANT RECORD
SAFEGUARD IT.

1. LAST NAME-FIRST NAME-MIDDLE NAME		2. SERVICE NUMBER		3. SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER		
4. DEPARTMENT, COMPONENT AND BRANCH OR CLASS ARMY RA SIG		5a. GRADE, RATE OR RANK SP4	5b. PAY GRADE E-4	6. DATE OF BIRTH DAY MONTH YEAR 29 OCT 69	7. DATE OF BIRTH DAY MONTH YEAR JUN 48	
7. U. S. CITIZEN <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO		8. PLACE OF BIRTH (City and State or Country) TEXAS		9. DATE OF BIRTH DAY MONTH YEAR JUN 48		
10a. SELECTIVE SERVICE NUMBER		b. SELECTIVE SERVICE LOCAL BOARD NUMBER, CITY, COUNTY, STATE AND ZIP CODE		c. DATE INDUCTED DAY MONTH YEAR NA		
11a. TYPE OF TRANSFER OR DISCHARGE TRF TO USAR (SEE 16)		b. STATION OR INSTALLATION AT WHICH EFFECTED FT DIX NJ		c. EFFECTIVE DATE DAY MONTH YEAR 31 MAR 70		
d. REASON AND AUTHORITY AR 635-200 SPN 411 EARLY SEP FR OC		13a. CHARACTER OF SERVICE HONORABLE		e. TYPE OF CERTIFICATE ISSUED NONE		
12. LAST DUTY ASSIGNMENT AND MAJOR COMMAND SVC MTRY 2D BN 6TH AMTY USAARMY		14. DISTRICT, AREA, COMMAND OR CORPS TO WHICH RESEVIST TRF TO USAR COW GP (REINF) USAAC ST LOUIS MO		15. REENLISTMENT CODE RE-1		
16. TERMS: (TYPE OF SERVICE) DAY MONTH YEAR 10 APR 73		17. CURRENT ACTIVE SERVICE OTHER THAN BY INDUCTION <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXEMPTED (After Enlistment) <input type="checkbox"/> ENLISTED (After Enlistment) <input type="checkbox"/> REENLISTED		18. TERM OF SERVICE (Years) 3 11 APR 67		
19. PRIOR REGULAR ENLISTMENTS NONE		20. GRADE, RATE OR RANK AT TIME OF ENTRY INTO CURRENT ACTIVE SVC PV-1		21. PLACE OF ENTRY INTO CURRENT ACTIVE SERVICE (City and State) SPOKANE WASHINGTON		
22. HOME OF RECORD AT TIME OF ENTRY INTO ACTIVE SERVICE (Street, APO, City, County, State and ZIP Code)		23. STATEMENT OF SERVICE a. CREDITABLE FOR BASIC PAY PURPOSES b. NET SERVICE THIS PERIOD c. OTHER SERVICE d. TOTAL ACTIVE SERVICE e. FOREIGN AND/OR SEA SERVICE (SEE 30)		24. YEARS MONTHS DAYS 2 11 20 0 0 0 2 11 20 2 11 20 1 9 26		
25a. SPECIALTY NUMBER & TITLE 36K20 WIREMAN		b. RELATED CIVILIAN OCCUPATION AND D.O.T. NUMBER 829.281 WIREMAN MAINT		26. DECORATIONS, MEDALS, BADGES, COMMENDATIONS, CITATIONS, CAMPAIGN ribbons AWARDED OR AUTHORIZED GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL SHARPSHOOTER M-14 VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL SHARPSHOOTER M-16		
27. EDUCATION AND TRAINING COMPLETED ATP 21-114 CODE OF COND C B R TWO RVN TWO WIREMAN 8 WKS 67		28a. HIGH-PAY PERIODS TIME LOST (Furloughs) NA		b. DAYS ACCRUED LEAVE PAID NA		29. INSURANCE IN FORCE (USGI or OTHER) <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO
30. VA CLAIM NUMBER C- NA		31. SERVICEMEN'S GROUP LIFE INSURANCE COVERAGE X \$50,000 <input type="checkbox"/> \$5,000 <input type="checkbox"/> NONE		32. REMARKS BLOOD GP 0 8 YRS ELEM (GEN) USARPAC VIETNAM 22 OCT 67 - 20 OCT 68 USAREUR GERMANY 3 JUN 69 - 5 APR 70		
33. PERMANENT ADDRESS FOR MAILING PURPOSES AFTER TRANSFER OR DISCHARGE (Street, APO, City, County, State and ZIP Code)		34. SIGNATURE OF PERSON BEING TRANSFERRED OR DISCHARGED		35. TYPED NAME, GRADE AND TITLE OF AUTHORIZING OFFICER CPT FA ASST CHIEF ENL BRANCH		
36. SIGNATURE OF OFFICER AUTHORIZED TO SIGN						

DD FORM 1 JUL 66 214 PREVIOUS EDITIONS OF THIS FORM ARE OBSOLETE EFFECTIVE 1 JAN 67 GPO: 1969-352-212 ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES REPORT OF TRANSFER OR DISCHARGE 2

How do you Identify a Veteran

ALL Veterans who serve on active duty get a DD214

This area tells you the total period of military service (by type)

Service Locations and Combat or Overseas tour information

Character of Service (Discharge type)

CAUTION: NOT TO BE USED FOR IDENTIFICATION PURPOSES THIS IS AN IMPORTANT RECORD. SAFEGUARD IT. ANY ALTERATIONS IN SHADED AREAS RENDER FORM VOID

CERTIFICATE OF RELEASE OR DISCHARGE FROM ACTIVE DUTY

1. NAME (Last, First, Middle)		2. DEPARTMENT, COMPONENT AND BRANCH ARMY/USAR		3. SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER	
4a. GRADE, RATE OR RANK		4b. PAY GRADE		4c. DATE OF BIRTH (YYYYMMDD)	
5a. PLACE OF ENTRY INTO ACTIVE DUTY		5b. HOME OF RECORD AT TIME OF ENTRY (City and state, or complete address if known)			
6a. LAST DUTY ASSIGNMENT AND MAJOR COMMAND MOBILERS NONUNIT FT BEN FC				6b. STATION WHERE SEPARATED PORT BENNING, GA 31905-5010	
7. COMMAND TO WHICH TRANSFERRED USAR CON GP (RRT) 1 RESERVE WAY, ST LOUIS, MO 63133				8. SOLI COVERAGE NONE \$400,000.00	
9. PRIMARY SPECIALTY (List number, title and years and months in specialty. List additional specialty numbers and titles involving periods of one or more years.) 13A FIELD ARTILLERY, GEN - 1 YRS 0 MOS/ NOTHING FOLLOWS				10. RECORD OF SERVICE	
				a. DATE ENTERED AD THIS PERIOD 2007 01 14	
				b. SEPARATION DATE THIS PERIOD 2008 02 08	
				c. NET ACTIVE SERVICE THIS PERIOD 0001 00 25	
				d. TOTAL PRIOR ACTIVE SERVICE 0010 08 16	
				e. TOTAL PRIOR INACTIVE SERVICE 0017 07 01	
				f. FOREIGN SERVICE 0000 10 13	
				g. SEA SERVICE 0000 00 00	
				h. EFFECTIVE DATE OF PAY GRADE 1997 07 17	
11. DECORATIONS, MEDALS, BADGES, CITATIONS AND CAMPAIGN RIBBONS AWARDED OR AUTHORIZED (All periods of service) DEFENSE MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL//ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL//NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL (2ND AWARD)//AFGHANISTAN CAMPAIGN MEDAL //GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM SERVICE MEDAL//ARMY SERVICE RIBBON//OVERSEAS SERVICE RIBBON//ARMED FORCES RESERVE MEDAL W/ M DEVICE//NATO MEDAL//NOTHING FOLLOWS				12. MILITARY EDUCATION (Course title, number of weeks, and duration of year completed) NONE//NOTHING FOLLOWS	
13a. MEMBER CONTRIBUTED TO POST-VIETNAM ERA VETERANS' EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM				YES X NO	
b. HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE OR EQUIVALENT				YES X NO	
14. DAYS ACCRUED LEAVE PAID D. S.				YES X NO	
15. MEMBER PROVIDED COMPLETE DENTAL SERVICES AND TREATMENT WITHIN 90 DAYS PRIOR TO SEPARATION				YES X NO	
16. REMARKS SEPARATED FROM SERVICE ON TEMPORARY RECORDS AND SOLDIER'S AFFIDAVIT//DD FORM 215 WILL BE ISSUED TO PROVIDE MISSING INFORMATION//SERVED IN A DESIGNATED IMMINENT DANGER PAY AREA// SERVICE IN AFGHANISTAN 20070320-20080202//ITEM 12D ABOVE DOES NOT ACCOUNT FOR ANNUAL AND/OR WEEKEND TRAINING THIS SOLDIER MAY HAVE ACCOMPLISHED PRIOR TO DATE ENTERED IN ITEM 12A// INDIVIDUAL COMPLETED PERIOD FOR WHICH ORDERED TO ACTIVE DUTY FOR PURPOSE OF POST SERVICE BENEFITS AND ENTITLEMENTS//ORDERED TO ACTIVE DUTY IN SUPPORT OF OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM IAW 10 USC 12302//MEMBER HAS COMPLETED FIRST FULL TERM OF SERVICE//NOTHING FOLLOWS					
The information contained on this form is used for computer matching within the Department of Defense or with any other affected Federal or State agency for verification purposes and to determine eligibility for certain Federal and State programs.					
17a. MAILING ADDRESS AFTER SEPARATION (Include ZIP Code)				17b. NEAREST RELATIVE (Name and address - include ZIP Code)	
18. MEMBER REQUESTS COPY 6 BE SENT TO VA DIRECTOR OF VETERANS AFFAIRS				YES X NO	
19. SIGNATURE OF MEMBER BEING SEPARATED				20. OFFICIAL AUTHORIZED TO SIGN (Typed name, grade, title and signature)	
SPECIAL ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (For use by authorized agencies only)					
21. TYPE OF SEPARATION RELEASE FROM ACTIVE DUTY				22. CHARACTER OF SERVICE (Include upgrades) HONORABLE	
23. SEPARATION AUTHORITY AR 600-8-24, PARA 2-25A				24. SEPARATION CODE	
25. NARRATIVE REASON FOR SEPARATION COMPLETION OF REQUIRED ACTIVE SERVICE				26. REENTRY CODE	
27. DATES OF TIME LOST DURING THIS PERIOD (YYYYMMDD)				28. MEMBER REQUESTS COPY 4	

How do
you Identify
a Veteran

NGB-22
(National Guard)
(part-time)

Date of
enlistment
(ENL) is the
date service
started.

Terminal Date
of service
obligation is
the date
service ended

Service
characterization,
must be anything
but dishonorable

DEPARTMENTS OF THE ARMY AND THE AIR FORCE NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU REPORT OF SEPARATION AND RECORD OF SERVICE														
REPORT OF SEPARATION AND RECORD OF SERVICE IN THE 1 <u>AIR</u> NATIONAL GUARD OF <u>MASSACHUSETTS</u> AND AS A RESERVE OF THE 2 <u>AIR</u> FORCE														
1. Insert either Army or Air 2. Enlisted personnel only - Insert only Army or Air Force														
1. LAST NAME - FIRST NAME - MIDDLE NAME HOFFMAN ERICK MANFRED				2. DEPARTMENT, COMPONENT AND BRANCH AIR FORCE-ANGUS				3. SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER 194-48-5825						
4. DATE OF ENL	YR 89	MO 08	DA 16	5a. RANK SSG	5b. PAY GRADE E5	6. DATE OF RANK	YR 92	MO 06	DA 12	7. DATE OF BIRTH	YR 60	MO 05	DA 10	
8a. DATE OF INSTALLATION AT WHICH EFFECTED OTIS ANG BASE MA										8b. EFFECTIVE DATE YR 94			MO 08	DA 15
9. COMMAND TO WHICH TRANSFERRED NA//////////														
10. RECORD OF SERVICE (a) NET SERVICE THIS PERIOD YRS MOS DAYS (b) PRIOR RESERVE COMPONENT SERVICE 02 00 00 (c) PRIOR ACTIVE FEDERAL SERVICE 04 00 00 (d) TOTAL SERVICE FOR PAY 11 00 00														
11. TERMINAL DATE OF RESERVE / MILITARY SERVICE OBLIGATION YR MO DA 00 00 00														
12. MILITARY EDUCATION (Course Title, number of weeks, month and year completed) NCO ORIENTATION COURSE, 81 (R)//////////														
13. PRIMARY SPECIALITY NUMBER, TITLE AND DATE AWARDED (Additional specialty numbers and titles) 3P072, Law Enforcement Craftman, 93 Feb 11 3A051, Information Management Journeyman //														
14. HIGHEST EDUCATION LEVEL SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED SECONDARY / HIGH SCHOOL 12 YRS (Gr 1-12) COLLEGE 4 YRS														
15. DECORATIONS, MEDALS, BADGES, COMMENDATIONS, CITATIONS AND CAMPAIGN RIBBONS AWARDED THIS PERIOD (State Awards may be included) NCO Prof Mil Ed Rbn, Gc Md1, SM Arm Ex Rifle NTL Def SVC Medal, AF Training Rbn, AF LGY SVC AWD w/1 Device, AFR MER SVCMD1, AFOWA //////////														
16. SERVICEMAN'S GROUP LIFE INSURANCE COV <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO AMT \$ 100,000														
17. PERSONNEL SECURITY INVESTIGATION a. TYPE TOP SECRET/SBI b. DATE COMPLETED 860428														
18. REMARKS S0 A-71, HQ 102 FW, 20 JUL 94, 3P072, 0 POSITIVE, AFOTX 64, ASVAB XVI, MFA74652E74 //////////NOTHING FOLLOWS//////////														
19. MAILING ADDRESS AFTER SEPARATION (Street, RFD, City, County, State and Zip Code) 102 COTTAGE ST- FRANKLIN, MA 02038-2207														
20. SIGNATURE OF PERSON BEING SEPARATED MEMBER NOT AVAILABLE FOR SIGNATURE														
21. TYPED NAME, GRADE AND TITLE OF AUTHORIZING OFFICER RICHARD J. DENISI, CMSgt, MA ANG Personnel Resource Manager														
22. SIGNATURE OF OFFICER AUTHORIZED TO SIGN 														
23. AUTHORITY AND REASON ANGR 34-10, Paragraph 2-4af21 Expiration Term of Service SPD:KKB														
24. CHARACTER OF SERVICE HONORABLE														
25. TYPE OF CERTIFICATE USED NGB FM 438														
26. REENLISTMENT ELIGIBILITY Eligible														
27. <input type="checkbox"/> REQUEST <input type="checkbox"/> DECLINE COPIES OF MY NGB FORM 22 INITIALS NOT PRESENT														

Where to get a DD214

[https://www.archives.gov/veterans/
military-service-records](https://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records)



Veterans' Service Records

Home > Veterans' Service Records > Military Service Records

Request Service Records

[Request Military Service Records](#)

[eVetRecs Help](#)

[Other Methods to Obtain Service Records](#)

[Special Notice Regarding Requests](#)

Military Service Records

[About Service Records](#)

[Correcting Service Records](#)

[Medical and Health Records](#)

[Locations of Service Records](#)

[Older \(pre-WWI\) Service Records](#)

[What Records are NOT Available?](#)

[Information for Veterans Service Officer \(VSO\)](#)

[Information for Congressional Staff](#)

Privacy and Security of
Veterans Records



Resumption of Onsite Operations at the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) in St. Louis

The National Personnel Records Center resumed normal operations on March 7, 2022. More information regarding current operations can be found at www.archives.gov/operating-status.

While the NPRC has reopened for normal operations, the federal record center research room remains closed. The operating status of the public research room may be found at www.archives.gov/st-louis.



eVetRecs Outage Notification

eVetRecs our online request system, will be undergoing scheduled maintenance on Saturday, August 6, 2022, beginning at 3:00 PM until 11:00 PM CST.

Requests can be submitted by mail or fax using the [SF180](#). We regret any inconvenience.

Request Military Service Records

Recent military service and medical records are **not online**. However, most veterans and their next of kin can obtain **free copies** of their DD Form 214 (Report of Separation) and the following military service records any of the ways listed below.

Looking for records?

Start Request Online

- DD 214/ Separation Documents
- Official Military Personnel File (OMPF)
- Replacement Medals
- Medical and Health Records

- [Burials and Emergency Requests](#)
- [Natural Disaster Requests](#)

If you are unable to start the form online and prefer to submit a traditional request form, you can mail or Fax it:

Mail or Fax Form

How can I check on the status of my request?

Allow us time to receive and process your request before checking your request status.

Please indicate whether you know your request number using the buttons below:

Yes, I know my request number

No, I don't know my request number

You may also telephone the **NPRC Customer Service Line** (this is a long-distance call for most customers): **314-801-0800**. **Note:** Our peak calling times are weekdays between 10:00 a.m. CT and 3:00 p.m. CT. Staff is available to take your call as early as 7:00 a.m. and as late as 5:00 p.m. CT.

*Please see our [Privacy Statement](#)

Types of Discharges

Military discharge types are a characterization of service assigned to a service member when separated from the military. This characterization is a “discharge”. A military discharge usually falls into one of six categories:

- 6 Main Types:
 - Honorable
 - General – Under Honorable Conditions
 - Other than Honorable
 - Bad Conduct Discharge
 - Dishonorable
 - Uncharacterized

Types of Discharges

HONORABLE Discharge

- Served without any problems and did their time
- Most common discharge
- Full eligibility to benefits, including access to Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) eligibility for benefits (still must apply) which include:
 - Medical (specific qualifications)
 - Mental Health
 - Housing (homelessness) (GI Bill)
 - Financial (Compensated Work Therapy)
 - Educational (GI Bill, Post 9/11 GI Bill, VocRehab)
 - Dental (specific qualifications)
 - Long-term Services (specific qualifications)
 - Burial Services
 - VA-backed Home Loans

Types of Discharges

GENERAL under Honorable Discharge:

- Also referred to as a “General Discharge”.
- Assigned when service was satisfactory but did not warrant an Honorable discharge
- Service members with a superior service record can be assigned this discharge because of non-judicial punishment(s) *((ex. Get in trouble))*
- Could cause loss of benefits based on the Character of Service
- Generally eligible for services with most programs

Types of Discharges

Other than Honorable Discharge:

- Also referred to as “OTH”
- OTH is the worst administrative discharge available
- Can result in a **severe loss of military service benefits** and may cause **hardships in post-service civilian life**
- Not guaranteed **VA medical benefits**
- Could impact **employment opportunities** even among civilian employers

Types of Discharges

BAD Conduct Discharge

- Referred to as a “BCD”
- Only given by either a special or general court-martial (felony charge)
- **BCD forfeits all VA and post-military veterans’ benefits**
- Many civilian employers will likely look unfavorably on a job candidate with this discharge
- Depending on the service member’s court-martial conviction, a BCD may also prevent a service member from owning a firearm as a civilian

Types of Discharges

Dishonorable discharge

- **Worst military discharge** available
- In many cases it is accompanied by a federal prison sentence (serious felony charge)
- Federal law prohibits service members with a dishonorable discharge from **owning a firearm**
- In many jurisdictions, loses the **right to vote**
- Prohibits most individuals from receiving any type of **governmental assistance**

Uncharacterized discharge (entry level discharge)

- Generally, entry-level is the period of the first 180 days of military service
- An Uncharacterized discharge is not negative, however, it will not permit access to Veterans' benefits and is generally NOT considered a Veteran by any program or service

Examples

ELIGIBLE: Veteran served in the Army on active duty after graduating high school. Spent 4 years in Germany as an Infantryman, and then got out of military service with an Honorable Discharge

ELIGIBLE: Veteran served in the Air Force for 4 years. He got out with an Honorable Discharge. He returns to Texas and joins the Air National Guard. He serves for 4 years and then gets a General Discharge

Examples

Veteran tells you he doesn't have his DD214. Veteran says he served 4 years in Korea in the Army Reserves from 2001 to 2004

A: NO. There are no US Army Reserve Forces located outside the US

Are they a VETERAN?

Veteran says he volunteered to serve in Vietnam, but never left the United States. He says he served in the USMC for 6 years at Fort Campbell, KY. Says he lost his DD214 but doesn't know what his discharge type was "it was so long ago"

A: NO. While some Vietnam-era Vets did not go to the country, I would question the Veteran being stationed at Fort Campbell since this is an Army post AND most Veterans know what kind of discharge they got from any generation

What is VA Disability Compensation?

Things to keep in mind:

- VA compensation is NOT:

- military retirement pay
- military severance pay
- special separation benefit
- voluntary separation incentive
- Social Security Disability or SSI

- VA disability is NOT:

- TRICARE
- Medicare / Medicaid
- available to everyone
- healthcare given by the VA

What is VA disability compensation?

Disability Compensation (money):

- Monetary benefit paid to Veterans who are determined by the VA to be disabled by an injury or illness that was incurred or aggravated during active military service (*got hurt or diagnosed*)
- Eligibility: Veteran must have been separated or discharged under conditions **other than Dishonorable**
- VA Rating is a % number based on evaluation of the conditions which approved for a benefit
- Every Veteran's disability is different based on what they were "rated" for. (like *Social Security Disability*)

This is NOT the same as getting medical care at the VA

https://www.va.gov/opa/publications/benefits_book/benefits_chap02.asp

What is VA Disability Compensation?

How Long does a VA claim for disability compensation take?

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| 1. Receipt of your claim. ... | Paper or electronically online |
| 2. Evidence review. ... | Review what was submitted by a VA rater (<i>regulation review</i>) |
| 3. Gathering of evidence. ... | Review paperwork submitted AND complete C&P exam by doctors at VA
- <i>More conditions, more appointments</i> |
| 4. Evidence review. ... | Review all materials in their possession |
| 5. Preparation for the decision... | |
| 6. Approval of the decision. ... | OR disapproval; OR ask for more information/evidence |
| 7. Notification preparation. ... | |
| 8. Decision mailing | Electronic AND via US Postal Service |

Currently it is estimated that an INITIAL CLAIM will take about 134 days to get a rating decision

What can Expedite a VA Disability Claim?

- Experiencing extreme financial hardship
- Terminally ill
- Diagnosed with **Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS)**, aka Lou Gehrig's disease
- Very seriously ill/injured or seriously ill/injured during military operations (defined as a disability resulting from a military operation that will likely result in discharge from military service)
- Age 85 or older
- A former Prisoner of War
- A Medal of Honor or Purple Heart Award Recipient



What is VA Disability Compensation?

- VA disability IS:
 - Benefit paid to the Veteran for conditions incurred during service or because of service
 - Benefit paid on behalf of the Veteran to provide services (caregivers, hospice, nursing home)
 - Generally does not change except for COLA increases approved by Congress
 - Tax-free payments provided monthly
 - Rates go from 0% to 100%
- Veterans with a disability rating of at least 30% or more qualify for most benefits available to all Veterans at the VA:
 - Educational benefits
 - VA-backed home loan
 - Veteran Readiness & Employment (VR&E)
 - Medical, Optometry, Audiology care
 - Long-term care (special qualifications)
 - VA pension (special qualifications)(poor)
 - Aid & Attendant / Housebound benefits
 - Home modification grants
 - Burial benefits
 - Dental Care (100% service-connected only)
 - Caregiver benefits (special qualifications)

<https://www.va.gov/service-member-benefits/>

<https://www.va.gov/disability/compensation-rates/veteran-rates/>

Aging Benefits at the VA

According to the 2015-2019 American Community Survey, the Veteran population ages 65 or older numbered in excess of 18.2 million

Aid and Attendance (A&A) is an increased monthly pension \$\$ amount paid if you meet one of the conditions:

- You require help performing daily functions, which may include bathing, eating or dressing
- You are bedridden
- You are a patient in a nursing home
- Your eyesight is limited to a corrected 5/200 visual acuity or less in both eyes; or concentric contraction of the visual field to 5 degrees or less

Housebound is an increased monthly pension \$\$ amount paid if you are substantially confined to your immediate premises because of a permanent disability

Note: You can't get Aid and Attendance benefits and Housebound benefits at the same time!

<https://www.va.gov/pension/aid-attendance-housebound/>

Aging Benefits at the VA

VA Health Care for Elderly Veterans

Geriatrics is health care for elderly Veterans with complex needs. Extended care – also known as long term care – is a program for Veterans of all ages who need the daily support and assistance of another individual. Elderly Veterans can receive geriatric and long-term care programs at home, at VA medical centers, or in the community.

- Geriatrics Program
- Long Term Care
- Eligibility for Long Term Care
- Home Based and Community Services
- Nursing Home and Residential Care
- Geriatrics Research

<https://www.va.gov/geriatrics/>

Long-Term Care Benefits



Home and Community Services



Residential Settings and Nursing Homes



Making Decisions and Advance Care Planning



Mental Health, Memory Loss and Brain Health



Paying for Long Term Care



Health, Fitness, and Rehabilitation



For Health Care Professionals



For Caregivers



Other VA and non-VA Resources

<https://www.va.gov/geriatrics/>

Long-Term Care Benefits

Geriatrics and Extended Care

▼ Geriatrics and Extended Care

Home

GEC Leadership

► Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Home and Community Services

Residential Settings and Nursing Homes

Paying for Long Term Care

Health, Fitness, Rehabilitation

Making Decisions and Advance Care Planning

Mental Health, Memory Loss and Brain Health

For Caregivers

For Health Care Professionals

Other VA and non-VA Resources

Print Handouts

► More Health Care

QUICK LINKS



Hospital Locator

Zip Code

Go

Home and Community Based Services



Homemaker & Home Health Aide Care



Skilled Home Health Care



Home Based Primary Care



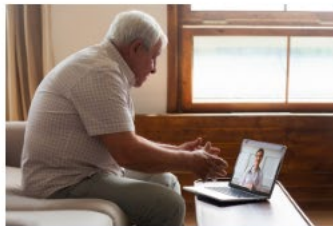
Veteran-Directed Care



Adult Day Health Care



Respite Care



Telehealth



Palliative Care



Hospice Care

<https://www.va.gov/geriatrics/>

Long-Term Care Benefits

VA » Health Care » Geriatrics and Extended Care » Veteran-Directed Care

Geriatrics and Extended Care

► Geriatrics and Extended Care

► More Health Care

QUICK LINKS

 Hospital Locator

Go

 Health Programs

 Protect Your Health

 A-Z Health Topics



https://www.va.gov/geriatrics/pages/Veteran-Directed_Care.asp

Veteran-Directed Care



What is it?



Am I eligible?



What services?



How do I decide?

What is Veteran Directed Care?

Veteran Directed Care gives Veterans of all ages the opportunity to receive the Home and Community Based Services they need in a consumer-directed way.

This program is for Veterans who need personal care services and help with activities of daily living. Examples include help with bathing, dressing, or fixing meals. This program is also for Veterans who are isolated, or their caregiver is experiencing burden.

Veterans in this program are given a budget for services that is managed by the Veteran or the Veteran's representative. With the help of a counselor, Veterans hire their own workers to meet their daily needs to help them live at home or in their community.

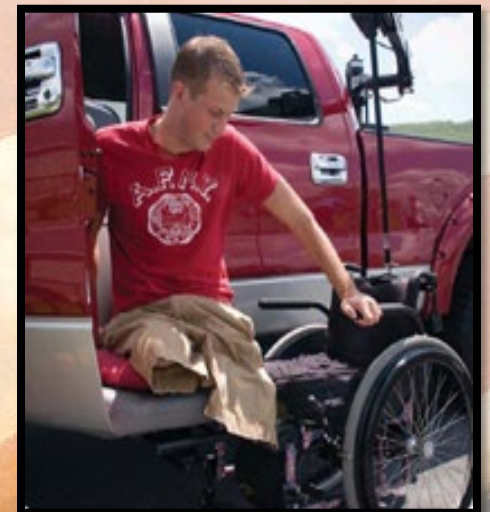
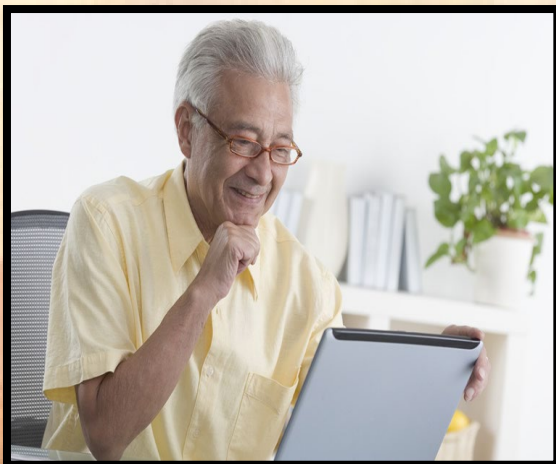
RETURN TO: Home and
Community Based Services



Print this topic

[return to top](#) ▲

Veteran-Directed Home and Community Based Services



Veteran-Directed Home and Community Based Services

Program for a new Veteran-directed approach to home and community services partnered by:

- U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
- Central Texas Veterans Healthcare System
- Administration on Community Living
- TX Dept of Aging and Disability Services
- Area Agency on Aging of Central Texas



Eligibility: All enrolled Veterans are eligible for Veteran Directed Care IF they are eligible for community care, meet the clinical criteria for the service, and it is available. Services may vary by location

Veteran-Directed Home and Community Based Services

- **The Veteran** can recruit, hire, train and fire their own employees and backup employees (including family, friends or neighbors)
- **The Veteran** sets wages and benefits for the “employees” based on a service budget created with the help of the AAA VD-HCBS Consultant
- **The Veteran** sets schedules and submits time sheets for the employees to a Fiscal Management Agency (FMS)



The AAA VD-HCBS Services

AAA VD-HCBS Staff assists the Veteran as a Service Consultant and provides activities that will:

- Assist the Veteran to develop a Service Plan appropriate for the Veteran's unique needs
- Orients the Veteran to become an "Employer"
- Assists the Veteran Employer in training and educating the employee's
- Provides support consultation services to the Veteran over length of approved services
- Provides linkage to Financial Management Services (FMS)

These services are provided for 20% of the Veteran's approved budget

The services, supports and goods that a Veteran choose must:

- Help the Veteran meet their functional, medical and/or social needs;
- Help the Veteran to reach the goals “set for yourself”;
- Not be prohibited by federal and state laws and regulations;
- Not be available through another VA source

AND

Do one or more of the following:

- Make it easier for you to do things that are hard because of your disability or health issues;

OR

- Increase safety in the Veteran’s home environment; OR
- Lessen the Veteran’s need for other publicly funded services

Long-Term Care Benefits

Residential Settings



Community Residential Care



Medical Foster Homes



Adult Family Homes



Traumatic Brain Injury
Residential Rehab



Assisted Living

Nursing Homes



VA Community Living Centers



Community Nursing Homes



State Veterans Homes

[https://www.va.gov/geriatrics/pages/Nursing Home and Residential Services.asp?utm_source=geriatrics_home_page](https://www.va.gov/geriatrics/pages/Nursing_Home_and_Residential_Services.asp?utm_source=geriatrics_home_page)

[https://www.va.gov/geriatrics/pages/State Veterans Homes.asp](https://www.va.gov/geriatrics/pages/State_Veterans_Homes.asp)

Veterans Homes in Texas

- [Alfredo Gonzalez Texas State Veterans Home Mcallen, Texas](#)
- [Ambrosio Guillen Texas State Veterans Home El Paso, Texas](#)
- [Clyde W. Cospers Texas State Veterans Home Bonham, Texas](#)
- [Frank M. Tejeda Texas State Veterans Home Floresville, Texas](#)
- [Lamun-Lusk-Sanchez Texas State Veterans Home Big Spring, Texas](#)
- [Richard A Anderson Texas State Veterans Home Houston, Texas, Texas](#)
- [Ussery-Roan Texas State Veterans Home Amarillo, Texas](#)
- [Watkins-Logan Texas State Veterans Home Tyler, Texas](#)
- [William R. Courtney Texas State Veterans Home Temple, Texas](#)

CLOSE



Survivor Benefits

(aka widow benefits / DIC payments)



Survivor Benefits

You may be eligible for this benefit if:

1. You haven't remarried after the Veteran's death; and,
2. If the deceased Veteran didn't receive a Dishonorable discharge; and,
3. Their service meets at least one of these requirements:
 - a. The Veteran entered active duty **on or before September 7, 1980**, and served at least 90 days on active military service, with at least 1 day during a covered wartime period, or
 - b. The Veteran entered active duty **after September 7, 1980**, and served at least 24 months or the full period for which they were called or ordered to active duty (with some exceptions), with at least 1 day during a covered wartime period or
 - c. The Veteran was an officer and started on active duty after October 16, 1981, and hadn't previously served on active duty for at least 24 months

<https://www.va.gov/pension/survivors-pension/#what-wartime-periods-do-you-re>

Survivor Benefits

What is a Wartime Period?

- Mexican Border period (May 9, 1916, to April 5, 1917, for Veterans who served in Mexico, on its borders, or in adjacent waters)
- World War I (April 6, 1917, to November 11, 1918)
- World War II (December 7, 1941, to December 31, 1946)
- Korean conflict (June 27, 1950, to January 31, 1955)
- Vietnam War era (November 1, 1955, to May 7, 1975, for Veterans who served in the Republic of Vietnam during that period. August 5, 1964, to May 7, 1975, for Veterans who served outside of the Republic of Vietnam.)
- Gulf War (August 2, 1990, through a future date to be set by law or presidential proclamation)

General Questions?

Q?: Is a Veteran that is getting VA disability payments eligible for other benefits?

A: YES, but you must ensure that their disability payment does NOT make them over your income limit

Q?: Does every Veteran get VA Healthcare?

A: NO, healthcare is not a right of every Veteran. You must have an injury or condition that is caused by your military service, OR be indigent AND served during a Wartime-period for free healthcare

Q?: Does every Veteran that goes to the VA for healthcare get VA disability payments?

A: NO, the disability payment (\$\$\$) is not always given to a Veteran getting healthcare. Sometimes a Veteran can get VA Healthcare AND not get VA Disability payments. *Money vs. Healthcare*

Q?: Do all Veterans have a VA ID Card or Retiree ID

A: NO, only Veterans who register OR get VA Healthcare have a VA ID Card

A: NO, only Veterans who have **retired from the military** get a Retiree ID Card (generally over income)

General Questions?

Q?: What do I do if I question a Veteran's identity or benefits

A: Contact bobby@cfptemple.org or George.Losoya@ctcog.org or your local County Veteran Service Officer (VSO); see next slide for link to current directory

Q? How do I know how much a Veteran makes based on their Disability Rating

A: See VA Disability pay chart at <https://www.va.gov/disability/compensation-rates/veteran-rates/>

Q?: Is a VA Disability Letter verification of Veteran status

A: YES, BUT you still should order a copy of their discharge documents because there are some Veterans who get VA Disability or VA Healthcare because of a mistake by the government (*few but still verify*)

Q?: Is a Discharge Certificate verification of Veteran status

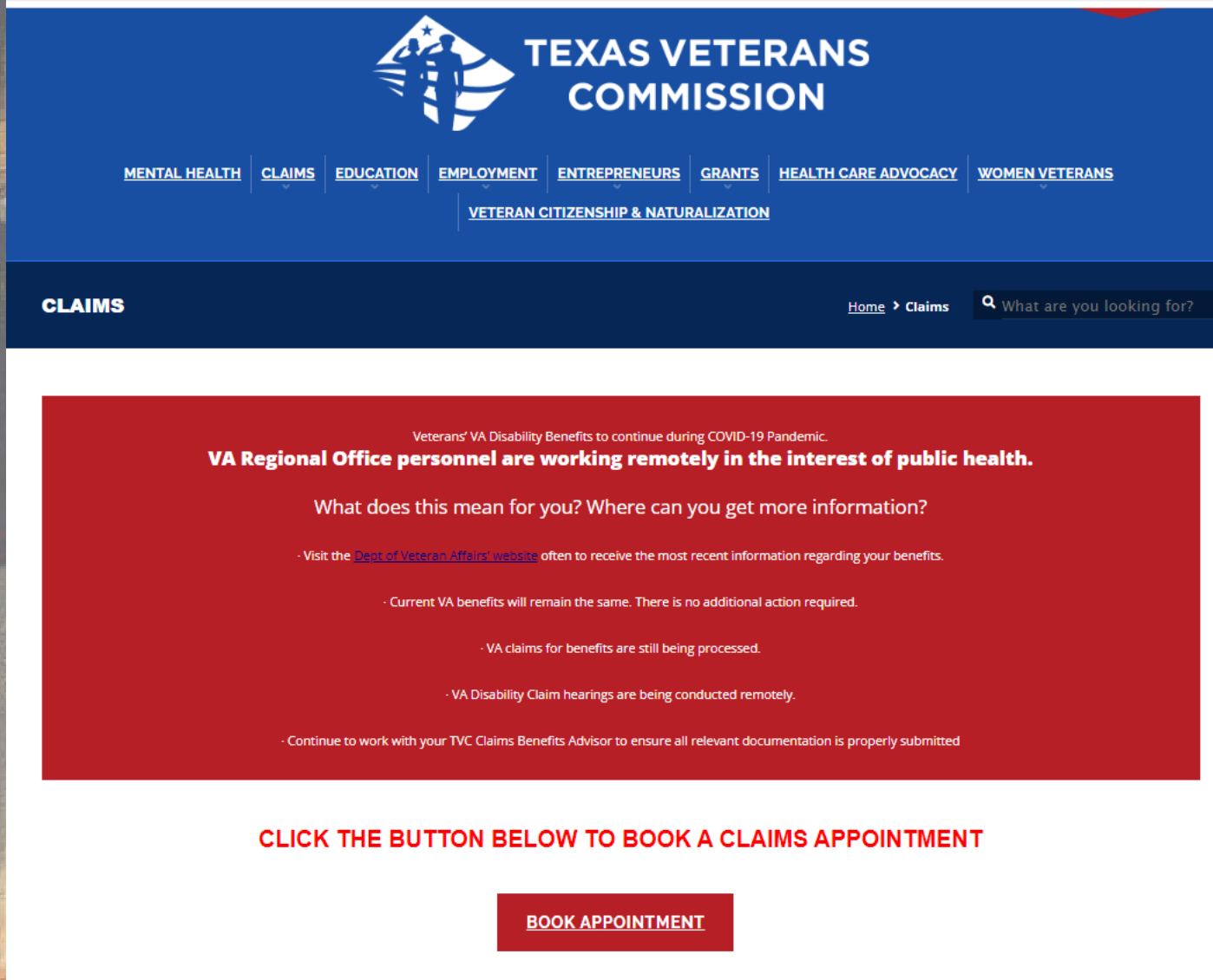
A: NO, the discharge certificate is only a token of appreciation and should NOT be used as verification

Q?: Do all Veterans that served in combat get VA Healthcare

A: NO, you still have to be eligible and have some injury or condition that was cause by military service regardless of if you served in combat or not

EX. Veteran with VA benefits, rated 50% disability, does NOT qualify for dental care

How do I File a Claim or Find Resources?



The screenshot shows the Texas Veterans Commission website. The header is blue with the TVC logo and navigation links: MENTAL HEALTH, CLAIMS, EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT, ENTREPRENEURS, GRANTS, HEALTH CARE ADVOCACY, and WOMEN VETERANS. Below these is a link for VETERAN CITIZENSHIP & NATURALIZATION. The main content area has a red background with white text. It states that Veterans' VA Disability Benefits will continue during the COVID-19 Pandemic and that VA Regional Office personnel are working remotely. It provides information on where to get more information, including the Dept of Veteran Affairs website, and lists several points: current VA benefits remain the same, VA claims for benefits are still being processed, VA Disability Claim hearings are being conducted remotely, and users should continue to work with their TVC Claims Benefits Advisor. At the bottom, there is a red button labeled 'BOOK APPOINTMENT'.

TEXAS VETERANS COMMISSION

MENTAL HEALTH | CLAIMS | EDUCATION | EMPLOYMENT | ENTREPRENEURS | GRANTS | HEALTH CARE ADVOCACY | WOMEN VETERANS

VETERAN CITIZENSHIP & NATURALIZATION

CLAIMS

Home > Claims

What are you looking for?

Veterans' VA Disability Benefits to continue during COVID-19 Pandemic.

VA Regional Office personnel are working remotely in the interest of public health.

What does this mean for you? Where can you get more information?

- Visit the [Dept of Veteran Affairs' website](#) often to receive the most recent information regarding your benefits.
- Current VA benefits will remain the same. There is no additional action required.
- VA claims for benefits are still being processed.
- VA Disability Claim hearings are being conducted remotely.
- Continue to work with your TVC Claims Benefits Advisor to ensure all relevant documentation is properly submitted

CLICK THE BUTTON BELOW TO BOOK A CLAIMS APPOINTMENT

BOOK APPOINTMENT

<https://www.tvc.texas.gov/claims/>



1. Texas also has Veteran County Service Officers (VSO) trained by TVC and paid for by the County which they support.

For the updated list of VSOs and their contact information, go to:

<https://www.tvc.texas.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/2022-VCSO-Directory.pdf>

2. There are also National VSO officers in some groups including the American Legion, VFW, Military Order of the Purple Heart, and Wounded Warrior Project (*google file VSO claim*)

Where can I find Resources serving Veterans?

Texas Veterans Network

State-Funded Referrals
to Local Veteran
Serving Organizations

Referrals to resources and services for Texas veterans.

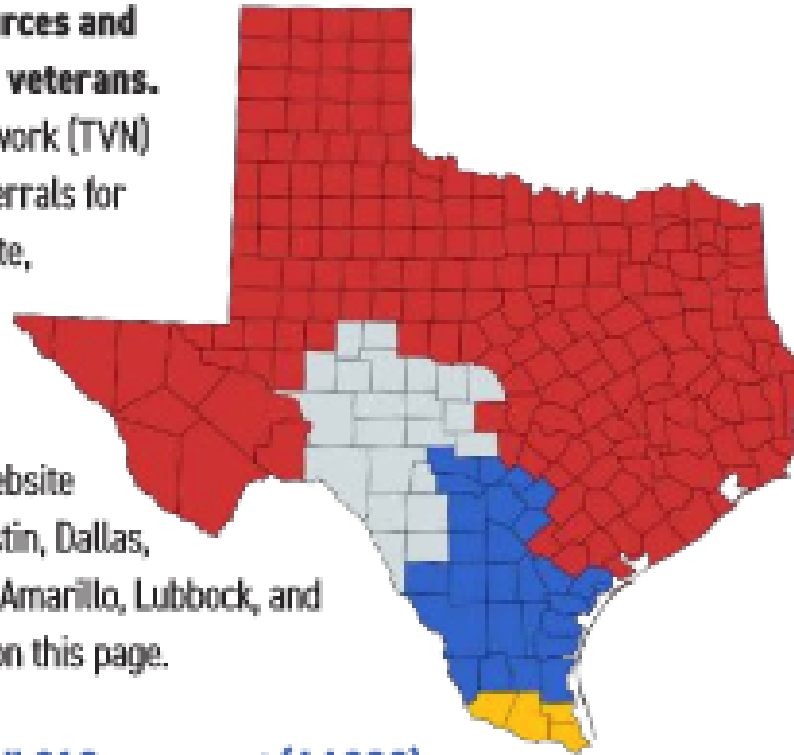
Texas Veterans Network (TVN) software makes referrals for veterans on a website, or with an app.

Combined Arms:

Check In app and website serves Houston, Austin, Dallas, Fort Worth, El Paso, Amarillo, Lubbock, and 194 counties in red on this page.

Alamo Area Council Of Government (AACOG):

UniteUS website serves San Antonio, Corpus Christi, Laredo, and 27 counties in blue on this page.



ALL COUNTIES IN TEXAS:

CALL: 1-888-737-3112

<http://texasveterans.network>

COMBINED ARMS:

<https://www.combinedarms.us/>

AACOG:

<http://www.txveteransnetwork.com>

Willacy, Cameron, Hidalgo & Starr Counties:

<https://rgv.americaserves.org/>

Questions?



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