



USSOCOM VA LNO

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UNITED STATES ARMY

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VA
Benefits
and
Services



BRIEFING

Content

- **VA – Purpose & Organization**
- **Compensation & Pension**
- **Readjustment Counseling**
- **Burial & Survivor Benefits**
- **Post 9/11 GI Bill**
- **Conclusion & Contacts**

“To care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and his orphan...”

- Abraham Lincoln -

Pre-Discharge Program

Benefits Delivery at Discharge (BDD)

- VA has a presence at:
 - 47 Air Force bases
 - 32 Navy bases/stations
 - 43 Army posts
 - 8 Marine Corps installations
 - 7 Coast Guard sites
 - 3 mixed commands
 - 5 overseas locations

VA

- **Veterans Benefits Administration**
 - All VA benefits - Compensation, Education, Home Loan Guaranty, etc.
 - Administered by VA Regional Offices
- **Veterans Health Administration**
 - All VA health care services
 - Administered by VA Medical Centers, Ambulatory Care & Community Based Outpatient Clinics, etc.
- **National Cemetery Administration**
 - National and State Veterans Cemeteries
 - Headstones & Markers
 - Presidential Memorial Certificates

Compensation



A service-connected disability is a disease or injury incurred or aggravated while on active duty. The disability does not have to be combat or wartime related.

Compensation

- **Disabilities are rated from 0% to 100%**
- **VA rating is independent of any military rating**
- **Payments begin with 10% ratings**
- **Additional allowance for dependents with 30% or higher rating**

Compensation

(continued)

- **Severance Pay is not recouped if disabilities incurred in combat zone or combat-related operations as designated by DoD (NOTE: EFFECTIVE AFTER 28 JANUARY 2008)**
- **Effective January 1, 2008, retirees retired for disability through the military DES with less than 20 years of service for longevity are authorized CRSC payments**
- **Retirees must apply to their service-specific CRSC Board once VA establishes entitlement to compensation**

Compensation - *Related Benefits*

(continued)

- **Annual clothing allowance (\$716)***
- **Specially adapted homes****
 - ✓ **\$60,780** grant for cost of building, buying, remodeling, or paying indebtedness on home already acquired
 - ✓ Grant for actual cost, up to **\$12,756**, for adaptations to residence determined by VA to be necessary
 - * For certain types of disability
 - ** For certain cases of serious disability, and may be used while on active duty

Compensation - *Related Benefits*

(continued)

- **Automobile grant (\$11,000) and adaptive equipment****
- **Military commissary & exchange privileges*****

** For certain cases of serious disability, and may be used while on active duty

*** For 100% disability cases

Pre-Discharge Program

- Purpose: Provide complete transition assistance to all service members
- May include all phases of disability claims processing from receipt of claim through examination and the rating process
- Claims are accepted from service members within *180 days of separation or retirement*

Pre-Discharge Program

Quick Start Claims

Quick start claims are received from service members who do not qualify for BDD claims because they:

- Have less than 60 days before separation/retirement

OR

- Are unable to attend all examinations prior to separation

Veterans of Operations Enduring & Iraqi Freedom

VA provides free health care for 5
years:

*veterans who served on active
duty in a theater of combat
operations after November 11,
1998, for any illness "possibly"
related to their service in that
theater*

Veterans of Operations Enduring & Iraqi Freedom

(continued)

Time Limits: You have five years from date of discharge from active duty, if you were discharged from active duty on or after January 28, 2003. You have until January 27, 2011, if you were discharged from active duty before January 28, 2003, and were not enrolled as of January 28, 2008.

Readjustment Counseling Service



Vet Centers provide quality readjustment counseling in a caring manner. Vet Centers understand and appreciate veterans' military experiences while assisting them and their family members toward a successful post-military adjustment in or near their community.

Treatment & Counseling

- Veterans are eligible for health care and counseling (e.g., for PTSD) resulting from sexual and other personal trauma even though the incident was never reported
- Care and counseling can be provided to veterans who have qualifying military service and express a need for the care

Locate a Vet Center

Vet Centers are in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands

- Telephone numbers are available in local telephone directories under U.S. Government, Department of Veterans Affairs, Vet Center
- A complete directory is available on the Internet at www.va.gov/rcs

Burial & Survivor Benefits

Burial Benefits - (continued)

Eligibility

- Veteran, spouse, and dependent children
- Veteran defined:
 - ✓ Other than dishonorable discharge
 - ✓ Active duty service, not including Reserve active duty for training
 - ✓ Retirement eligible Reserve and National Guard members

Burial Benefits

- **National Cemeteries**
- **State Veterans Cemeteries**
- **Headstone or Marker**
- **Burial Flag**
- **Presidential Memorial Certificates**
- **Burial Cost Reimbursement**

Burial Benefits

(continued)

National Cemetery Burial



120+ Cemeteries Nationwide

- Gravesite
- Opening and Closing
- Headstone/Marker
- Burial Flag
- Funeral Honors
- Presidential Memorial Certificate
- Burial Cost Reimbursement
- Perpetual Care
- All at No Cost to the Family

Burial Benefits - (continued)

Arlington National Cemetery & State Veterans Cemeteries

- Arlington National Cemetery
 - ✓ Administered by Department of the Army
 - ✓ Eligibility more restrictive than VA
 - ✓ Unrestricted for cremations
 - ✓ Full casket for retirees
- 60+ State Veterans Cemeteries
 - ✓ Similar to National Cemeteries
 - ✓ May require residency

Burial Benefits - (continued)

Eligibility

- Veteran, spouse, and dependent children
- Veteran defined:
 - ✓ Other than dishonorable discharge
 - ✓ Active duty service, not including Reserve active duty for training
 - ✓ Retirement eligible Reserve and National Guard members

Burial Benefits - (continued)

Headstone or Marker

- **In National/State Veterans Cemeteries for all eligible persons**
- **Provided for private cemetery burials anywhere in the world for veterans only**

Burial Benefits

Other

- **Burial Flag** – to drape coffin or urn, and given to next of kin
- **Funeral Honors** – Flag folding and playing of Taps
- **Presidential Memorial Certificate** – available to family and other loved ones

Burial Benefits

Other - *(continued)*

- **Burial Cost Reimbursement**
 - ✓ *Service-Connected Death*: up to \$2,000
 - ✓ *Non Service-Connected Death (limited entitlement)*: Up to \$300 toward burial and funeral expenses, and \$300 plot allowance when burial is in a cemetery not under U.S. government jurisdiction

The Post-9/11 GI Bill

Chapter 33, Title 38
United States Code

Post-9/11 GI Bill Eligibility

An individual who served on active duty after 09/10/01 may be eligible for the Post-9/11 GI Bill if the individual—

- Served for an aggregate period of at least 90 days.
- *Exception: An individual discharged due to a service-connected disability after serving at least 30 continuous days on active duty after 9/10/01, may also be eligible.*

Eligibility Criteria

Service Requirements (after 9/10/01 an individual must serve an aggregate of)	Payment Tiers Percentage
At least 36 months	100
At least 30 continuous days on active duty (Must be discharged due to service-connected disability)	100
At least 30 months, but less than 36 months	90
At least 24 months, but less than 30 months	80
*At least 18 months, but less than 24 months	70
*At least 12 months, but less than 18 months	60
*At least 06 months, but less than 12 months	50
*At least 90 days, but less than 06 months	40

***Excludes time in Basic Military Training and/or Skill Training**

S. 3447

(Educational Assistance Improvements Act of 2010)

- Amend Title 38, United States Code, to improve educational assistance for veterans who served in the Armed Forces after September 11, 2001 and for other purposes.
- Refer to Handout

VA on the Internet

Information on *all* VA
benefits and services
is available

Visit www.va.gov

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VA Uses Recovery Act Money to Repair Historic Monuments

VA will use up to \$4.4 million in funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act program to repair and preserve historic monuments and memorials at VA-operated national cemeteries and other facilities throughout the U.S.

[Learn more](#)



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In The News

VA Uses Recovery Act Money to Repair Historic

Hot Topics

Connect with VA!

VA on the Internet

(continued)

- **Apply on-line for benefits (select "Online Applications")**
- **Submit electronic inquiries as well (select "Contact VA")**

Visit www.va.gov

Phone VA

For *benefits* information
and assistance
call toll-free

1 (800) 827-1000

TDD 1 (800) 829-4833

QUESTIONS

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