



VETERANS STILL GET THE BEST LOAN VALUE IN CALIFORNIA!

California Department of Veterans Affairs
1227 O Street, Sacramento CA 95814
(800) 952-5626
www.calvet.ca.gov



2010 CALIFORNIA VETERAN'S RESOURCE BOOK

California VETERAN'S RESOURCE BOOK



California Department of Veterans Affairs

Arnold Schwarzenegger, Governor
State of California

Roger Brautigan, Secretary
California Department of Veterans Affairs

Rocky Chavez, Undersecretary
California Department of Veterans Affairs



2010

CALVET

VETERANS SERVICES



VETERANS

You have potential entitlement to Veteran Benefits.

Including disability, vocational rehabilitation, education, medical, and burial benefits based on your military service. The aim of the California Department of Veterans Affairs (CDVA) is to help service members returning home and entering back into civilian life by utilizing the California Action Plan for Reintegration. Take advantage of the benefits you've earned! Don't leave money on the table!

VETERANS' DEPENDENTS

Planning on going to college and don't know how you will pay for it?

If you are the son or daughter of a veteran with a service-connected disability rating you may qualify to have your college fee waived at any California Community College, a California State University, or at one of the 7 University of California schools.

Call the Veterans Services Division
(916) 653-2563
www.calvet.ca.gov

HELPING VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES

achieve

EDUCATIONAL GOALS

military.devry.edu

Alhambra Center
626.293.4300

Anaheim Center
714.935.3200

Bakersfield Center
661.833.7120

Colton Center
(Inland-Empire)
909.514.1808

Daly City Center
650.991.3520

Fremont Campus
510.574.1100

Fresno Campus
559.439.8595

Irvine Center
714.734.5560

Long Beach Campus
562.427.0861

Oakland City Center
866.473.3879

Palmdale Center
866.986.9388

Pomona Campus
909.622.8866

Sacramento Campus
(Elk Grove)
916.478.2847

San Diego Campus
619.683.2446

San Jose Center
408.571.3760

Sherman Oaks Campus
888.610.0800

- Associate, bachelor's and master's degree programs and graduate certificates
- Courses online 24/7, on campus at 90+ locations—days, evenings and weekends
- VA approved for the Post 9/11 GI Bill
- Proud participant in the Yellow Ribbon Program



Program availability varies by location. In New York, DeVry University operates as DeVry College of New York. DeVry is certified to operate by the State Council of High Education for Virginia, AC0060 ©2009 DeVry Educational Development Corp. All rights reserved.

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

WITH SPECIAL THANKS TO THE MEN AND WOMEN THAT PLEDGE TO SUPPORT AND DEFEND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA BOTH FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC IN THE US ARMED FORCES. OUR CALIFORNIA MILITARY AND VETERAN POPULATIONS ARE THE MOST VITAL TO OUR HOMELAND SECURITY. A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH.

The State of California Veteran's Resource Book 2010 Edition is revised and edited by The California Department of Veterans Affairs:

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CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF
Mental Health



GOVERNOR ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER

Dear Veteran,

On behalf of all Californians, I extend my deepest gratitude to you for your outstanding service in our armed forces. Our Golden State is home to more than two million veterans, and you are each part of our proud military legacy.

To show our appreciation, our nation provides important services to our veterans, and California offers one of the most comprehensive benefit packages. This directory is published by the California Department of Veterans Affairs, and contains a listing of the compensation, pension, educational, employment, housing and burial benefits that are available to you from federal, state and county agencies, along with appropriate contact information.

California is indebted to you for your courageous service, and I encourage you to take advantage of the exceptional programs and opportunities offered through the agencies listed in this directory. You have proudly defended the freedoms we hold dear, and I thank you for your honorable commitment to our nation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Arnold Schwarzenegger".

Arnold Schwarzenegger

CAL  VET

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT
OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

CALIFORNIA COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE OFFICERS

The California Association of County Veterans Service Officers (CACVSO) is an organization of professional veterans' advocates. In California, the County Veterans Service Officer plays a critical role in the veteran's advocacy system and is often the initial contact in the community for veterans' services. Through the County Veterans Service Officer, the CACVSO is committed to California counties to provide a vital and efficient system of services and advocacy to veterans, their dependents and survivors.

The CACVSO promotes state and federal legislation and policy supportive of veterans' rights and issues, in harmony with our national obligation to veterans of the United States armed forces. The association provides a medium for the exchange of ideas, information, training and support to facilitate delivery of services to over two million California veterans.

The CACVSO recognizes the importance and merit of the congressionally-chartered veterans' service organizations, and is committed to fostering a mutually beneficial relationship with them for the common good of all veterans. It is the intent of this organization that every veteran residing in California receives the benefits and services to which they are entitled to by law and moral obligation.

Services provided by member counties

A Veteran Service Office can assist you if you are:

- Veteran
- Widow of a veteran
- Child of a deceased or disabled veteran
- Parent who lost a son or daughter in military service

And you have questions about:

- Compensation
- Pension
- School Benefits
- Life Insurance
- Medical Benefits
- Home Loans
- California veterans state benefits
- Burial benefits
- Discharge upgrade

Or need a referral for:

- Post Traumatic Stress Disorder Treatment
- Hospitalization
- Outpatient medical and dental treatment
- Alcohol and drug dependency treatment
- Home loans
- Small Business Administration

Services offered include:

- Claims assistance
- Client advocacy
- Case maintenance
- Information and referral

Program liaison with:

- VA health services
- VA veterans' centers
- VA regional offices
- Veterans service organizations
- CalVet home loan assistance
- Outreach to the elderly, disabled, Vietnam-era veterans, the incarcerated, minorities and women

DIRECTORY OF COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE OFFICERS

Alameda

Michael L. Ennis

County Veterans Service Officer
6955 Foothill Blvd., Ste. 300
Oakland, CA 94605
(510) 577-3547
(510) 577-1947 (F)

Hours: (Mon-Fri)

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.,
1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

VA Veteran Center
1504 Franklin St., Ste. 200
Oakland CA 94612
(510) 763-3904

Hours:

9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. (Wed)
1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. (Fri)

County Social Services
24100 Amador St., 3rd Fl.
Hayward, CA 94544
(510) 265-8271

Hours: (Thu)

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.,
1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Family Resource Center
39055 Liberty St., Ste. F620
Fremont, CA 94538
(510) 557-3546
(By appointment only)

Amador

Floyd Martin

County Veterans Service Officer
Highway 49 & New Airport Rd.
810 Court St.
Jackson, CA 95642
(209) 267-5764
(209) 267-0419 (F)

Hours: (Mon-Thu)

7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Butte

Patrick (Rick) Hoover

County Veterans Service Officer
196 Memorial Way
Chico, CA 95926
(530) 891-2759
(530) 895-6508 (F)

Hours: (Mon-Thu)

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Calaveras

Chele Beretz

County Veterans Service Officer
509 E. Saint Charles St.
San Andreas, CA 95249
(209) 754-6624
(209) 754-4536 (F)

Hours: (Mon-Thu)

9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Colusa

Henry E. Rodegerdts

County Veterans Service Officer

Carol S. Pearson

Assistant Veterans Service Officer

901 Parkhill St.

Colusa, CA 95932

(530) 458-0494

(530) 458-0461 (F)

Hours: (Mon-Fri)

8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Contra Costa

Phillip A. Munley

County Veterans Service Officer

10 Douglas Dr., Ste. 100

Martinez, CA 94553

(925) 313-1481

(925) 313-1490 (F)

Hours:

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.,

1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. (Mon-Thu)

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. (Fri)

Jill Martinez

100-37th St., Rm. 1033

Richmond, CA 94805-2179

(510) 374-3241

(510) 374-7955 (F)

Hours: (Tue)

1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Del Norte

Gerald Cochran

County Veterans Service Officer

Lindell D. Scarbrough

Assistant Veterans Service Officer

810 H St.

Crescent City, CA 95531

Cochran/Scarbrough (Cont.)

(707) 464-2154

(707) 464-9614

(707) 465-0409 (F)

(707) 465-5534 (Transportation)

Hours: (Mon-Fri)

8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.,

1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

El Dorado

Ed Swanson

County Veterans Service Officer

130 Placerville Dr., Ste. B

Placerville, CA 95667

(530) 621-5892

(530) 621-2218 (F)

Hours: (Mon-Fri)

8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Fresno

Charles Hunnicutt

County Veterans Service Officer

3845 N. Clark St., Ste. 101

Fresno, CA 93726-4812

(559) 454-5436

(559) 454-5400 (F)

Hours:

9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. (Mon-Thu)

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. (Fri)

Glenn

John Greco

County Veterans Service Officer

525 W. Sycamore St., Ste. A2

Willows, CA 95988

(530) 934-6524

(530) 934-6355 (F)

Greco (Cont.)

Hours:

8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Mon)

8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. (Wed)

8:00 a.m. - 5:00pm (Thu)

Humboldt

Rená Maveety

County Veterans Service Officer

825 5th St., Ste. 310

Eureka, CA 95501

(707) 445-7341

(707) 445-7611

(707) 476-2487 (F)

Hours: (Mon-Fri)

8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.,

1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Imperial

Saul M. Sanabria

County Veterans Service Officer

2695 South 4th St.

El Centro, CA 92243

(760) 337-5012

(760) 337-5042 (F)

Hours: (Mon-Fri)

8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Inyo

Jeff Hollowell

County Veterans Service Officer

Yvette Mason

Veteran Services Representative

207 West South St.

Bishop, CA 93514

(760) 873-7850

(760) 872-1610 (F)

Hollowell/Mason (Cont.)

Hours: (Mon-Thu)

7:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Kern

Charles N. Bikakis

County Veterans Service Officer

1120 Golden State Ave.

Bakersfield, CA 93301

(661) 868-7300

Hours:

8:00 a.m. -5:00 p.m. (Mon-Thu)

8:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m. (Fri)

455 Lexington St.

Delano, CA 93215

(661) 868-7300

Hours: (2nd Fri)

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

7050 Lake Isabella Blvd.

Lake Isabella, CA 93240

(661) 868-7300

Hours: (1st & 3rd Tue)

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

400 North China Lake Blvd.

Ridgecrest, CA 93555

(661) 868-7300

Hours: (Wed)

8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

125 East F St.

Tehachapi, CA 93561

(661) 868-7300

3015 Mt. Pinas Way

Frazer Park, CA 93225

(661) 868-7300

315 Lincoln St.
Taft, CA 93268
(661) 868-7300

Hours: (4th Tue)
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Kings

Joe Wright

County Veterans Service Officer
1400 W. Lacey Blvd., Bldg. 4
Hanford, CA 93230
(559) 582-3211 ext. 2659
(559) 584-0438 (F)

Hours: (Mon-Fri)
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Lake

Jim Brown

County Veterans Service Officer
Bob Penny

Assistant Veteran Service Officer
Mailing: 255 North Forbes St.
Lakeport, CA 95453

Physical address: 285 N. Main
Lakeport, CA 95434
(707) 263-2384
(707) 262-1861 (F)

Hours: (Mon-Fri)
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Lassen

Michael A. Schneider

County Veterans Service Officer
1205 Main St.
Susanville, CA 96130
(530) 251-8192
(530) 251-4901 (F)

Schneider (Cont.)

Hours: (Mon-Thu)
7:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Los Angeles

Col. Joseph N. Smith

Director

Robert Saxon

Chief, Veterans Services
2615 S. Gran Ave., Ste. 100
Los Angeles, CA 90007
(213) 744-4825

Hours: (Mon-Fri)
8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

George Dixon

351 E. Temple St., Rm. B-307
Los Angeles, CA 90012
(213) 253-2677 ext. 4605
(213) 253-5123 (F)

Frances Govens

5730 Uplander Way, Ste. 100
Culver City, CA 90230
(310) 641-0326
(310) 641-2653 (F)

Peter Roman

17600 "B" Santa Fe Ave.
Rancho Dominguez, CA 90221
(310) 761-2221
(310) 635-7024 (F)

Hours: (Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri)

Peter Roman

Villages at Cabrillo
2001 River Ave.
Long Beach, CA 90810
(562) 388-8008
(562) 388-8047 (F)

Roman (Cont.)

Hours: (Wed)

Alex De La Vara

East Los Angeles Veterans Center
5400 E. Olympic Blvd., Rm. 140
Los Angeles, CA 90022
(323) 728-9966
(323) 887-1082 (F)

Hours: (Wed)

Frank Valencia

1427 West Covina Pkwy.
West Covina, CA 91790
(626) 813-3402
(626) 338-4481 (F)

Christopher Duarte

Sepulveda VA Outpatient Clinic
16111 Plummer St., Bldg. 200
(Goldteam) 2nd Fl.
Sepulveda, CA 91343
(818) 891-7711 ext. 9146
(818) 895-9493 (F)

Robert Ortiz

335-A E. Ave. K-6
Lancaster, CA 93535
(661) 723-4495
(661) 723-5247 (F)

Ruben Trejo

Santa Clarita Valley Srvc. Center
24271 San Fernando Rd.
Newhall, CA 91321
(661) 254-3413
(661) 255-8620 (F)

Hours: (Tue, Thu, Fri)

Ruben Trejo

Antelope Valley Senior Center
777 W. Jackman St.
Lancaster, CA 93534
(661) 726-4410
(661) 940-7947 (F)

Hours: (Mon, Wed)

Armand Assayag

5901 E. 7th St., Sect. 217, Rm 211A
Long Beach, CA 90822
(562) 826-8000 ext. 4657
(562) 826-5284 (F)

Madera**Theresa Lopez**

County Veterans Service Officer
200 W. 4th St., 1st Fl.
Madera, CA 93637
(559) 675-7766
(559) 675-7911 (F)

Hours: (Mon-Fri)

8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Marin**Morton H. Tallen**

County Veterans Service Officer
10 N. San Pedro Rd., Ste 1010
San Rafael, CA 94903
(415) 499-6193
(415) 499-6465 (F)

Hours: (Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri)

8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Mariposa

Robert Johns

County Veterans Service Officer

5085 Bullion St.

Mariposa, CA 95338

(209) 966-3696

(209) 966-3293 (F)

Hours: (Tue, Wed)

9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Mendocino

Carl Stenberg

County Veterans Service Officer

P.O. Box 839

Ukiah, CA 95482

(707) 463-4226

(707) 463-4637 (F)

Hours: (Mon-Fri)

8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.,

1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Fort Bragg

P.O. Box 1306

Fort Bragg, CA 95437

(707) 964-5823

(707) 961-6396 (F)

Willits

P.O. Box 839

Ukiah, CA 95482

(707) 456-3792

(707) 459-7603 (F)

Merced

Darren Hughes

County Veterans Service Officer

Kay Spears

Supervising Veterans Claims

Hughes/Spears (Cont.)

3605 Hospital Rd., Ste. E

Atwater, CA 95301

(209) 385-7588

(209) 725-3848 (F)

Hours: (Mon-Fri)

8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

(Appointments Tue, Wed and Thu)

Modoc

Harry Hitchings

County Veterans Service Officer

211 E. 1st St.

Alturas, CA 96101

(530) 233-6209

(530) 233-1235 (F)

Hours: (Mon-Fri)

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.,

1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Mono

Jeff Hollowell

County Veterans Service Officer

Yvette Mason

Veteran Services Representative

207 West South St.

Bishop, CA 93514

(760) 873-7850

(760) 872-1610 (F)

Hours: (Mon-Thu)

7:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Monterey

Richard F. Garza

County Veterans Service Officer

1200 Aguajito Rd.

Monterey, CA 93940

(831) 647-7610

Garza (Cont.)

Hours:

8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.,

1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Mon-Thu)

8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. (Fri)

Richard F. Garza (Available daily)

9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Monterey)

(By appointment only)

William C. Zeigler Jr.

Seaside (Fort Ord)

3401 Engineer Ln.

Monterey, CA 93940

(831) 883-3811

(831) 883-3860 (F)

Hours:

1:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. (Mon)

8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.,

1:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. (Tue)

1:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. (Wed)

8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. (Thu)

8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. (Fri)

Eddie Humada

1000 S. Main St., Rm. 107

Salinas, CA 93901

(831) 796-3585

(831) 755-4449 (F)

Hours:

8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.,

1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Mon)

8:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. (Tue)

8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.,

1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Wed)

8:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. (Thu)

8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. (Fri)

Napa

Patrick J. Jolly

County Veterans Service Officer

900 Coombs St., Ste. 257

Napa, CA 94559

(707) 253-6072

(707) 299-1489 (F)

Hours:

8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. (Mon-Thu)

8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. (Fri)

(Friday appointments strongly recommended)

Nevada

Pamela Davinson

County Veterans Service Officer

255 South Auburn St.

Grass Valley, CA 95945

(530) 273-3396

(530) 272-3182 (F)

Hours: (Mon-Fri)

9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Orange

John Parent

County Veterans Service Officer

1300 South Grand Ave., Bldg. B

Santa Ana, CA 92705

(714) 567-7450

(714) 567-7674 (F)

Hours:

8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

(Mon, Wed, Fri)

9:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Fri)

Placer

Rick Buckman

County Veterans Service Officer
1000 Sunset Blvd., Ste. 115
Rocklin, CA 95765 (eff 1/15/2010)
(530) 889-7968
(530) 885-8648 (F)

Hours: (Mon-Fri)
8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.,
1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Plumas

Sheryl M. Austin

County Veterans Service Officer
270 County Hospital Rd., Ste. 107
Quincy, CA 95971-9126
(530) 283-6275
(800) 219-5295
(530) 283-6146 (F)

Hours: (Tue-Thu)
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Riverside

William J. Earl

County Veterans Service Officer
1153A Spruce St.
Riverside, CA 92507-2428
(951) 955-6050
(951) 955-6061 (F)

Hours: (Mon-Thu)
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Jose Gonzales

44-199B Monroe St.
Indio, CA 92201
(760) 863-8266
(760) 863-8478 (F)

Hours: (Mon-Thu)
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Jeannette Phillips

1075 North State St.
Hemet, CA 92543
(951) 766-2566
(951) 766-2567 (F)

Hours: (Mon-Thu)
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.,
1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Sacramento

Carrie Clark

County Veterans Service Officer
2007 19th St.
Sacramento, CA 95818
(916) 874-6811
(916) 874-8868 (F)

Hours: (Mon-Fri)
8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. (Walk-In),
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Phone Inq.)

San Benito

Richard Garza

County Veterans Service Officer
649 San Benito St.
Hollister, CA 95203
(831) 637-4846
(831) 637-1609 (F)

Hours:
8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
(Mon, Wed, Fri)
1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Tue, Thu)

San Bernardino

Bill J. Moseley

Director
175 West 5th St., 2nd Fl.
San Bernardino, CA 92415-0470
(909) 387-5516
(909) 387-6090 (F)

Moseley (Cont.)

Hours:

7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. (Mon-Thu)

8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. (Fri)

Rachel Hay

Veterans Service Representative II

15456 West Sage St., Ste. 201

Victorville, CA 92392-2311

(760) 843-4300

(760) 843-4306 (F)

Hours: (Mon-Thu)

7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Claudia Frye

Veterans Service Representative II

13260 Central Ave., 2nd Fl.

Chino, CA 91710

(909) 465-5241

(909) 465-5245 (F)

Hours: (Tue, Wed)

7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Dawn Ortiz

Veterans Service Representative II

Veterans Home of California

100 E. Veterans Pkwy.,

Bldg. 100-A

Barstow, CA 92311-7003

(760) 252-6257

Hours: (Mon, Thu)

8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Rachel Hay

Veterans Service Representative II

ACAP Bldg. 577

Ft. Irwin, CA 92310

Hours: (Tue)

8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.,

1:00 p.m.- 4:00 p.m.

Darlene Lee

Veterans Service Representative II

Loma Linda VA Medical Center

11201 Benton St.

Loma Linda, CA 92357

(909) 583-6018

Hours: (Mon & Thu)

8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Misty Taylor

Veterans Service Representative II

73629 Sun Valley Dr.

Twentynine Palms, CA 92277

(760) 361-4636

Hours: (Wed)

8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Misty Taylor

Veterans Service Representative II

Village Center, Bldg. 1551,

MCAGCC

Twentynine Palms, CA 92277

(760) 830-6344

Hours:

1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. (Wed)

8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. (Thu)

Misty Taylor

Veterans Service Representative II

56357 Pima Trail

Yucca Valley, CA 92284

(760) 228-5234

Hours: (Tue)

9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

San Diego

Tom Splitgerber

County Veterans Service Officer
734 West Beech St., Ste. 200
San Diego, CA 92101-2441
(619) 531-4545
(619) 232-3190 (F)

Hours: (Mon-Fri)
8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

San Francisco

Col. Wallace Levin

County Veterans Service Officer
875 Stevenson St., Ste. 250
San Francisco, CA 94103
(415) 554-7100
(415) 554-7101 (F)

Hours: (Mon-Thu)
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.,
1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

VA Medical Center
4150 Clement St., Bldg. 2, Rm. 169
San Francisco, CA 94121
(415) 379-5613
(415) 750-2256 (F)

Hours: (Mon-Thu)
7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

San Joaquin

Ron Green

County Veterans Service Officer
105 S. San Joaquin St.
Stockton, CA 95202
(209) 468-2916
(209) 468-2918 (F)

Hours: (Mon-Fri)
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

San Luis Obispo

Michael Piepenburg

County Veterans Service Officer
801 Grand Ave.
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408
(805) 781-5766
(805) 781-5769 (F)

Hours: (Mon-Fri)
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

San Mateo

Jeffrey Young

County Veterans Service Officer
260 Harbor Blvd., Bldg. A
Belmont, CA 94002
(650) 802-6598
(650) 595-2419 (F)

Hours: (Mon-Fri)
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Santa Barbara

Mozart Booker, Jr.

County Veterans Service Officer
108 E. Locust St.
Lompoc, CA 93436
(805) 737-7900
(805) 737-7901 (F)

Hours: (Mon-Fri)
8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.,
1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Robert Langley

Veterans Service Representative
315 Camino Del Remedio, Bldg. 2
Santa Barbara, CA 93110
(805) 681-4500
(805) 681-4501 (F)

Langley (Cont.)

Hours: (Tue-Fri)

7:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.,

1:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Rhonda Murphy

Veterans Service Representative

511 E. Lakeside Pkwy., Rm. 126

Santa Maria, CA 93455

(805) 346-7160

(805) 346-8331 (F)

Hours: (Mon-Thu)

7:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.,

1:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Santa Clara**Ken Kershaw**

County Veterans Service Officer

68 N. Winchester Blvd.

Santa Clara, CA 95050

(408) 553-6000

(408) 553-6016 (F)

Hours: (Mon-Fri)

8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.,

1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

San Jose VA Clinic

80 Greats Oaks Blvd.

San Jose, CA 95119

(408) 363-3000 ext 75544

Hours: (Wed, Thu)

8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Doug Nelson

Veterans Service Representative

San Jose Veteran Center

278 N. Second St.

San Jose, CA 95112

(408) 993-0729

Nelson (Cont.)

Hours: (Tue)

8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.,

1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

(By appointment only)

Rich Herrera

Veterans Service Representative

Emergency Housing Consortium/

Baccardo Regional

Reception Center

2011 Little Orchard Blvd.

San Jose, CA 95125

Hours: (Mon)

8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Santa Cruz**Allan Moltzen**

County Veterans Service Officer

842 Front St.

Santa Cruz, CA 95060

(831) 458-7110

Hours: (Mon-Thu)

8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.,

1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Lorena Vasquez

Veteran Services Representative

215 East Beach St.

Watsonville, CA 95076

(831) 458-7110

Hours: (Thu)

(By appointment only)

Shasta**Bob Dunlap**

County Veterans Service Officer

2625 Breslauer Way, Ste. 4

Redding, CA 96001

Dunlap (Cont.)

(530) 225-5846

(530) 245-6454 (F)

bdunlap@co.shasta.ca.us

*Hours: (Mon-Fri)**8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.,**1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.***Siskiyou****Timothy Grenvik**

County Veterans Service Officer

Mailing: 305 Butte St.

Yreka, CA 96097

Physical address: 1710 Fairlane Rd.

(Armory @ the Fairgrounds)

Yreka, CA 96097

(530) 842-8010

(530) 841-4314 (F)

*Hours: (Mon-Thu)**8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.,**1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.**(Claim work and Outreach on Friday)***Solano****Bill Reardon**

County Veterans Service Officer

675 Texas St., Ste. 4700

Fairfield, CA 94533

(707) 784-6590

(707) 784-0927 (F)

*Hours: (Mon-Fri)**9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.,**1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.***Dennis Murphy**

Veterans Benefits Counselor

401 Amador St.

Vallejo, CA 94590

Murphy (Cont.)

(707) 553-5261

(707) 553-5672 (F)

*Hours: (Mon-Fri)**9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.,**1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.***Sonoma****Chris Bingham**

County Veterans Service Officer

3725 Westwind Blvd., Ste. 101

Santa Rosa, CA 95403

(707) 565-5960

(707) 565-5980 (F)

*Hours: (Mon-Fri)**8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.***Stanislaus****Carolyn S. Hebenstreich**

County Veterans Service Officer

121 Downey Ave., Ste. 102

Modesto, CA 95353

(209) 558-7380

(209) 558-8648 (F)

*Hours: (Mon-Fri)**8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.***Sutter and Yuba****Marvin D. King, Jr.**

County Veterans Service Officer

1114 Yuba St., Ste. 150, Box 7

Marysville, CA 95901

(530) 749-4967

(530) 749-4992 (F)

*Hours: (Mon-Fri)**8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.**(Excluding holidays)*



CALIFORNIA VETERANS SERVICE OFFICERS, INC.

A Veterans Service Office Can Assist you if you are:

- A veteran
- Widow of a veteran
- Child of a deceased or disabled veteran
- Parent who lost a son or daughter in military service

And have questions about:

- Compensation
- Pension
- School Benefits
- Life Insurance
- Medical Benefits
- Home Loans
- California veterans state benefits
- Burial benefits
- Discharge upgrade

Or Need a referral for:

- Post Traumatic Stress Disorder treatment
- Hospitalization
- Outpatient medical and dental treatment
- Alcohol and drug dependency treatment
- Home loans
- Small Business Administration

Contact your local
County Veterans
Service Office to
find out more
information about
the benefits you've
earned!

www.cacvso.org

Tehama

William (Bill) Johnson

County Veterans Service Officer
633 Washington St., Rm. 15
Red Bluff, CA 96080
(530) 529-3664
(530) 529-7933 (F)

Hours: (Mon-Thu)

12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

*(Outreach in Corning, CA every
2nd and 4th Fridays of the month
from 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. at the
Veterans Memorial Hall)*

Tehama County Sheriff's Office
22840 Antelope Blvd.
Red Bluff, CA 96080
(530) 529-7930
(530) 529-7933 (F)

Hours: (Mon-Thu)

7:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Trinity

Douglas Bue

County Veterans Service Officer
Veterans Memorial Hall
109 Memorial Dr.
Weaverville, CA 96093
(530) 623-3975
(530) 623-8365 (F)

Hours:

8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. (Mon-Wed)

8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. (Thu)

(Closed Fridays)

Tulare

Dan Britton

County Veterans Service Officer
205 North "L" St.

Britton (Cont.)

Tulare, CA 93274
(559) 685-3300
(559) 685-3370 (F)

Hours:

7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Mon-Thu)

8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. (Fri)

Tuolumne

Eric Larson

County Veterans Service Officer
Beth Barnes

Senior Veterans Representative
105 Hospital Rd.
Sonora, CA 95370
(209) 533-6280
(209) 533-6282 (F)
(209) 533-6284 (Beth Barnes)

Hours: (Mon-Fri)

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.,

1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Ventura

Marissa P. Mach

Senior Program Manager
County of Ventura
Human Services Agency
(805) 477-5325
(805) 477-5386

Yolo

Billy Wagster

County Veterans Service Officer
120 West Main St., Ste. A
Woodland, CA 95695
(530) 406-4850

Hours: (Mon-Fri)

7:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.,

1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS



Congressional Medal of Honor Society

National Headquarters
Victoria Kueck, Director of
Operations
40 Patriots Point Rd.
Mt. Pleasant, SC 29464
(843) 884-1471

www.cmohs.org

Military Order of the Purple Heart

VA Regional Office, MOPH
1301 Clay St., Rm. 1145N
Oakland CA 94612
(510) 834-0612
(703) 642-5360 (Virginia Office)
(510) 637-1239 (F)
Michaelo.Delatorre@va.gov

www.purpleheart.org

Veterans of Foreign Wars

1510 "J" St., Ste. 110
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 449-8850
(816) 756-3390 (Kansas City HQ)
info@vfwca.net

www.vfw.org

The American Legion

Bill Siler III, Adjutant
401 Van Ness Ave., Rm. 117
San Francisco, CA 94102-4587
(415) 431-2400
(317) 630-1323

www.legion.org
www.calegion.org

California State Council



WWW.VVACALSC.COM

The purpose of the Vietnam Veterans of America, the California State Council, and its chapters is to help foster, encourage, and promote the improvement of the condition of the Vietnam Veteran.

California Veterans Benefits Fund

This Corporation is organized exclusively for charitable purposes. It is organized to provide education, direction, and assistance to veterans and their families located throughout California. The

Corporation also funds certain programs such as the Veteran Service Officer Program within VVA.

www.CAVBF.org



CALIFORNIA VETERANS BENEFITS FUND

CA Association of County Veterans Service Officers, Inc.

Beth Barnes, Secretary
105 E. Hospital Rd., Rm. 219
Sonora, CA 95370
(209) 533-6280

www.cacvso.org

Disabled American Veterans – Dept. of CA

Daniel Contreras, Adjutant
13733 E. Rosecrans Ave.
Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670
(562) 404-1266
(859) 441-7300
davcaadj@aol.com

www.dav.org

Pearl Harbor Survivors Association, Inc.

James L. Evans
National Secretary
P.O. Box 1816
Carlsbad, CA 92018-1816
(760) 727-9027
(760) 727-9087 (F)
jimarine@adelphia.net

www.pearlharborsurvivorsonline.org

National Guard Association of California

Jim Lubey, President
3336 Bradshaw Rd., Ste. 230
Sacramento, CA 95827
(916) 362-3411
jimlubey@ngac.org

www.ngac.org

National League of Families of America POWS/MIAS

Ann Mills-Griffiths, Director
1005 N. Glebe Rd., Ste. 170
Arlington, VA 22201
(703) 465-7432
(703) 465-7433 (F)
info@pow-miafamilies.org

www.pow-miafamilies.org

Vietnam Veterans of America

P.O. Box 3007
Riverside CA 92519-3007
(951) 781-6137

www.vva.org
www.vvacalsc.com

AMVETS Dept. of California

Rose Blackman, Executive Director
 240 East King Ave.
 Tulare CA 93274
 (559) 688-3407
 (877) 726-8387
 (559) 686-4418 (F)
 roseblackman@hotmail.com
 www.amvets.ca.org

Veterans Village of San Diego

Phil Landis, President and CEO
 4141 Pacific Hwy.
 San Diego, CA 92110
 (619) 497-0142
 (619) 497-0263 (F)
 Phil.landis@vvsd.net
 www.vvsd.net

Paralyzed Vets of America

(800) 424-8200
 www.pva.org

Bay Area & Western Paralyzed Vets of America

Richard Kratt, President
 3801 Miranda Ave.
 MC 816 RM. A1-219
 Palo Alto, CA 94304
 (650) 858-3936
 (800) 273-6789

Jewish War Veterans

JWV Department of California
Mailing: P.O. Box 707
 Cypress, CA 90630

Physical address:
 2615 S. Grand Ave., Rm. 100
 Los Angeles, CA 90007
 (818) 345-8966
 (888) 489-2778

www.jwv.org

Filipino Veterans Association

Dr. Jenny Batongmalaque, Executive Director
 2615 S. Grand Ave.
 Los Angeles, CA 90007
 (213) 746-9093
 (213) 746-9050 (F)

Filipino-American WWII Veterans of Southern California

Franco Arcebal
 255 S. Hill St., Rm. 411
 Los Angeles, CA 90012
 (213) 626-0485

Next Step Center

Rose Sutton, Director
795 Willow Rd., (MS-116B-6),
Bldg. 323-A
Menlo Park, CA 94025
(650) 566-0240
(650) 566-9571 (F)
www.vietvets.org

Blinded Veterans Association

Lazaro (Larry) Martinez, Jr.,
Asst. Nat. Field Svc. Director
VAMC
10535 Hospital Way, Rm. 44
Mather, CA 95655-4200
(916) 843-7020
(800) 669-7079
www.bva.org

Allied Council of the Veterans Home, Yountville

Veterans Home of California—
Yountville
Tom Montague
260 California Dr.
Yountville, CA 94599
(707) 944-4933

American GI Forum of California

Willie Galvan, State Commander
P.O. Box 1681
Santa Maria, CA 93456
(805) 714-6015
wcgalvan@gmail.com
www.agif.org/contact.htm

Non Commissioned Officers Association

2603 Lago Ln.
Marysville, CA 95901
(800) 662-2620
(530) 741-0403
www.ncoausa.org

VetFund Foundation

Fernando P. Vellanoweth,
Treasurer
5150 Fair Oaks Blvd., Ste. 207
Carmichael, CA 95608
(916) 213-7736
fpvella@aol.com
www.vetfund1.com

**National American Indian
Veterans Inc. (NAIV)**

Commander Elmo Hernandez
3508 Farris Ave.
Ceres, CA 95307
(209) 581-0952

**Women's Army Corps
Veterans Association, Ch.
111**

Imelda Carlton, President
P.O. Box 991645
Redding, CA 96099-1645
(530) 941-6408
wacvach111@hughes.net
www.armywomen.org



OPERATION WELCOME HOME

Every year nearly 30,000 veterans of the United States Military return home to California to restart their civilian lives by reconnecting with family and friends.

Each and every one of today's veterans freely volunteered to serve our nation. They chose to serve our country and defend what it stands for in the world.

Now that they are home, California has an obligation to ensure that these discharged state resident troops have access to assistance and support in order to ease their transition from military living to civilian life.

www.veterans.ca.gov



Follow CalVet and California's
Operation Welcome Home



CAL  VET

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT
OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

VA HEALTH CARE



VA operates the nation's largest integrated health care system with more than 1,400 sites of care, including hospitals, community clinics, nursing homes, domiciliaries, readjustment counseling centers, and various other facilities. For additional information on VA health care, visit: www.va.gov/health.

Basic eligibility

A person who served in the active military, naval, or air service and who was discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable may qualify for VA health care benefits. Reservists and National Guard members may also qualify for VA health care benefits if they were called to active duty (other than for training only) by a Federal order and completed the full period for which they were called or ordered to active duty.

Minimum Duty Requirements: Veterans who enlisted after September 7, 1980, or who entered active duty after October 16, 1981, must have served 24 continuous months or the full period for which they were called to active duty in order to be eligible. This minimum duty requirement may not apply to veterans discharged for hardship, early out or a disability incurred or aggravated in the line of duty.

Certain VA benefits require service during wartime. Under the laws, VA recognizes these war periods:

World War II: December 7, 1941, through December 31, 1946

Korean War: June 27, 1950, through January 31, 1955

Vietnam War: August 5, 1964 (February 28, 1961, for veterans who served “in country” before August 5, 1964), through May 7, 1975

Gulf War: August 2, 1990, through a date to be set by law or Presidential Proclamation

Enrollment

For most veterans, entry into the VA health care system begins by applying for enrollment. To apply, complete VA Form 10-10EZ, Application for Health Benefits, which may be obtained from any VA health care facility or regional benefits office, online at www.1010ez.med.va.gov or by calling (877) 222-VETS (8387), or visit your County Veterans Service Office online at www.cacvso.org.

Once enrolled, veterans can receive health care at VA health care facilities anywhere in the country. Veterans enrolled in the VA health care system are afforded privacy rights under federal law. The following four categories of veterans are not required to enroll, but are urged to do so to permit better planning of health resources:

- Veterans with a service-connected disability of 50 percent or more.
- Veterans seeking care for a disability the military determined was incurred or aggravated in the line of duty, but which VA has not yet rated, within 12 months of discharge.
- Veterans seeking care for a service-connected disability only.

- Veterans seeking registry examinations (Ionizing Radiation, Agent Orange, Gulf War/Operation Iraqi Freedom and OIF/OEF veterans).

Priority groups

During enrollment, each veteran is assigned to a priority group. VA uses priority groups to balance demand for VA health care enrollment with resources. Changes in available resources may reduce the number of priority groups VA can enroll. If this occurs, VA will publicize the changes and notify affected enrollees. A description of priority groups follows:

Group 1:

Veterans with service-connected disabilities rated 50 percent or more and/or veterans determined by VA to be unemployable due to service-connected conditions.

Group 2:

Veterans with service-connected disabilities rated 30 to 40 percent.

Group 3:

Veterans with service-connected disabilities rated 10 and 20 percent, veterans who are former Prisoners of War (POW) or were awarded a Purple Heart medal, veterans awarded special eligibility for disabilities incurred in treatment or participation in a VA Vocational Rehabilitation program, and veterans whose discharge was for a disability incurred or aggravated in the line of duty.

Group 4:

Veterans receiving aid and attendance or housebound benefits and/or veterans determined by VA to be catastrophically disabled.

Group 5:

Veterans receiving VA pension benefits or eligible for Medicaid programs, and non service-connected veterans and non-compensable, zero percent service-connected veterans whose gross annual household income and net worth are below the established VA means test thresholds.

Group 6:

Veterans of World War I, veterans seeking care solely for certain conditions associated with exposure to radiation, for any illness associated with combat service in a war after the Gulf War or during a period of hostility after November 11, 1998, for any illness associated with participation in tests conducted by the Department of Defense (DOD) as part of Project 112/ Project SHAD, veterans with zero percent service-connected disabilities who are receiving disability compensation benefits and veterans who served in a theater of combat operations after November 11, 1998 as follows:

- Veterans discharged from active duty on or after January 28, 2003, who were enrolled as of January 28, 2008 and veterans who apply for enrollment after January 28, 2008, for 5 years post discharge
- Veterans discharged from active duty before January 28, 2003, who apply for enrollment after January 28, 2008, until January 27, 2011

Group 7:

Veterans with income and/or net worth above the VA national income threshold and income below the geographic income threshold who agree to pay co-pays.

Group 8:

Veterans with income and/or net worth above the VA national income threshold and the geographic income threshold who agree to pay co-pays.

NOTE: While VA does not currently enroll new veterans into Priority Group 8 at the time of publication of this guide, VA has proposed regulatory changes to re-open enrollment for veterans whose incomes exceed the current VA means test and geographic means test income thresholds by 10 percent or less. Should these new regulations take effect as anticipated, VA will retroactively review all enrollment applications received on or after January 1, 2009 to determine whether these new rules will allow enrollment.

Recently discharged combat veterans

Effective January 28, 2008, veterans discharged from active duty on or after January 28, 2003, are eligible for enhanced enrollment placement into Priority Group 6 (unless eligible for higher enrollment Priority Group placement) for five-years post discharge. Veterans with combat service after November 11, 1998, who were discharged from active duty before January 28, 2003, and who apply for enrollment on or after January 28, 2008, are eligible for this enhanced enrollment benefit through January 27, 2011. During this period of enhanced enrollment benefits, these veterans receive VA care and medications at no cost for any condition that may be related to their combat service. Veterans, including activated reservists and members of the National Guard, are eligible for the enhanced “Combat Veteran” benefits if they served on active duty in a theater of combat operations after November 11, 1998, and have been discharged under other than dishonorable conditions.

Financial assessment

Most veterans not receiving VA disability compensation or pension payments must provide information on their gross annual household income and net worth to determine whether they are below the annually adjusted financial thresholds. Veterans who decline to disclose their information or have income above the thresholds must agree to pay co-pays in order to receive certain health benefits, effectively placing them in

Priority Group 8. VA is currently not enrolling new applicants who decline to provide financial information unless they have a special eligibility factor.

This financial assessment includes all household income and net worth, including Social Security, retirement pay, unemployment insurance, interest and dividends, workers' compensation, black lung benefits and any other income. Also considered are assets such as the market value of property that is not the primary residence, stocks, bonds, notes, individual retirement accounts, bank deposits, savings accounts and cash.

VA also compares veterans' financial assessment with geographically based income thresholds. If the veteran's gross annual household income is above VA's national means test threshold and below VA's geographic means test threshold, or is below both the VA national threshold and the VA geographically based threshold, but their gross annual household income plus net worth exceeds VA's ceiling (currently \$80,000) the veteran may be eligible for Priority Group 7 placement and qualify for an 80% reduction in inpatient co-pay rates.

VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION LOCATIONS

Please visit the VA website and click Locations for specific addresses and phone numbers to your nearest facility.

www.va.gov

Veterans Benefits Administration—Regional Offices

Oakland Regional Office
1301 Clay St., 94612

Los Angeles Regional Office
11000 Wilshire Blvd., 90024

Oakland Regional Office,
Sacramento
10365 Old Placerville Rd., 95827

San Diego Regional Office
8810 Rio San Diego Dr., 92108

VA Medical Centers

VA Central Health Care System,
Fresno
2615 E. Clinton Ave., 93703

VA Northern Health Care System,
Sacramento
10535 Hospital Way, 95655

VA Livermore Health Care System
4951 Arroyo Rd., 94550

VA Menlo Park Health Care System
795 Willow Rd., 94025

VA Loma Linda
Health Care System
11201 Benton St., 92357

VA Palo Alto Health Care System
3801 Miranda Ave., 94304

VA Long Beach
Health Care System
5901 East 7th St., 90822

VA San Diego Health Care System
3350 La Jolla Village Dr., 92161

VA Greater Los Angeles
Health Care System
11301 Wilshire Blvd., 90073

VA San Francisco
Health Care System
4150 Clement St., 94121

Outpatient Clinic

VA Castle OPC, Atwater
3605 Hospital Rd., Ste. D, 95301

Sierra Foothills Outpatient Clinic,
Auburn
11985 Heritage Oaks Pl., 95603

Capitola Clinic
1350 N. 41st St., Ste. 102, 95010

Chico Outpatient Clinic
280 Cohasset Rd., 95926

Eureka Veterans Clinic
714 F St., 95501

Fairfield Outpatient Clinic
103 Bodin Cir., Travis AFB, 94535

Stockton Clinic, French Camp
7777 South Freedom Dr., 95231

Los Angeles Ambulatory
Care Center
351 East Temple St., 90012

VA West Los Angeles
Health Care Center
11301 Wilshire Blvd., 90073

Martinez Outpatient Clinic &
Rehabilitation
150 Muir Rd., 94553

Sacramento Mental Health Clinic
at Mather
10535 Hospital Way, 95655

McClellan Dental Clinic,
Sacramento
5401 Arnold Ave., 95652

McClellan Outpatient Clinic,
Sacramento
5342 Dudley Blvd., 95652

Modesto Clinic
1524 McHenry Ave., 95350

Sepulveda OPC and Nursing
Home, North Hills
16111 Plummer St., 91343

Mental Health Clinic, Oakland
Army Base
2505 West 14th St., 94626

Oakland Outpatient Clinic
2221 Martin Luther King Way,
94626

Redding Outpatient Clinic
351 Hartnell Ave., 96002

Mission Valley, San Diego
8810 Rio San Diego Dr., 92108

SFVAMC Downtown Clinic,
San Francisco
4150 Clement St., 94121

San Jose Clinic
80 Great Oaks Blvd., 95119

Santa Rosa Clinic
3841 Brickway Blvd., 95403

Monterey Clinic, Seaside
3401 Engineer Ln., 93955

Sonora Clinic
13663 Mono Way, 95370

VA South Valley OPC, Tulare
1050 N. Cherry St., 93274

Mare Island Outpatient Clinic,
Vallejo
201 Walnut Ave., 94592

Community Based Outpatient Clinic

Anaheim CBOC
1801 W. Romneya Dr., Ste. 303,
92801

Bakersfield CBOC
1801 Westwind Dr., 93301

Chula Vista (South Bay) CBOC
835 3rd Ave., 91910

East Los Angeles CBOC
City of Commerce
5426 E. Olympic Blvd., 90040

Corona CBOC
800 Magnolia Ave., Ste. 101, 92879

Imperial Valley CBOC, El Centro
1600 South Imperial Ave., 92243

Escondido CBOC
815 East Pennsylvania Ave., 92025

Gardena CBOC
1251 Redondo Beach Blvd., 3rd Fl.,
90247

Laguna Hills CBOC
25292 McIntyre St., 92653

Antelope Valley CBOC Lancaster
547 West Lancaster Blvd., 93536

Villages at Cabrillo CBOC,
Long Beach
2001 River Ave., Bldg. 28, 90806

Oxnard CBOC
2000 Outlet Center Dr., Ste. 225,
93036

Palm Desert CBOC
41-990 Cook St., Bldg. F, Ste. 1004,
92211

San Bruno CBOC
1001 Sneath Ln., Ste. 300, 94066

Pasadena CBOC, San Gabriel
420 W. Las Tunas Dr., 91776

San Luis Obispo COBC
1288 Morro St., Ste. 200, 93401

Bristol Medical Center CBOC,
Santa Ana
2740 S. Bristol St., Ste. 101, 92704

Whittier/Santa Fe Springs Clinic
CBOC
10210 Orr & Day Rd., 90670

Santa Maria COBC
1550 East Main St., 93454

Sun City CBOC
28125 Bradley Rd., Ste. 130, 92586

Ukiah CBOC
630 Kings Ct., 95482

Ventura CBOC
120 N Ashwood Ave., 93003

Victorville CBOC
12138 Industrial Blvd., Ste. 120,
92392

Vista CBOC
1840 West Dr., 92083

Vet Center (Free Counseling)

4B Pacific Western Office,
Fairfield
420 Executive Ct. North, Ste. G,
94534

Santa Cruz County Vet Center,
Capitola
1350 41st Ave., Ste. 102, 95010

Chico Vet Center
280 Cohasset Rd., Ste. 100, 95928

East Los Angeles Vet Center
Commerce
5400 E. Olympic Blvd., Ste. 140,
90022

Concord Vet Center
1899 Clayton Rd., Ste. 140, 94520

Corona Vet Center
800 Magnolia Ave., Ste. 110, 92879

West Los Angeles Vet Center,
Culver City
5730 Uplander Way, Ste. 100,
90230

Redwoods Vet Center, Eureka
2830 G St., Ste. A, 95501

Fresno Vet Center
3636 North 1st St., Ste. 112, 93726

Orange County Vet Center,
Garden Grove
12453 Lewis St., Ste. 101, 92840

Los Angeles Vet Center, Gardena
1045 W. Redondo Bch., Ste. 150,
90247

Modesto Vet Center
1219 N. Carpenter Rd., Ste. 12,
95351

Oakland Vet Center
1504 Franklin St., Ste. 200, 94612

Peninsula Vet Center,
Redwood City
2946 Broadway St., 94062

Northbay Vet Center,
Rohnert Park
6225 State Farm Dr., Ste. 101,
94928

Sacramento Vet Center
1111 Howe Ave., Ste. 390, 95825

San Bernardino Vet Center
1325 E. Cooley Dr., Ste. 101, 92324

San Diego Vet Center
2790 Truxtun Rd., Ste. 130, 92106

San Francisco Vet Center
505 Polk St., 94102

San Jose Vet Center
278 North 2nd St., 95112

San Marcos Vet Center
One Civic Center Dr., Ste. 140,
92069

Sepulveda Vet Center
9737 Haskell Ave., 91343

Ventura Vet Center
790 E. Santa Clara St., Ste. 100,
93001

High Desert Vet Center,
Victorville
15095 Amargosa Rd., Ste. 107,
92394

FILING A CLAIM FOR COMPENSATION OR PENSION

A veteran may file a claim for compensation for any injury or condition that started in, or was exacerbated by, active service time.

Definitions

In order to make communications as clear as possible, we'd like to define some of the terms:

Compensation: The benefit paid to veterans whose disabilities arose from service. The disabilities themselves are often referred to as Service Connected or "S/C".

Pension: The benefit paid to wartime veterans whose disabilities are not related to service and who have a financial hardship. The disabilities themselves are often referred to as Non-Service Connected or "NSC".



Rating Schedule: The guide used to determine which disabilities the VA can pay for and the percent to which they are disabling.

Claim Number: How the VA monitors and identifies your claim. Any letters you receive from the VA should have the claim number in the upper right hand corner. The letters "C", "XC", "CSS" or "XSS" will precede your claim number. It is very important that you have this number available whenever you contact this office.

Step 1: You file your claim

The disability claim process begins when you file a claim. If you have never filed a disability claim with the VA, you need to complete and submit a VA Form 21-526 (Veteran's Application for Compensation or Pension). You may complete the form with the assistance of a veteran's representative. We recommend contacting your local County Veterans Service Office by visiting: www.cacvso.org or by calling (800) 653-5626.

If you filed a claim in the past, whether you were granted or denied benefits, you do not need to complete a VA Form 21-526 again. However, the VA does need your signed statement telling us what you want to claim, why and where you were treated for the claimed condition. A form 21-4138 is normally used.

Step 2: Obtain evidence

Based on the disability claim you submit, you need to begin compiling evidence to support your claim. Thus, any evidence that you are able to secure beforehand and submit with your claim will expedite this step. Your disability evaluation will be based on this evidence, so it is essential that you have complete and accurate information. Your veteran representative will assist you by verifying your service dates (based on the information that you furnish on your application) and requesting your service medical records. The VA may request more information from you. This may include letters detailing specific experiences in service or information on your dependents, employment

history or income. You can help expedite the process by providing complete addresses for the medical care and be as exact as possible in reporting dates of treatment. Please send requested information in as soon as possible. You should also make sure that you include your VA file number on all pages of anything that you submit.

Step 3: You are examined at a VA Hospital

Often the VA requests exams while they wait for other evidence to arrive. Sometimes, they first have to review the other evidence to be certain they are requesting the proper exams. The exams that the VA requests for you will depend on your claim and treatment history. The VA Medical Center will schedule you for the requested exam. They will contact you directly by mail to let you know when and what exams are scheduled for you. After each exam, an examination report will be prepared and sent to our office. You can help expedite this process by keeping your exam appointments and by asking your private medical providers to send a copy of your records to our office. Remember to ask them also to include your VA file number on the records that they submit.

Step 4: Complete record is rated

As evidence is received, the VA places the records in your claims folder. When they have all the necessary evidence, your claim is ready to be rated. Due to the current VA backlog, there may be a two or three month wait before your individual claim can be rated. The VA evaluates the medical evidence and other documents to support your medical condition. They then identify how these conditions correspond to the rating schedule. This schedule designates what disabilities we can pay for and at what percent. The schedule is based on the laws passed by Congress. The VA will consider all evidence submitted and will pay the maximum benefit allowed by law. If there is a change in your disability after you've filed your claim or if you want us to evaluate additional disabilities, please let your veteran representative know as soon as possible.

Step 5: A decision is made (this step takes 1-3 weeks)

After the rating is completed, you will be notified promptly of the decision. The VA will provide you with the reasons for all decisions to grant or deny benefits. If you do not agree with their decision, you should use the appeal process. If you have any questions, please call our toll-free number at (800) 827-1000.

What can I do to help?

Be as thorough as possible in completing your claim application. Do NOT assume that the VA has all the information on file already. ALWAYS sign your name on the application form. Respond as quickly and completely as possible when they ask you for information. If you are scheduled for a medical exam, please keep your appointment. If you are unable to keep your appointment (for whatever reason), please contact the VA Medical Center where you were scheduled to report as soon as possible. If you have been treated for your disability by private medical providers, please ask them to send us a copy of your treatment record. On any application that you submit, ALWAYS provide a complete mailing address (to include your specific apartment number if you live in an apartment building) and, if possible, a daytime phone number (including the area code) where you can be reached in case we need to obtain clarification on any part of your application. Let the VA know, as soon as possible, if you change your address or phone number. If you are in doubt about what to do at any time, please contact the VA at (800) 827-1000.

Any time you call this office about your claim, please have your VA file number available to give to the person who assists you. You can find this number in the upper right hand section of any correspondence from the VA. If you can't remember and can't find your VA file number, please have your Social Security number (or—if you are a survivor of a veteran—have the veteran's

Social Security number) available since (starting in the mid-1970's) this is usually the number assigned as the VA file number.

Any time that you write to the VA, you should include your VA file number, not only on your letter, but also on any documents that you submit in support of your claim—in case they become detached from your letter.

Appeals of decisions

An appeal of a local decision involves many steps, some optional and some necessary, and strict time limits. In order, the steps are:

1. Notice of Disagreement (NOD)
2. Statement of the Case (SOC)
3. Formal Appeal (VA Form 9 or equivalent)
4. Hearings (Optional)
5. Board of Veterans' Appeals (BVA)
6. United States Court of Appeals for Veterans' Claims (CAVC)

The case may also involve remands at the BVA and/or COVA levels. Someone may have several appeals at once, and several issues may be included in the same appeal. Usually, all issues on one VA decision will be included in the same appeal.

Notice of Disagreement

A Notice of Disagreement (NOD) is the first step in an appeal. It simply involves a written statement that you disagree with a decision that has been made. Certain things should be kept in mind when submitting a NOD:

- Be specific about what you are disagreeing with. If a decision was made on seven issues, specify the ones you are referring to—don't simply say you disagree with the decision.
- Make sure that a decision has been made. For most decisions, when benefits are reduced or terminated, the VA is required to propose it first; this is called

a pre-determination notice. A NOD can only be accepted if a final decision has been made, not if a proposal has been made. If you don't receive paperwork describing the appeals process (a VA Form 4107), check your letter to see if it is a proposal.

- Check the time limit. A NOD must be filed within one year of the date of the letter informing you of the decision. If you were notified of a decision in 1994, it is too late to file a NOD. Your option at that point is to file another claim, or request to reopen a claim, for the same condition as before.

Statement of the Case

A Statement of the Case (SOC) is a summary of the evidence considered, actions taken, and decisions made, plus the laws governing the decision. A SOC must be done when a NOD is filed or when new evidence is received. Once the first SOC is done on an appeal, any done after are considered Supplemental Statements of the Case (SSOC). An appeal may have several SSOC's.

Formal appeal (VA Form 9 or equivalent)

An appeal must be formal before it can continue to higher levels. The standard form for formalizing (sometimes called perfecting) an appeal is the VA Form 9. This form must be received no later than one of these two dates:

- One year from the date of the letter notifying you of the decision.
- 60 days after the date of the Statement of the Case.

Hearings (optional)

Hearings are a chance for claimants to present evidence in person; they are totally optional. They are held at the regional office by a Hearing Officer (HO). If you have a hearing, the HO will review the evidence in conjunction with the testimony and

make a decision on your case. If the issue is not resolved in your favor, the appeal will continue.

Board of Veterans' Appeals (BVA)

The Board of Veterans Appeals, located in Washington DC, is the highest appellate body in the VA. Although most decisions are done in Washington, BVA does have travel boards that come to local offices. Travel boards have been limited in the past couple of years, and would not expect more than one week of travel board hearings in a year. Due to a number of reasons the pending workload at BVA has dramatically increased in the past few years. It is not unusual for an appeal to take 2 years or more from the initial NOD to the final BVA decision.

BVA looks at all of the evidence regarding the issue under appeal. If BVA decides that more information is needed to make a decision, it will issue a remand to the local office. BVA will not reconsider the case until its instructions in the remand are done. If the evidence is sufficient, BVA will issue a decision. This is the final VA decision and the appeal will have ended. However, a BVA decision can be reviewed by the Court of Veterans Appeals if an appeal to the court is filed within 120 days of the BVA decision.

United States Court of Appeals for Veterans' Claims (CAVC)

The United States Court of Appeals for Veterans' Claims (CAVC), located in Washington DC, was created in 1988 to review matters of law about VA benefits and decisions. CAVC is not part of VA; it is an appellate court in the US judicial system. CAVC will only consider decisions made by the Board of Veterans Appeals after 1988. As in most courts, one must have either an attorney or personal knowledge of legal proceedings in order to file the correct legal paperwork and conduct the appeal. CAVC decisions

usually concern the procedural, legal issues involved in the “letter of the law”. The deadline for filing an appeal to COVA is 120 days after the BVA decision (using the date of the letter to you informing you of the decision).

VETERANS CLAIMS AND APPEALS REPRESENTATION

BEFORE THE US DEPARTMENT OF
VETERANS AFFAIRS (USDVA)

The benefit

Professional, accredited, USDVA claims and ratings review and representation in appellate processes.

Who may be eligible

Any veteran, dependent or veteran's survivor applying for USDVA benefits.

Where to apply

California Department of Veterans Affairs Veterans Services Field Office

1301 Clay St., Rm. 1130N
Oakland, CA 94612-5209
(510) 286-0627

California Department of Veterans Affairs Veterans Services Field Office

11000 Wilshire Blvd., Rm. 5203
Los Angeles, CA 90024
(213) 620-2755
(310) 235-7155

California Department of Veterans Affairs Veterans Services Field Office

8810 Rio San Diego Dr., Rm. 1122
San Diego, CA 92108
(619) 400-0069
(619) 400-0070

For assistance in filing claims for USDVA or State veterans' benefits, contact your local County Veterans Service Officers.
(See pages 9-22)

AMYOTROPHIC LATERAL SCLEROSIS (ALS)

COMMONLY KNOWN AS LOU GEHRIG'S DISEASE

The VA established Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) as a presumptive compensable illness. It cited an association between military service and the development of ALS as a service-connected disability. Veterans develop ALS in rates higher than the general population, and may receive support for themselves and their families. The VA has established that ALS is a presumptively compensable illness for all veterans with 90 days or more of continuously active service in the military.

This decision was based primarily on a November 2006 report by the National Academy of Sciences' Institute of Medicine (IOM) on the association between active-duty service and ALS.

The report, titled Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis in Veterans: review of the scientific literature, analyzed numerous previous studies on the issue and concluded that "there is limited and suggestive evidence of an association between military service and later development of ALS." ALS, also called Lou Gehrig's Disease, is a neuromuscular disease that affects about 20,000 to 30,000 people of all races and ethnicities in the United States, its often relentlessly progressive, and is almost always fatal.

ALS causes degeneration of nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord that leads to muscle weakness, muscle atrophy and spontaneous muscle activity. Currently, the cause of ALS is unknown, and there is no effective treatment.

The new interim final regulation applies to all applications for benefits received by the VA on or after September 23, 2008, or that are pending before the VA, the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims, or the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit on that date.

The VA will work to identify and contact veterans with ALS, including those whose claims for ALS were previously denied, through direct mailings and other outreach programs. We suggest you contact your local County Veteran Service Officer to file a claim with the VA if you have this disease or you are the widow or dependent of a veteran who died of this disease.

For more information on this or any other VA disability compensation programs you should contact your County Veterans Service Officer (**See pages 9-22**) for consultation.

TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY (TBI) AND PTSD



Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) have been called the signature wounds of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars. These wounds have been present in other wars, but not in the numbers seen in the current conflicts. Our troops face more powerful blasts from explosives than did soldiers in prior wars, but the medical care they are receiving in the field has improved significantly. So, even though the blasts have become more powerful, more troops are surviving. These two changes—more powerful blasts and better medical care—are creating a situation where the concussions created by intense pressurization and depressurization from the blasts are injuring soldiers in different ways than in earlier wars. As a result, instances of TBI have increased. PTSD has always been an issue in war, but its frequency has increased because of the repeated tours of duty faced by many troops in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The aforementioned events have created a situation where TBI and PTSD are taking a toll on our returning troops, and in many cases their families as well. The Veterans Administration at the federal and state levels is focusing on an early detection and early intervention support to make transition to civilian life as easy and productive as possible for both Veterans and their families.

To this end all Operation Iraqi Freedom/Operation Enduring Freedom (OIF/OEF) veterans are encouraged to take advantage of the VA Health care system. The VA is offering you five years of VA health care regardless of your financial or health status. You can contact the VA directly by calling (800) 827-1000 or their website at www.va.gov to find the nearest VA Health Care facility. In addition you can contact our office at the State Department of Veteran Affairs at (800) 952-5626 or go our website at www.cdva.ca.gov/vetservice.

Welcome home and thank you for serving our country, call or e-mail us anytime. We are committed to helping you meet your needs when you are discharged from the service. We are here to help and are honored to do so.

HEARING LOSS AND TINNITUS



What is hearing loss?

Hearing loss is damage to the ear that impairs the ears ability to perceive sound. It can either be temporary or permanent depending on the cause. Types of hearing loss range from mild hearing loss to total hearing loss.

What are the different forms of hearing loss?

There are three main forms of hearing loss: conductive hearing loss, sensorineural hearing loss and mixed hearing loss. Conductive hearing loss is caused by damage to the outer or middle ear. Conductive hearing loss can usually be repaired or will heal over time and does not usually result in total hearing loss. Sensorineural hearing loss is caused by damage to the inner ear (cochlea) or the retrocochlea nerves (nerves that connect the ear to the brain). Unlike conductive hearing loss, sensorineural hearing loss is often total and irreparable. Mixed hearing loss is a combination of conductive and sensorineural hearing loss. It can either be caused at once, or be caused by a build up ailments to the ear.

How do I tell the different types of hearing loss apart?

Conductive hearing loss is usually caused by temporary factors. Many illnesses or some drugs such as aspirin used to treat minor pain can cause partial hearing loss as a symptom or a side-effect. Other causes can be foreign objects caught in the ear, malformation of the outer ear from birth or accident, tumors growing within the ear or even something as simple as a build up of ear wax. Sensorineural hearing loss can be caused by the same things as conductive hearing loss. It can also be suffered after noise exposure, head trauma or simply the natural aging process. Mixed hearing loss is simply a combination of the two other hearing losses and can be caused by anything that would inflict both forms of hearing loss or be a compound of different sources.

How can I suffer hearing loss in the military?

Two of the main causes of sensorineural hearing loss can be encountered commonly in the military. The first, head trauma, is the more unpredictable of the two because it is all but impossible to tell how the body will react. A single blow to the head can damage the ear, while multiple blows may have no immediate damage to a person's hearing. Noise-induced hearing loss is caused by sustained exposure to dangerous levels of sound. Anything at or above 85 decibels (the mathematical unit used for measuring sound) will cause damage to the ear eventually.

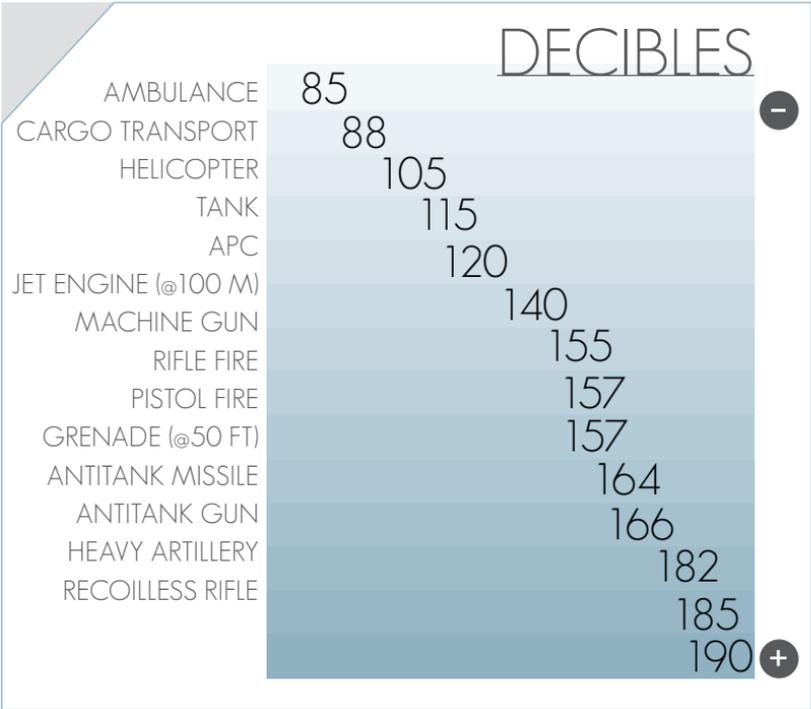
What is a decibel?

A decibel is a measurement that determines the noise of a sound. Decibels are measured by studying the amount of pressure a sound places on the ear drum, which then transmits them through the ear. In higher decibels the amount of pressure placed upon the ear can damage the sensitive hair cells of the inner ear. Once damaged these cells cannot regrow or repair

so any damage incurred is permanent. Decibels are not exact measurements, the further you are from the source the lower a sound will be when it reaches the ear.

What can cause noise-induced hearing loss in the military?

Below are some examples of equipment that can cause noise-induced hearing loss. Take note that these are averages for the decibel levels as they will vary with distance and different conditions and types of equipment.



What are the symptoms of hearing loss?

Symptoms of hearing loss will vary with what caused it. If you are suffering from hearing loss as a symptom of a disease you will usually have other symptoms to determine its cause. If you are using medication to treat a disease and you find you're ability to hear is decreasing consult a doctor to determine

whether you should change to another medication or lower the dosages you are taking. The main symptom of noise-induced hearing loss is tinnitus or a sudden decrease in sound perception. In head trauma the symptoms can be the same as noise-induced hearing loss, or you may hear a faint popping noise which signals damage to the ear drum.

What is Tinnitus?

Tinnitus is usually a symptom of noise-induced hearing loss. It usually manifests itself as a ringing in the ear, although it can take other sounds such as clicking, popping, snapping or whistling. One of the causes of Tinnitus is damage to the nerves of the inner ear. If damaged enough they can become bent and will constantly register sound input as they will be making continuous contact with the other hairs of the ear. In other cases it can be caused by a tumor in the ear which allows the ear to hear the blood passing through the tumor.

How do I treat hearing loss?

Sadly in most cases hearing loss cannot be treated. When it is a symptom of a larger ailment the hearing loss can be recovered when the disease is treated. In noise-induced hearing loss or head trauma however the damage is usually permanent. However technology has made it possible to compensate for hearing loss. A hearing aid can be used to mimic the outer and middle ear if they are damaged. For the cochlea (inner ear) a cochlear implant can mimic the nerves that are damaged and relay sound to the brain. The best thing you can do however, is to protect yourself from hearing loss so you do not have to worry about it at all. Use hearing protection when you are exposed to loud noises throughout the day. Wear proper protection if your head could be damaged. Recent studies have even show that a healthy diet can reduce the impact of hearing loss when it occurs. If the proper precautions are taken you should not have to worry about protecting your hearing.

AGENT ORANGE AND HERBICIDE EXPOSURES



Approximately 20 million gallons of herbicides were used in Vietnam between 1962 and 1971 to remove unwanted plant life and leaves which otherwise provided cover for enemy forces during the Vietnam Conflict. Shortly following their military service in Vietnam, some veterans reported a variety of health problems and concerns which some of them attributed to exposure to Agent Orange or other herbicides. The Department of Veterans Affairs has developed a comprehensive program to respond to these medical problems and concerns. The principal elements of this program include quality health care services, disability compensation for veterans with service-connected illnesses, scientific research, outreach and education.

Health conditions presumptively recognized to date

The information contained in this article updates earlier issues of this resource book. We are providing it again because of the high level of interest and because we know that some readers are seeing it for the first time. For more information, visit www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures.

The following health conditions are presumptively recognized for service connection for Vietnam veterans, based on exposure to herbicides and related materials during the Vietnam War. Vietnam veterans with one or more of these conditions do not have to show that their illness(es) are related to their military service to get disability compensation. VA presumes that their condition is service-connected.

Conditions Recognized in Veterans:

- Chloracne (must occur within 1 year of exposure to Agent Orange)
- Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma
- Soft tissue sarcoma (other than osteosarcoma, chondrosarcoma, Kaposi's sarcoma, or mesothelioma)
- Hodgkin's disease
- Porphyria cutanea tarda (must occur within 1 year of exposure)
- Multiple myeloma
- Respiratory cancers, including cancers of the lung, larynx, trachea, and bronchus
- Prostate cancer
- Acute and subacute transient peripheral neuropathy (must appear within 1 year of exposure and resolve within 2 years of date of onset)
- Type 2 diabetes
- Chronic lymphocytic leukemia
- Parkinson's Disease (new)
- Leukemia Type B (Hairy Cell) (new)
- Ischemic Heart Disease (new) - Defined as heart disease caused by blockage or reduced blood flow to the heart.

Other herbicide exposures

Harmful chemicals other than Agent Orange were commonly used by the Armed Forces, and Agent Orange was occasionally used outside Vietnam. If you believe you were exposed in this manner you should contact your County Veterans Service Officer for consultation. (See pages 9-22)

SUICIDE PREVENTION



**IF YOU ARE IN AN EMOTIONAL
CRISIS CALL 1-800-273-TALK
"PRESS #1 FOR VETERANS"**

Suicide is a major public health issue in the United States. Approximately 32,439 lives were lost to suicide in 2004. In Indiana, suicide is the fourth leading case of death among those Hoosiers between the ages of 15 and 54 according to 2005 statistics. It is estimated that there are 1,000 suicides per year among our veterans receiving care in the VA and 5,000 suicides per year among all veterans. Male veterans are twice as likely to die by suicide than those men who are non-veterans. The number of US Army soldiers who took their own lives increased last year to the highest total since 1993.

In light of these striking facts, the Veterans Administration has created a national system-wide suicide prevention plan that is intended to provide proactive strategies for identifying, screening, assessing, referring, tracking, and treating veterans at risk. It is anticipated that this coordinated prevention program will reduce the likelihood of attempted and completed suicides.

“Veterans Chat”

“Veterans Chat” is an internet chat service available that will enable veterans, their families and friends to anonymously chat with a trained VA counselor. If during the internet chat it is determined that the person is in crisis, the counselor can take immediate steps to transfer the person to the VA Suicide Prevention Hotline, where further crisis intervention, counseling and referral services are provided. To access the internet one-to-one suicide prevention, please visit the website at www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org.

Suicide is not the answer

Are you, or someone you love, at risk of suicide? Get help if you notice any of the following:

- Talking about wanting to hurt or kill oneself
- Trying to get pills, guns, or other ways to harm oneself
- Talking or writing about death, dying, or suicide
- Hopelessness
- Rage, uncontrolled anger, seeking revenge
- Acting in a reckless or risky way
- Feeling trapped, like there’s no way out
- Saying or feeling there’s no reason for living

Returning from the war

Check out www.afterdeployment.org, a new wellness resource site developed by DOD and VA Service Members, Veterans, and Military Families. If you’ve deployed, or know someone who has, you know that spending time in a war zone means being changed in some way. Some of these changes are good. But some of these changes may be causing problems for you or for someone you know. Having problems after a deployment is normal.

Recent changes in eligibility laws extends the period of enhanced health care enrollment, providing certain veterans up to 5 years of care after discharge. This is big news for our OEF/OIF veterans so we encourage you to visit the VA Health Care Eligibility & Enrollment website.

Most Veterans Affairs Medical facilities have OIF/OEF coordinators to help you meet your medical needs. Every VA Medical Center has a team standing ready to welcome OIF/OEF service members and help coordinate their care. Check the home page of your local VA Medical Center online at www.va.gov.

VA is ready to provide health care and more to our newest veterans returning from the armed services. Here are some of the benefits VA provides:

- **Five Years of Enhanced Health Care:** You are eligible to receive enhanced VA health care benefits for 5 years following your military separation date. Whether or not you choose to use VA health care after separation, you must enroll with VA within 5 years to get health care benefits later on.
- **Dental Benefits:** You may be eligible for one-time dental care but you must apply for a dental exam within 180 days of your separation date.
- **OEF/OIF Program:** Every VA Medical Center has a team standing ready to welcome OIF/OEF service members and help coordinate their care. Check the home page of your local VA Medical Center.
- **Primary Health Care for Veterans:** VA provides general and specialized health care services to meet the unique needs of veterans returning from combat deployments.
- **Vet Centers Benefits:** Provides individual, group and family counseling to all veterans who served

in any combat zone. Services are also available for their family members. Veterans have earned these benefits through their combat service and all are provided at no cost to the veteran or family.

- **Non-Health Benefits:** Other benefits available from the Veterans Benefits Administration may include: financial benefits, home loans, vocational rehabilitation, education, and more.

CAL  VET

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT
OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

EMPLOYMENT SERVICES



Programs for veterans

The California Employment Development Department (EDD) Workforce Services Offices and One-Stop Career Centers have specially-trained staff to ensure veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces receive maximum employment and training opportunities. Services can include counseling, labor market information, job referrals, job search workshops, and job development with potential employers. All veterans are eligible for the Veterans Intensive Program. Special assistance is available for veterans with service connected disabilities. As a veteran, you may qualify for assistance under the Workforce Investment Act. Services can include:

- Alternative school services
- Follow-up services
- Guidance counseling
- Leadership development
- Mentoring
- Occupational skills training
- Paid and unpaid work experience (such as internships, apprenticeships and job shadowing)
- Supportive services
- Tutoring, study skills training and instruction leading to completion of secondary school

Priority services

As a veteran you are entitled to receive a priority in service, which includes:

- A 24-hour “Veterans Only” hold on all new job orders received by the CalJOBS labor exchange system
- Placement of qualified veterans’ résumés before non-veterans’ résumés on job order screens that are viewed by EDD staff or prospective employers
- Assistance by Veterans Specialists who are dedicated to providing priority employment and training services to veterans
- Contact www.edd.ca.gov or consult the phone directory “State of California EDD”

Unemployment benefits

Former service members should apply for Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits immediately upon separation from active military service. When filing for UI benefits, recently discharged veterans must provide information from their Certificate of Release or Discharge Form Active Duty, DD Form 214 or NOAA Form 56-16 (or when not available, Orders to Report, or Orders of Release may be used). If you do not have this documentation, do not delay in filing your claim. The Department can help you obtain the necessary information to file your claim. File for Unemployment—you may be eligible for UI benefits. You can access the online eApply4UI application at www.edd.ca.gov or phone (800) 300-5616.

Resources

Hire Vets First, www.hirevetsfirst.dol.gov, is the national comprehensive career web site for hiring America’s veterans or finding employers with job opportunities. Here you’ll find the resources you need for matching employment opportunities with veterans.

Apprenticeship

Apprenticeship training dates to ancient times when young boys were indentured to skilled tradesmen to learn a craft. Today, apprentices are women and men who earn while they learn through planned, supervised work on-the-job combined with related classroom instruction. Just like college, apprenticeships aren't for everyone. To become an iron-worker, firefighter or electrician takes mettle. Apprentices get up early, take direction from journeypersons, follow precise safety standards and attend classes at night. But at the end of their apprenticeship they get a ticket to a career anywhere they care to go: a journeyperson's card that is proof of their skill and experience when they look for work. Not to mention the salary and benefits that go with it. Apprenticeships now cut across the boundaries of traditional trades such as carpentry, plumbing and firefighting to diverse fields like arson and bomb investigations and youth correctional counseling.

Finding an apprenticeship program is a mouse-click away. The Division of Apprenticeship Standards—the state agency that ensures apprentices are not exploited—database provides access to available apprenticeship programs by craft and geographic region at www.dir.ca.gov/databases/das/aigstart.asp. Candidates select an occupation they like and have the physical ability to perform, find out if they meet minimum qualifications, decide if they can work under the required job conditions and apply for an apprenticeship with an employer in the field, the appropriate union or the (EDD). Sometimes aptitude or other tests are required and there may be a waiting list. Apprenticeships offer challenges and rewards. This site offers stories from a few with the perseverance, ambition and initiative to make apprenticeship training work for them. More apprenticeship information can be found at www.dir.ca.gov/DAS/das.html. And employers, check out the video, Apprenticeship California's Best Kept Secret, online at www.dir.ca.gov/das/apvideo.htm.



Honor a hero, hire a vet

In 2006 the Armed Forces Support Foundation (www.armedforcessupportfoundation.org (501(c)(3)) was created, along with Hire A Hero, to provide free employment services to returning service members and their families. Hire A Hero was created as an online professional networking site that provides employment services specifically geared towards meeting the employment needs of returning military members and their families. Our research and experience suggests that conventional job boards fail to identify the specific needs of returning veterans and did not effectively connect them with the wider military community. Hire A Hero is a national program that was created to address this gap. For more information, please visit www.hireahero.org.

Hire a Veteran now!

There are nearly 2,000 One-Stop Career Centers nationwide where employers can go to receive assistance in connecting to and recruiting veterans. One-Stop Career Centers offer a wealth of resources including specialized local Veterans' Employment Representatives (LVERs) and Disabled Veterans' Outreach

Program (DVOP) staff who work solely with veteran populations and can provide relevant veteran applicant referrals. Find the One-Stop Career Center near you, or call (877) US2-JOBS for direct assistance.

Find exams for a State job

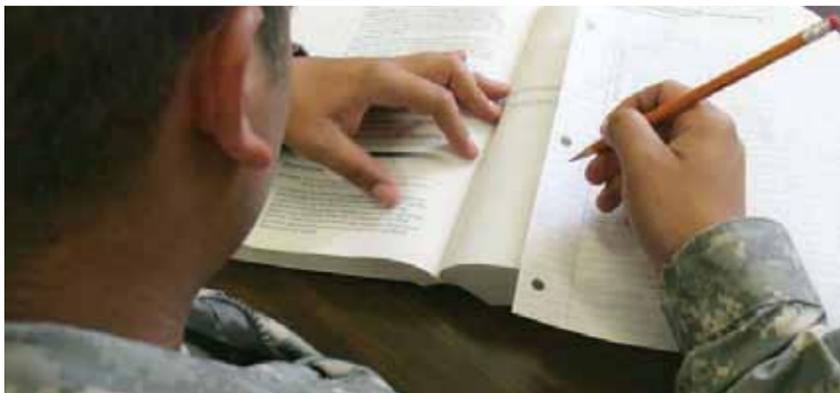
In January 2009 the state law changed so any veteran who left the service under honorable conditions is eligible to apply for promotional civil service jobs with the state, including career executive assignments, for which they meet the minimum qualifications as outlined in the job specifications found on the State Personnel Board (SPB) website, www.sbp.ca.gov. The first step in getting a State job is to take a State exam for the classification (job title) in which you are interested. The easiest way to learn what examinations are open for testing is to browse the SPB Exam Bulletins. You may also visit the SPB Sacramento Employment Services Center to access the SPB website, obtain examination announcements, applications for examinations, forms and other brochures on the civil service examination process. Local EDD offices may receive announcements for State civil service examinations and may also have applications and other brochures available.

Examination Announcements: When you find an examination you are interested in applying for, obtain a copy of the exam announcement (bulletin) and an application from the department conducting the examination. Read it over carefully, as you are filling out your application. You may also wish to refer back to it as the examination process continues.

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EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS FOR VETERANS



The history of the GI Bill

On June 22, 1944, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt signed into law one of the most significant pieces of legislation ever produced by the United States government: The Servicemembers' Readjustment Act of 1944, commonly known as the GI Bill of Rights. By the time the original GI Bill ended in July 1956, 7.8 million World War II veterans had participated in an education or training program and 2.4 million veterans had home loans backed by VA. Today, the legacy of the original GI Bill lives on through the Montgomery GI Bill and as of August 1, 2009 the Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2008 the "New GI Bill".

The "New GI Bill"

The new Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2008 also known as the "New GI Bill," boasts the most comprehensive education benefits package since the original GI Bill was signed into law in 1944. The new bill goes well beyond helping to pay for tuition; many veterans who served after September 11, 2001, will get full tuition and fees, a new monthly housing stipend and a \$1,000 a year stipend for books and supplies. The new bill also gives Reserve and Guard members who have been activated for more than 90 days since 9/11 access to the same GI Bill benefits.

This GI Bill for the 21st Century has been enacted into law and will be available to veterans for education/training on or after August 1, 2009. As Post-9/11 GI Bill updates and additional information become available it will be posted on the VA website, www.gibill.va.gov.

To qualify for the Post-9/11 GI Bill, veterans must have served at least 90 days of active duty service after September 10, 2001 and received an honorable discharge. To receive full benefits a veteran must have served at least 3 years of active duty after September 10, 2001. Those veterans who qualify for the Active Duty GI Bill, the Reserve GI Bill or REAP will have the option to choose which benefit best suits their need. There are no enrollment fees to receive benefits under the Post-9/11 GI Bill. Additionally, veterans who did not opt into the Montgomery GI Bill and/or participated in the VEAP program will still be eligible for this benefit, but you can not receive benefits under more than one program at a time.

Approved training under the Post-9/11 GI Bill includes graduate and undergraduate degrees, and vocational/technical training. All training programs must be offered by an Institution of Higher Learning (IHL) and approved for GI Bill benefits. Furthermore, tutorial assistance, licensing and certification test reimbursement are approved under the Post- 9/11 GI Bill. However, payment under this provision may only be authorized one time and the payment will be the lesser of the cost of the test or \$2,000. Moreover under the Post-9/11 GI Bill, you may also be eligible to pursue training for on-the-job training, apprenticeship, correspondence, flight and preparatory courses. The period of eligibility for the Post-9/11 GI Bill ends 15 years from the date of the last discharge or release from active duty of at least:

- 90 consecutive days
- 30 days but less than 90 days if released for a service-connected disability

- The date of discharge for the last period of service used to meet the minimum service requirements of 90 aggregate days of service

The veteran or approved school will receive a percentage, as determined by length of active duty service, of the following:

- Amount of tuition and fees charged can not exceed the most expensive in-state undergraduate tuition at a public institution of higher education. If the tuition and fees at the school you wish to attend are higher than the most expensive in-State tuition, your school may choose to participate in the “Yellow Ribbon” program.
- Monthly housing allowance equal to the basic allowance for housing (BAH) amount payable to E-5 with dependents, in same zip code as school.
- Yearly books and supplies stipend of up to \$1000.*
- A one time payment of \$500 may be payable to certain individuals relocating from highly rural areas.

Visit your CVSO to file for your educational benefits. For the nearest location visit, www.cacvso.org or call (800) 952-5626.

NOTE: *Housing allowance and books and supplies stipends are not payable to individuals on active duty. Housing allowance is not payable for those pursuing training at half-time or less.

Yellow Ribbon Program

The Yellow Ribbon GI Education Enhancement Program (Yellow Ribbon Program) is a provision of the Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2008. This program allows institutions of higher learning (degree granting institutions) in the United States to voluntarily enter into an agreement with VA to fund tuition expenses that exceed the highest public in-state undergraduate tuition rate. The institution can contribute up to 50% of those expenses and VA will match the same amount as the institution.

The Post-9/11 GI Bill pays up to the highest public in-state undergraduate tuition and fees. You may have tuition and fees that exceed that amount if you are attending a private institution, graduate school or attending in an out-of-state status. If you are enrolled at a Yellow Ribbon participating institution and the tuition and fees exceed the highest public in-state undergraduate tuition or fees, additional funds may be available for your education program without an additional charge to your entitlement.

Institutions that voluntarily enter into a Yellow Ribbon Agreement with VA choose the amount of tuition and fees that will be contributed. VA will match that amount and issue payment directly to the institution.

For a list of approved Yellow Ribbon Schools in California visit, www.gibill.va.gov/GI_Bill_Info/CH33/YRP/states/ca.htm.

GI Bill basics

Understanding your VA education benefits. As a veteran, there are several educational programs available and you may use these programs for a wide variety of VA-approved education and training programs, which include: apprenticeship and on-the-job training, college degree and certificate programs, flight training and correspondence courses. Each program provides different benefits to different groups of individuals and offers a specified number of “months” of benefits, typically 36 and the maximum number of months that can be collected under any combination of VA education programs is 48. However, veterans can only use one VA educational benefits for training at a time. For more detailed information on your VA education benefits visit, www.gibill.va.gov or call, (888) GI-BILL1 (442-4551).

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS AVAILABLE FOR VETERANS

Reserve Educational Assistance Program (REAP)

Chapter 1607 is a Department of Defense/VA education benefit program REAP is designed to provide educational assistance to members of the Reserve components called or ordered to active duty in response to a war or national emergency (contingency operation) as declared by the President or Congress. The Department of Veterans Affairs will administer the program and pay benefits from funds contributed by Department of Defense (DOD). However, the DOD and Department of Homeland Security will determine eligibility. REAP benefits are potentially payable from December 9, 2001 (90 days after September 11, 2001) for persons who were serving on a contingency operation on September 11, 2001 and who were in school on December 9, 2001. DOD may provide further guidance as to the retroactive nature of this program.

Eligibility for this program

A member of a reserve component who served on active duty on or after September 11, 2001 under title 10 U.S. Code for a contingency operation and who serves at least 90 consecutive days or more is eligible for chapter 1607.

National Guard members are also eligible if their active duty is under section 502(f), title 32 U.S.C. and they serve for 90 consecutive days when authorized by the President or Secretary of Defense for a national emergency and is supported by federal funds.

Individuals are eligible as soon as they reach the 90-day point whether or not they are currently on active duty. DOD will fully identify contingency operations that qualify for benefits under

chapter 1607. Disabled members who have an illness or disease incurred or aggravated in the line of duty, and are released before completing 90 consecutive days, are also eligible.

Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance Program (DEA)

Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance Program (DEA) Chapter 35 provides education and training opportunities to dependents of veterans who are permanently and totally disabled due to a service-related condition, or who died while on Active Duty or as a result of a service related condition. Veterans Affairs. The DEA program provides education and training opportunities to eligible dependents of certain veterans. The program offers up to 45 months of education benefits. These benefits may be used for degree and certificate programs, apprenticeship and on-the-job training. If you are a spouse, you may take a correspondence course. Remedial, deficiency and refresher courses may be approved under certain circumstances.

Vocational Rehabilitation & Employment Program

The Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VR&E) Program is authorized by Congress under Title 38, Code of Federal Regulations, Chapter 31. It is sometimes referred to as the Chapter 31 program. The mission of VR&E is to help veterans with service-connected disabilities to prepare for, find and keep suitable jobs. For veterans with service-connected disabilities so severe that they cannot immediately consider work, VR&E offers services to improve their ability to live as independently as possible.

After a plan is developed and signed, a Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor (VRC) or case manager will continue to work with the veteran to implement the plan to achieve suitable employment or independent living. The VRC or case manager may coordinate services such as tutorial assistance, training in job-seeking skills,

medical and dental referrals, adjustment counseling, payment of training allowance, if applicable, and other services as required to achieve rehabilitation.

A rehabilitation plan is an individualized, written outline of the services, resources and criteria that will be used to achieve successful rehabilitation. It is an agreement that is signed by the veteran and the VRC and is reviewed annually to determine whether any changes may be needed.

Depending on their circumstances, veterans will work with their VRC to select one of the following Five Tracks of services:

- Reemployment (with a former employer)
- Rapid employment services for new employment
- Self-employment
- Employment through long term services
- Independent living services

See your local County Veterans Service Officer for assistance. Visit www.cacvso.org or call (800) 952-5626.

GI Bill Apprenticeship and OJT Program **Earn While You Learn**

GI Bill benefits are available for more than college enrollment. Many veterans are not ready or able to commit to a college program. But few veterans and employers know that benefits are also paid to those who are employed and learning a new skill. Use your Montgomery GI Bill benefits to learn new skills while on the job and earning a full-time wage. You may be eligible for up to \$675 a month from the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs while participating in approved on the job or Apprenticeship Training programs.

What is On-the-Job Training?

Often referred to as OJT, this training usually requires 6 months to 2 years for completion. Jobs such as ambulance attendant (EMT), cook, machine tool operator, medical secretary, pharmacist assistant, police officer and paramedic are some examples.

What is Apprenticeship Training?

This training is usually 2 to 5 years in length and includes occupations such as aircraft mechanic, automotive technician, electrician and welder. Approved programs involve a combination of theoretical instruction and skill training.

How It Works

The employer and the veteran agree on a training plan of at least 6 months long, leading to new skills and new pay. The employer contacts the California State Approving Agency, www.csaave.ca.gov, for assistance. The veteran applies to the VA for monthly Educational benefits online at www.gibill.va.gov. The employer maintains work and training records, evaluates the trainee's progress, agrees to at least one wage increase during the training period and certifies the trainee's hours to the VA each month.

Who Qualifies?

You may qualify for benefits under one of the following chapters of veteran's assistance for education and training:

- **Chapter 30:** Montgomery GI Bill-Active Duty
- **Chapter 32:** Post-Vietnam Era Veterans' Educational Assistance Program (VEAP)
- **Chapter 35:** Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance Program; Child or Spouse of veteran who has 100% permanent and total service-connected disability; child or widow whose parent's/spouse's death was service related.
- **Chapter 1606:** Reservist enlisted/re-enlisted for six years after June 30, 1985

For More Information

About Your Eligibility - Call the Department of Veterans Affairs, toll free at (888) 442-4551, or visit www.gibill.va.gov.

About OJT Programs - Call the State Approving Agency for Veterans Education at (916) 503-8007, or visit www.csaave.ca.gov.

About Apprenticeship - Call the California Division of Apprenticeship Standards at (916) 263-2877, or visit www.dir.ca.gov/das.

The California National Guard Education Assistance Program (CNGEAP)

CNGEAP is designed to help nearly 1,000 Guard Members pay for college. Starting in 2010, the program will begin with \$1.8 million to cover the majority of fees associated with attending a public or qualifying private institution.

California's lack of education benefits plays a significant role in the Guard's 16 percent annual turnover rate—CNGEAP aims to reverse that. The state hopes that providing monetary assistance for college will give an incentive to the most experienced Guard members to continue serving.

To qualify for an award, a Guard Member is required to be:

- A California resident and a two-year active member of the California National Guard, the State Military Reserve or the Naval Militia
- Accepted to, or enrolled in, a certificate, degree, or diploma program at a qualifying institution
- Enrolled in at least three units per semester, or the equivalent

Education Benefits will result in a more effective National Guard and a more educated workforce. With combined military

training and a civilian education in areas such as engineering, nursing, communications and information technology, California's National Guard members will be able to serve on two fronts.

Work-study Program

This program is available to any eligible veteran or their dependents who are receiving VA education benefits and are attending school three-quarter time or more. An individual working under this program may work at the school veterans' office, VA Regional Office, VA Medical Facilities and California Department of Veteran Affairs or at approved state employment offices. Work-study students are paid at either the state or federal minimum wage, whichever is greater. To apply for an internship with an approved state office, the student must attain an enrollment certification VA form 22-1999-6 from their schools veterans' office. The veteran will earn an hourly wage equal to the federal minimum wage or your state minimum wage, whichever is greater. If you're in a work-study job at a college or university, your school may pay you the difference between the amount VA pays and the amount the school normally pays other work-study students doing the same job as you. You may work during or between periods of enrollment. You can arrange with VA to work any number of hours you want during your enrollment. But, the total number of hours you work can't be more than 25 times the number of weeks in your enrollment period. The type of work that will be performed under a VA Work-study program must be related to VA work. Fill out a VA Form 22-8691 to apply.

Examples of acceptable work are:

- Processing VA paperwork at schools or VA offices.
- Performing outreach services under the supervision of a VA employee.

- Performing services at VA medical facilities or the offices of the National Cemetery Administration.
- The work you actually do will depend on your interests and the type of work available.

California Veterans Education Opportunities Partnership

In an effort to provide educational opportunities for the men and women who serve in our Armed Forces, the University of California has partnered with Governor Schwarzenegger, the California State University, California Community Colleges and the California Department of Veterans Affairs to implement the California Veterans Education Opportunity Partnership. This partnership brings together the higher education, veterans and military communities to make the transition from military service to college a seamless one.

University of California

www.universityofcalifornia.edu/veterans

California State University

www.calstate.edu/veterans

California Community College

www.cccco.edu/ChancellorsOffice/Divisions/StudentServices/TroopstoCollege/tabid/660/Default.aspx

Troops to Teachers Program

Troops to Teachers is a U.S. Department of Education and Department of Defense program that helps eligible military personnel begin a new career as teachers in public schools where their skills, knowledge and experience are most needed. Troops to Teachers program enriches the quality of American education by placing mature, motivated, experienced and dedicated personnel in our nation's classrooms. Thousands of military retirees, separating active duty personnel and currently drilling members of the reserve components, are discovering new and rewarding careers in teaching our nations children. Veterans who have become public school teachers are "proud to serve again." The program has been successful in producing quality teachers in high demand areas—more men and minorities with experience beneficial to successful teaching in mathematics, science and special education who desire to give back by teaching in economically disadvantaged urban and rural schools.

For more detailed information on your VA education benefits visit, www.caltroops.org or write to:

California Troops to Teachers
1227 O St., Rm. 313
Sacramento, CA 95814



Troops to College Program

California's Troops to College is an initiative specifically targeted to provide educational opportunities and assistance by the state's premier education segments and related agencies to active duty service members, National Guard soldiers, Military Reservists and veterans. The program is designed to help veterans transition to civilian life and the college environment, especially combat veterans. Veterans and their families may enroll in a course about combat stress, post traumatic stress disorders, and other issues affecting veterans returning to civilian life, the course is taught by a VA counselor who is also a combat veteran. The curriculum is specifically designed to increase the veteran's academic, work and social success. The class provides participants instruction in interpersonal skills, methods of adapting to civilian life and work careers, and techniques for managing military operational stress.

For more information contact your local California Community Colleges Veterans Outreach Services Office visit, www.cccco.edu or write to:

California Community Colleges System Office
1102 Q St., 4th Fl.
Sacramento, CA 95811
(916) 445-8752





The California Veterans Corps, or CalVet Corps, is a new and unique program designed to give a helping hand to newly discharged veterans throughout the state. Transitioning back into civilian life can be a very challenging process. What services are available to help? What career is available next? As part of Operation Welcome Home, new CalVet Corps members will stand ready to ease this transition and connect veterans with the support they've earned.



CALVET CORPS

www.calvetcorps.ca.gov

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CALIFORNIA STATE VETERANS BENEFIT SUMMARY



College tuition fee waivers for veterans' dependents

The benefit

Waiver of mandatory system-wide tuition and fees at any State of California Community College, California State University or University of California campus.

Who may be eligible

Plan A:

The spouse, registered domestic partner, child (under the age of 27) or unmarried surviving spouse of a veteran who is totally service-connected disabled, or who has died of service-connected causes may qualify.

Plan B:

The child of a veteran who has a permanent service-connected disability. The child's income and value of support provided by a parent cannot exceed the national poverty level. To view this year's poverty level, visit www.cdva.ca.gov/VetService/Waivers.aspx.

NOTE: All students must meet California residency requirements.

Where to apply

Contact your local County Veterans Service Office or the Admissions Office of any California system campus or visit www.cacvso.org for more information and to download an application.

Non-resident college fee waiver

The benefit

Waiver of non-resident fees (pay at California resident rate) at all State of California Community Colleges, California State University or University of California campuses.

Who may be eligible

- A student who is a veteran of the armed forces of the United States stationed in this state on active duty for more than one year immediately prior to being discharged from the armed forces is entitled to resident classification for the length of time he or she lives in this state after being discharged up to the minimum time necessary to become a resident.
- An undergraduate student who is a member of the Armed Forces of the United States stationed in this state on active duty, except a member of the Armed Forces assigned for educational purposes to a state-supported institution of higher education.
- An undergraduate student who is a natural or adopted child, stepchild, or spouse who is a dependent of a member of the armed forces of the United States stationed in this state on active duty.
- A student seeking a graduate degree who is a member of the Armed Forces of the United States stationed in this state on active duty, except a member of the Armed Forces assigned for educational purposes to a state-supported institution of higher education. There is a two-year limit for graduate level studies.

- A student seeking a graduate degree who is a natural or adopted child, stepchild, or spouse who is a dependent of a member of the armed forces of the United States stationed in this state on active duty. There is a one-year limit for graduate level studies.

Where to apply

The Admissions Office of any California State University, University of California or Community College system campus or at your local County Veterans Service Office.

Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise opportunities

The benefit

Certified veteran owned businesses can participate in the state goal of awarding 3% of all state contracts to disabled veterans through the Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise (DVBE) Program.

Who may be eligible

Veterans with a service-connected disability rated at 10% or greater who own at least 51% of a business.

Where to apply

Office of Small Business and DVBE Certification

707 3rd Street, 1st Fl., Rm. 400
West Sacramento, CA 95798-9052
(916) 375-4940 or (800) 559-5529
www.pd.dgs.ca.gov/smbus

Other governmental agencies

The State DVBE Advocate Veterans Services Division

1227 O Street, Ste. 105
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 653-2573
www.cdva.ca.gov/VetService/DVBE.aspx

Motor vehicle registration fees waived

The benefit

Waiver of registration fees and free license plates for one passenger motor vehicle, or one motorcycle, or one commercial motor vehicle of less than 8001 pounds unladen weight.

Who may be eligible

Medal of Honor recipients, American Ex-Prisoners of War and “disabled veterans” as defined in the “Disabled Veterans License Plate” section of this book.

How to apply

Medal of Honor recipients should complete a DMV form REG 17A, and provide proof of receipt of the Medal of Honor. Ex-Prisoners of War should complete a DMV form REG 17 and proof of former status as a POW.

Where to apply

Applications and necessary documentation should be mailed to:

Department of Motor Vehicles

P.O. Box 932345

Sacramento, CA 94232

(800) 777-0133

or visit www.dmv.ca.gov

Disabled Veteran license plates

The benefit

Waiver of registration fees and free “disabled veteran” handicap parking license plates for one passenger motor vehicle, motorcycle, or commercial motor vehicle of less than 8001 pounds unladen weight.

Who may be eligible

A “disabled veteran” is any person who, as a result of injury or disease suffered while on active service with the Armed Forces of the United States, suffers any of the following:

- Has a disability which has been rated at 100 percent by the Department of Veterans Affairs or the military service from which the veteran was discharged, due to a diagnosed disease or disorder which substantially impairs or interferes with mobility
- Is so severely disabled as to be unable to move without the aid of an assistant device
- Has lost, or has lost use of, one or more limbs
- Has suffered permanent blindness, as defined in Section 19153 of the Welfare and Institutions Code

How to apply

Obtain a signed doctor’s statement that indicates that the veteran in question has a service-connected disability with at least one of the above listed mobility impairments, complete DMV forms REG 195 and REG 256A, and mail the completed package to:

DMV PLACARD

P.O. Box 942869

Sacramento, CA 94269-0001

(800) 777-0133

or visit www.dmv.ca.gov



Free license plates

The benefits

Free specialized license plates.

Who may be eligible

- Medal of Honor
- Legion of Valor plates for recipients of, Distinguish Service Cross, Navy Cross or the Air Force Cross
- Purple Heart Medal recipients
- Pearl Harbor Survivors
- Former Prisoners of War

How to apply

Recipients should complete a DMV form REG 17A, and provide proof they received a medal as described above or the evidence of being stationed at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. Former POW's complete DMV form REG 17.

Where to apply

Applications and necessary documentation should be mailed to:

Department of Motor Vehicles

P.O. Box 932345

Sacramento, CA 94232

(800) 777-0133

or visit www.dmv.ca.gov

Veterans preference in California civil service exams

The benefit

Additional points added to the final score of a civil service examination as follows:

- **Open Entrance Exams:** 15 points for a disabled veteran and 10 points for other veterans and surviving spouses
- **Open Nonpromotional Entrance Exams:** 10 points for disabled veterans and 5 points for other veterans

NOTE: In January 2009, state law changed so that any veteran leaving service under honorable conditions is eligible to apply for promotional civil service jobs with the state, including career executive assignments, for which they meet the minimum qualifications as outlined in the job specifications found on the State Personnel Board website, www.sbp.ca.gov.

Who may be eligible

- Veterans with service-connected disabilities rated at 10% or greater
- "Wartime" veterans who serve(d) with honor
- A veteran who served under honorable conditions for a period of at least 181 days
- Spouses of 100% disabled service-connected veterans
- Unmarried, surviving spouses of a veteran who has died of service-connected causes

Where to apply

Mail application, discharge papers, and other documents to:

State Personnel Board Veterans
ATTN: Preference Coordinator
P.O. Box 944201
Sacramento, CA 94244-2010
(916) 653-1502
or visit www.spb.ca.gov

California Veterans Cemetery

The benefit

Complete, professional burial services at no cost to veterans (\$500 fee for spouses or dependents).

Who may be eligible

Veterans, dependents and survivors who meet USDVA eligibility requirements for burial in a national cemetery.

Where to apply

Northern California Veterans Cemetery

P.O. Box 76

11800 Gas Point Road

Igo, CA 96047-0076

(866) 777-4533

or visit www.cdva.ca.gov/Cemetery/Default.aspx

Veterans Claims Representation at U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs (USDVA) Regional Offices

The benefit

Professional, accredited, USDVA claims and ratings review, and representation in appellate processes.

Who may be eligible

Any veteran, dependent or veteran's survivor applying for USDVA benefits.

Where to apply

Any County Veterans Service Office (located in the county government listings in your telephone book) or California Department of Veterans Affairs, Veterans Services Division Regional Offices at (800) 952-5626. You can also visit www.cdva.ca.gov/vetservice/claims.aspx

Fishing and hunting licenses

The benefits

Reduced annual fees for fishing and hunting licenses.

Who may be eligible

Any veteran with a 50% or greater service-connected disability.

How to apply

First time applicants must submit proof of their service-connected disability from the USDVA to:

The California Department of Fish and Game

License and Revenue Branch

1740 N. Market Blvd.

Sacramento, CA 95834

(916) 928-5805

or visit www.dfg.ca.gov

State parks and recreation pass

The benefits

A lifetime State of California Parks pass.

Who may be eligible

Any veteran with a service-connected disability rated at 50% or greater, or a former Prisoner of War.

How to apply

To apply by mail, a veteran should submit:

- A completed Department of Parks and Recreation form DPR 619
- A letter from the USDVA verifying a service-connected disability rated at 50% or greater, or former Prisoner of War status
- A copy of the veterans drivers license to verify California residency and mail to or visit:

California Department of Parks and Recreation Field Services Division

P.O. Box 942896

Sacramento, CA 94296-0001

(916) 653-4272

or visit www.parks.ca.gov



Employment assistance & unemployment insurance

The benefits

Assistance in obtaining training and employment as well assistance in obtaining unemployment insurance.

Who may be eligible

All veterans.

Where to apply

Service-connected disabled veterans should contact a Veterans Employment Service Specialist (VESS). Other veterans should contact a Veterans Workforce Specialist (VWS) located at a local Employment Development Department (EDD) Office (see the state government section of your local telephone book or visit their website at www.edd.ca.gov).

Business license, tax and fee waiver

The benefit

Waiver of municipal, county and state business license fees, taxes and fees, for veterans who hawk, peddle or vend any goods, wares or merchandise owned by the veteran, except spirituous, malt, vinous or other intoxicating liquor, including sales from a fixed location.

Who may be eligible

Honorably discharged veterans who engage in sales (not services) activities may be eligible. Eligibility criteria differs based upon local jurisdiction.

How to apply

Bring proof of honorable discharge to your local appropriate county/city licensing authority.

Farm and Home loans (CalVet)

The benefit

Direct loans from the State of California, competitive rates, quick processing, unbeatable earthquake and disaster coverage, and proven ability to work well with our homeowner veterans.

Who may be eligible

Any veteran who served honorably on active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States who lives in California and wishes to purchase a home.

Where to apply

Find a local California Department of Veterans Affairs District Office by visiting, www.cdva.ca.gov/CalVetLoans/Offices2.aspx

California Department of Veterans Affairs Farm and Home Loan Division

1227 O Street

Sacramento, CA 95814

(800) 952-5626

or visit: www.cdva.ca.gov/CalVetLoans



Property tax exemptions

The benefit

Property tax exemptions on the assessed value of a home of: **a)** Up to \$114,634 if the total household income from all sources is over \$49,979 per year. **b)** Up to \$171,952 if the total household income from all sources is under \$49,979 per year.

Who may be eligible:

- Wartime veterans who are in receipt of service-connected disability compensation at the totally disabled rate.
- Unmarried surviving spouses, or registered domestic partners, of veterans who are in receipt of service-connected death benefits
- Wartime veterans who are service-connected for loss of, or loss of use of, two or more limbs
- Wartime veterans who are service-connected for blindness. Those applying for benefits should bring proof from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, verifying receipt of service-connected disability/ death benefits

How to apply

The local County Assessors Office (found in the county government section of your telephone book).

PROGRAMS FOR HOMELESS VETERANS



Homelessness has become a big issue in our nation today. According to the U.S. Department of Veteran's Affairs (USDVA) the majority of the homeless population is males. Most of the homeless veterans are single, poor, come from disadvantaged communities, suffer from mental illness and half of them have substance abuse problems. The demographics of America's homeless veterans have served in: World War II, Korean War, Cold War, Vietnam War, Grenada, Panama, Lebanon, Operation Enduring Freedom (Afghanistan), and Operation Iraqi Freedom. Statistically 47 percent of America's homeless veteran's population served during the Vietnam Era, more than 67 percent served our country at least three years, and 33 percent were stationed in a war zone. Some of the factors that have affected homelessness have been extreme shortage of affordable housing, livable income and access to health care. Also there are a large number of displaced and at-risk veterans living with lingering effects of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and substance abuse, compounded by a lack of family and social support networks.

The State of California has one of the largest homeless populations in the country, where one out of every four homeless person is a veteran. Even when the economy is

robust and unemployment is low, the tragedy of homelessness among veterans persists. Homeless veterans require remedial education, job search, counseling assistance, medical services and transitional housing in order to re-enter the labor market. The California Department of Veterans Affairs (CDVA), through its Veterans Services Division, addresses these needs with vital programs and events. In 2002, the CDVA began to annually make discretionary funds available through grants for Stand Down events. Throughout the state these events typically last one to three days providing services such as food, shelter, clothing, health screenings and referrals to a variety of other necessary services such as housing, employment and substance abuse treatment. They also counsel homeless veterans on benefits available to them from the USDVA, Social Security Administration, CDVA and service providers.

Nearly every county in California has a resource list of community-based organizations or government agencies that may provide assistance to homeless veterans. The Veteran Service Division of CDVA has started a pilot program in Northern and Southern California to have a homeless bed census that will allow providers and homeless veterans to locate a facility, and begin their trail back to a normal standard quality of life. This pilot program can be located with the assistance of the Network of Care website at, www.networkofcare.org.

Northern California

The Continuum of Care (COC) website below contains all the homeless assistance coordinators' contact information for Northern California.

www.hud.gov/local/ca/homeless/continuumcare/ncalcoc.cfm

Alameda County

Riley Wilkerson

Alameda Co. Housing & Comm. Development

224 West Winton Ave., Rm. 108
Hayward, CA 94544
(510) 670-9797

Butte County/Chico

Gloria Rodgers

Community Action Agency of Butte County

2255 Del Oro Avenue
Oroville, CA 95965
(530) 891-2977 Ext. 205

Central Sierra

(Amador, Calaveras, and Tuolumne Counties)

Margaret Barbour

Amador, Tuolumne Community Action Agency

427 N. Hwy. 49, Ste. 302
Sonora, CA 95370
(209) 533-1397 ext. 251

Contra Costa County

Cynthia Belon

Contra Costa County

597 Center Ave., Ste. 355
Martinez, CA 94553-4670
(925) 313-6736

Dos Rios

(Colusa, Glenn, Trinity, and Tehama Counties)

Bill Wathen, Housing Manager

Glenn County Human Resources Agency

420 E. Laurel St.
Willows, CA 95988
(530) 642-7276

El Dorado County

Joyce Aldrich,

Human Services Department

3057 Briw Rd.
Placerville, CA 95667
(530) 642-7276

Fresno/Madera County

Karri Gordon, FM,

Continuum of Care Administrator

P.O. Box 11626
Fresno, CA 93774
(559) 250-7797

Humboldt County

Rob Amerman

Humboldt County Department of Health and Human Services

720 Wood St.
Eureka, CA 95501
(707) 268-2923

Kings/Tulare Counties

Nanette Villarreal
Kings United Way
11050 13th Ave.
Hanford, CA 93230
(559) 584-1536

Marin County

Bobbe Rockoff
Health and Human Services Agency
20 N. San Pedro Rd., Ste. 2028
San Rafael, CA 94903
(415) 499-3283

Mendocino County

Kathleen Stone
Department of Social Services
P.O. Box 839
Ukiah, CA 95482
(707) 463-7968

Merced County

Lori Flanders,
Continuum of Care Coordinator
Merced County Association of Governments
369 West 18th St.
Merced, CA 95340
(209) 723-3153 ext. 318
(209) 723-0322 (F)

Monterey County

Glorietta Rowland
Coalition of Homeless Service Providers
100 12th St.
Marina, CA 93933
(831) 883-3080

Napa County

Charlene Horton
Community Action Napa Valley
2521 Old Sonoma Rd.
Napa, CA 94558
(707) 253-6103

Redding/Shasta County

Don Meek,
Continuum of Care Coordinator
4750 Enchanted Way
Redding, CA 96001
(530) 246-7542

Placer County

Janice Critchlow, Coordinator
Placer Greater Collaborative
P.O. Box 215156
Sacramento, CA 95821
(916) 924-0534

Sacramento County

Suzanne Hammer,
Program Manager
Sacramento County Department of Human Assistance
Sacramento City & County
1590 North A St.
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 874-4323

San Francisco

Ms. Ali Schlageter
Local Homeless Coordinating Board
1440 Harrison St.
San Francisco, CA 94102
(415) 558-1825

San Joaquin County

Ms. Chris Becerra
**Community Development
Department**
1810 Hazelton Ave.
Stockton, CA 95205
(209) 468-3157

San Mateo County

Wendy Goldberg
**San Mateo County Office of
Housing**
262 Harbor Blvd., Bldg. A
Belmont, CA 94002
(530) 802-3378

Santa Clara County

Lynn Terzian
Office of Affordable Housing
2310 N. First St., Ste. 100
San Jose, CA 95131
(408) 441-4256

Santa Cruz County

Erik Shapiro
**Housing Chief Planning
Department–Housing Division**
701 Ocean Ave., 4th Fl.
Santa Cruz, CA 95060
(831) 454-5166

Solano County

P.J. Davis
Community Action Agency
1545 North Texas
P.O. Box 2726
Fairfield, CA 94533
(707) 422-8810

Sonoma County

Jenny Helbraus Abramson,
Continuum of Care Coordinator
708 Gravenstein Hwy. N., Ste. 95
Sebastopol, CA 95472
(707) 824-2852

Stanislaus County

Michele Gonzales,
Deputy Director
Housing Authority
P.O. Box 581918
Modesto, CA 95358
(209) 557-2025

State of California

Dan Apodaca,
Homeless Programs Manager
**Department of Housing and
Community Development**
P.O. Box 952054
Sacramento, CA 94252-2054
(916) 327-3633

Yolo County

Amara Pickens
**Yolo County Department of
Employment and Social Services**
25 North Cottonwood St.
Woodland, CA 95695
(530) 661-2934

Bay Area

The Bay Area Homeless Alliance (BAHA) website, a collaboration of greater San Francisco Bay Area service agencies contains information for the following ten counties; Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Solano and Sonoma. These listings can be found by calling (800) 7-SHELTER (743583) or online at www.baha.org.

The Central Valley

The Central Valley Shelters and Emergency Housing website contains information for the following 6 cities: Fresno, Bakersfield, Visalia, Madera, Modesto, and Merced. For more information visit, www.hud.gov/local/ca/homeless/shelters/cvshelter.cfm.

Bakersfield/Kern County

Bakersfield Homeless Center

1600 E. Truxtun Ave.
Bakersfield, CA 93305
(661) 322-9199

www.bakhc.com

Bakersfield/Kern County

Bakersfield Rescue Mission (BRM) Administration Office

821 E. 21st St.
Bakersfield, CA 93305
(661) 325-0863

www.thebrm.org

City of Fresno

Emergency Family Shelter

315 G St.
Fresno, CA 93706
(559) 237-4118

City of Fresno

Fresno Rescue Mission and Overnight Shelter for Men

Mailing: P.O. Box 1422
Fresno, CA 93716-1422

Physical address:

310 G St.
Fresno, CA 93706
(559) 268-0839
(559) 485-6548 (F)

City of Fresno

Poverello House

412 F St.
Fresno, CA 93706
(559) 498-6988

County of Merced**Merced County Human Services Agency**

2115 W. Wardrobe Ave.
Merced, CA 95340
(209) 385-3000

www.co.merced.ca.us

County of Merced**Merced County Rescue Mission**

110 E. 22nd St.
Merced, CA 95340
(209) 722-9269

County of Madera**Association of Gospel Rescue Missions in California
Madera Rescue Mission Inc.**

P.O. Box 642
Madera, CA 93639
(559) 675-8321
(559) 675-8073 (F)

City of Modesto**Modesto Union Gospel Mission**

Mailing: P.O. Box 1203
Modesto, CA 95353

Physical address:

1400 Yosemite Blvd.
Modesto, CA 95353
(209) 529-8259
(209) 529-3450 (F)

www.agrm.org

City of Visalia**Visalia Rescue Mission**

322 N.E. 1st St.
Visalia, CA 93291
(559) 733-2231

www.visaliarescue.org

California Veterans Assistance Foundation (CVAF)

This is nonprofit tax exempt corporation established in 2003 to operate transitional housing programs for military veterans who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. You can also visit their website at, www.cavaf.org. For further information call (661) 695-3626, or to make referrals for admission call (866) 225-8387.

Southern California

The Continuum of Care (COC) website below contains all the homeless assistance coordinators' contact information for Southern California visit,
www.hud.gov/local/ca/homeless/continuumcare/scalcoc.cfm

Bakersfield/Kern County

David Press
Kern County Homeless Collaborative
2700 M St.
Bakersfield, CA 93301
(661) 862-5039
(661) 862-5052 (F)

City of Glendale

Ivet Samvelyan
141 N. Glendale, Rm. 202
Glendale, CA 91206
(818) 548-2060
(818) 548-3724 (F)

City of Long Beach

Ms. Susan Price,
Homeless Services Coordinator
Health and Human Services
2525 Grand Ave.
Long Beach, CA 90815
(562) 570-4003
(562) 570-4066 (F)

City of San Diego

Ms. Patricia Leslie,
Continuum of Care Coordinator
Point Loma Nazarene University Culbertson
900 Lomaland, Rm. 1063
San Diego, CA 92106
(619) 849-2676
(619) 849-7019 (F)

City of Oxnard

Will Reed,
Homeless Assistance Coordinator
300 West Third St.
Oxnard, CA 93030
(805) 385-8044
(805) 385-7969 (F)

County of Orange

Ms. Julia Bidwell,
Interim Director
1770 N. Broadway
Santa Ana, CA 92706
(714) 480-2991
(714) 480-2803 (F)

County of San Luis Obispo

Mr. Dana Lilley
Supervising Planner County Government Center
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408
(805) 781-5715
(805) 781-5624 (F)

County of Santa Barbara

Ms. Patricia Gabel,
Sr. Housing Finance Specialist
105 E Anapamu St., Ste. 105
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-3522
(805) 568-2289 (F)

County of Ventura

Ms. Cathy Brudnicki,
President

Ventura County Homeless and Housing Coalition

1317 Del Norte, Ste. 100 Camarillo,
CA 93010-0417
(805) 485-6288 ext. 273
(805) 485-4584 (F)

Imperial County

Marilyn Boyle,
Grant Program Specialist

Imperial Valley College

380 E. Aten Rd., Rm. 1604E
Imperial, CA 92251
(760) 355-6166
(760) 355-6461 (F)

Los Angeles

Ms. Christine Mirasy Glasco,
Director of Compliance

Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority

453 S. Spring St., 12th Fl.
Los Angeles, CA 90013
(213) 683-3328
(213) 892-0093 (F)

Pasadena

Anne Lansing

Pasadena CD Commission

649 N. Fair Oaks Ave., Rm. 202
Pasadena, CA 91103
(626) 744-6701
(626) 744-8340 (F)

Riverside County

Judith Merdock

Riverside County Department of Public Social Services

4060 County Circle Dr.
Riverside, CA 92503
(951) 358-5636
(951) 358-7755 (F)

San Bernardino County

Isaac Jackson

696 S. Tippecanoe Ave.
San Bernardino, CA 92415
(909) 421-4614
(909) 421-4600 (F)

San Diego County

Ms. Dolores Diaz,

Continuum of Care Coordinator

Housing and Community Development

3989 Ruffin Rd.
San Diego, CA 92123
(858) 694-4804
(858) 514-6561 (F)

Nearly every county in California has a resource list of community-based organizations or government agencies that may provide assistance to homeless Veterans.

Local county social services offices

Local county social services offices can provide information on financial, medical, housing and other social service assistance. For a listing of county social service offices visit, www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/medi-cal/Pages/CountyOffices.aspx.

Local California homeless service organizations

For a directory of California homeless service organizations visit, www.cdva.ca.gov/Resources/Database.aspx.

California homeless veterans assistance organizations

Several organizations provide veterans with assistance in obtaining emergency and supportive housing, food, health care services, job training, and placement assistance. For a directory of California homeless veterans' assistance organizations visit, www.cacvso.org/ContentPage.asp?ContentID=71.

U.S. Department of Veterans of Affairs (USDVA)

Every VA Medical Center has a Health Care for Homeless Veterans (HCHV) coordinator who is responsible for helping homeless veterans access VA and community-based care. Contact your local VA for assistance or the homeless outreach coordinator at the locations below:

Northern California

Roberta L. Rosenthal, Chief
Social Work Service VA Medical Center-662
4150 Clement St.
San Francisco, CA 94121
(415) 551-7338
Roberta.Rosenthal@med.va.gov

Southern California

Betty Zamost, Deputy Director,
Homeless Coordinator
West LA VA Med Ctr-691
11301 Wilshire Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90073
(310) 268-3508
Betty.Zamost@med.va.gov

VA Headquarters

Pete Dougherty, Director
Homeless Programs VA Central
Office-07D

810 Vermont Ave. N.W.
Washington, DC 20420
(202) 273-5774
Pete.Dougherty@mail.va.gov

VBA Regional Office Homeless Outreach Veterans Coordinators

LOS ANGELES

NAME	TITLE	PHONE
Melvin Worthy	Homeless Veteran Coordinator	(310) 478-3711 ext. 44269 (310) 863-3979 (CELL)

OAKLAND

NAME	TITLE	PHONE
Jose (Joe) Medina	Homeless Veteran Outreach Coordinator	(510) 637-6445 (510) 520-8226 (CELL)

SAN DIEGO

NAME	TITLE	PHONE
Errol Samuelson	Veterans Service Representative	(619) 400-5623

California VA Medical Centers Homeless Coordinators

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

Central California HCS, VAMC/122

2615 E. Clinton Ave.
Fresno, CA 93703
(559) 225-6100 ext. 5672
(888) 826-2838 ext. 5672

VA Homeless Coordinator:
(559) 225-6100 ext. 5638 or 5764

Northern California HCS VAMC, HCHV/122

150 Muir Rd.
Martinez, CA 94553
(510) 587-3405

VA Homeless Coordinator:
Tracy Casio
(510) 587-3405

Livermore

4951 Arroyo Rd.
Livermore, CA 94550
(925) 373-4700

VA Homeless Coordinator:
Rachel Sanders
(650) 493-5000 ext. 523005

*Covers Santa Cruz, Monterrey,
Modesto and Stockton Counties*

Palo Alto, VAMC/122MPD

795 Willow Rd.
Menlo Park, CA 94025
(650) 493-5000 ext. 523005

VA Homeless Coordinator:
Rachel Sanders
(650) 493-5000 ext. 523005

Palo Alto, VAMC

3801 Miranda Ave.
Palo Alto, CA 94304
(650) 493-5000
(800) 455-0057

VA Homeless Coordinator:
Rachel Sanders
(650) 493-5000 ext. 523005

Sacramento, VAMC

10535 Hospital Way
Mather, CA 95655
(916) 366-5366
(916) 843-7000
(800) 382-8387

VA Homeless Coordinator:
Reed Walker
(916) 843-9090
Maureen Gallager
(916) 843-7094

San Francisco
Health Care/Homeless Vets

401 3rd St.
San Francisco, CA 94107
(415) 551-7312

VA Homeless Coordinator:
Michael Jake Martin
(415) 551-7381

San Francisco

4150 Clement St.
San Francisco, CA 94121
(415) 221-4810
(800) 733-0502

VA Homeless Coordinator
Michael Jake Martin
(415) 551-7381

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Greater Los Angeles
Comprehensive Homeless
Center, VAMC

11301 Wilshire Blvd.
Bldg. 206, Rm. 131
West LA, CA 90073
(310) 478-3711 ext. 43623
(310) 268-3508
(310) 268-4690
(800) 952-4852

VA Homeless Coordinator:
Bob Friedman
(310) 478-3711 ext. 42975

Los Angeles Field Office

611 W. 6th St., Ste. 800
Los Angeles, CA 90017
(213) 534-2555

VA Homeless Coordinator:
Joetta Brown-Higgins
(213) 253-2677 ext. 14766

Loma Linda
VA Medical Center/122

11201 Benton St.
Loma Linda, CA 92357
(909) 825-7084 ext. 1773
(800) 741-8387

VA Homeless Coordinator:
Susan Adams
(909) 825-7084 ext. 1773

Long Beach
Social Work Service/122
VA Medical Center

5901 East 7th St.
Long Beach, CA 90822
(562) 826-8000 ext. 4822
(888)769-8387

VA Homeless Coordinator:
Mechel Stanley
(562) 562-8000 ext. 4822

San Diego

HCHV Program

8810 Rio San Diego Dr., Ste. 2200
San Diego, CA 92108
(619) 400-5167

VA Homeless Coordinator:
Elizabeth Pinner
(619) 400-5162

National Coalition of Homeless Veterans (NCHV)

Provides help to homeless veterans. Call to find a local shelter. (800) VET-HELP (838-4357) or visit their website at, www.nchv.org.

Vietnam Veterans of California, Inc. (VVC)

A member of the California Association of Veteran Service Agencies, this nonprofit corporation offers community-based services to veterans and their families. With four veteran centers in Northern California, the VVC are focused on the complex realities of veterans' issues and work diligently to design innovative programs which respond to the diverse needs of veterans and the community.

Sacramento Veterans Resource Center

7270 E. Southgate Dr.
Sacramento, CA 95823
(916) 393-8387
(916) 393-8389 (F)
vvcsac@vietvets.org

North Coast Veterans Resource Center

2107 Third St.
Eureka, CA 95501
(707) 442-5852
(707) 442-4113 (F)
ncvrc@vietvets.org

North Bay Veterans Resource Center

2455 Bennett Valley Rd., B-117 Bldg. 323-C

795 Willow Rd. (MS-116B-6)

Santa Rosa, CA 95402

(707) 578-8387

(707) 578-2788 (F)

nbvrc@vietvets.org

Next Step Center–NSC

Menlo Park, CA 94025

(650) 566-0240

(650) 566-9571 (F)

nextstep@nextstepjobs.org

The Homeless Veterans Emergency Housing Facility (HVEHF)

A branch of VA Palo Alto, located in Menlo Park, HVEHF combines emergency shelter, transitional housing and supportive services in one location on the hospital grounds. For a phone screen or to request an outreach visit, call (650) 324-3642 or visit the facility at 795 Willow Road, Building 323-B, Menlo Park, CA 94025.

Homeless Veterans Rehabilitation Program (HVRP)

A component program at VA Palo Alto, HVRP treats homeless and substance dependent veterans through an intense and demanding six-month program. Veterans learn job skills, relapse prevention strategies and a host of other skills through group meetings and classes.

Housing and Urban Development Offices in California

To apply for this program call (800) 848-7254.

HUD Veteran Resource Center

(800) 998-9999
www.hud.gov/hudvet

Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA)

www.hud.gov/offices/cpd/aidshousing

Los Angeles Field Office

611 W. 6th St., Ste. 800
Los Angeles, CA 90017
(213) 534-2555
(213) 894-8122 (F)

San Francisco Regional HUD Office

450 Golden Gate Ave.
San Francisco, CA 94102-3448

San Francisco Regional Office

600 Harrison St.
San Francisco, CA 94107
(415) 489-6400
(415) 489-6601 (F)

Emergency housing and services

Temporary Emergency Shelter Program

The California National Guard makes many of its armories available each year from October 15 through April 15 to provide additional emergency shelter space to local communities during the winter months. Cities and counties obtain a license from the Guard to use an armory as a temporary shelter and are responsible for all costs associated with running the shelter.

Adult Protective Services Program

Provides protective services to adults aged 65 years or older or who are aged 18-64 but disabled to the extent they cannot meet their own needs. For a list of phone numbers by county, visit their website at www.cdss.ca.gov.

Stand Down Events

Typically one to three day events that provide services to homeless veterans such as food, shelter, clothing, health screenings, benefits counseling, and referrals to a variety of other necessary services such as housing, employment, and substance abuse treatment. Stand Down events are organized by Veterans Service Offices and community-based veteran service organizations with cooperation from CDVA and a variety of other state, federal, private, and nonprofit agencies. For a list of all the organizations and 2010 Stand Down dates, visit, www.cdva.ca.gov/Resources/StandDown.aspx.

Salvation Army

Salvation Army programs vary with local needs. For information on specific programs and locations, contact the divisional headquarters in your area or your local Salvation Army Corps Community Center or visit, www.usw.salvationarmy.org.

Caregiver Resource Centers (CRCs)

Eleven centers throughout the state serve thousands of families and caregivers of those with Alzheimer's disease, stroke, Parkinson's disease and other disorders. To see all the centers in California visit, www.cacrc.org/californiacrc/jsp/home.jsp.

Bay Area CRC/Family Caregiver Alliance

Serving Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, San Francisco, San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties.

Redwood CRC

Serving Del Norte, Humboldt, Lake, Mendocino, Napa, Solano and Sonoma Counties.

Los Angeles CRC

Serving Los Angeles County.

Inland CRC

Serving Inyo, Mono, Riverside and San Bernardino Counties.

Del Oro CRC

Serving Alpine, Amador, Calaveras, Colusa, El Dorado, Nevada, Placer, Sacramento, San Joaquin, Sierra, Sutter, Yolo and Yuba Counties.

Southern CRC

Serving San Diego and Imperial Counties.

Coast CRC

Serving San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties.

Mountain CRC

Serving Butte, Glenn, Lassen, Modoc, Plumas, Shasta, Siskiyou, Tehama and Trinity Counties.

Valley CRC

Serving Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, Mariposa, Merced, Stanislaus, Tulare and Tuolumne Counties.

Del Mar CRC

Serving Monterey, San Benito and Santa Cruz Counties.

Orange County CRC

Serving Orange County.

Family Caregiver Alliance

180 Montgomery St., Ste. 1100

San Francisco, CA 94104

(415) 434-3388

(800) 445-8106

(415) 434-3508 (F)

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

SNAP is the new name for the federal Food Stamp Program.

The new name reflects the changes made to meet the needs of clients, including a focus on nutrition and an increase in benefit amounts. For more information, call (877) 847-FOOD (3663).

Federal Food Stamp Program

Access to Food Benefits

C4Yourself is an online application system that allows you to apply for the Food Stamp Program. This is a secured site and all your information will be private and safe. You can send your application online to Merced, Stanislaus, Riverside and San Bernardino Counties in California. For all other counties, you can print a blank application form from this website, and then turn your application in at your nearest social services office. Visit their website at www.c4yourself.com.

The Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP)

EFSP was created in 1983 to expand the work of local social service agencies (non-profit and governmental) in assisting people with economic emergencies. United Way serves as the fiscal agent for the EFSP program. For more information about United Way, call (213) 985-2000.

Emergency Food Assistance Program (EFAP)

There are approximately 50 California food banks within the California Association of Food Banks. They can be reached by phone at (916) 321-4435 or by sending an email to info@cafoodbanks.org. For the Bay Area, call (510) 272-4435 or email, info@cafoodbanks.org.

California Emergency Foodlink

5800 Foodlink St.
Sacramento, CA 95828
(800) 283-9000
(916) 387-7046 (F)

Other FREE assistance

The Soldiers Project

This program provides free, confidential psychoanalytically-informed psychological counseling for Military Service Members (active duty, National Guard, Reserves and veterans) of Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts and their extended families, whether honorably discharged or not. This non-profit organization brings together volunteer licensed mental health professionals in Sacramento, Los Angeles, Chicago, New York City, Long Island and Seattle. Treatment is conducted in their private offices and they do not report to any governmental agency. Contact them for information or an appointment at (877) 576-5343 or email info@thesoldiersproject.org. Learn more about this wonderful organization by visiting their website at www.thesoldiersproject.org

COMMUNITY-BASED VETERANS SERVICE PROVIDERS



Veterans Village of San Diego (VVSD)

4141 Pacific Highway

San Diego, CA 92110

(619) 497-0142

(619) 497-0263 (F)

info@vvsd.net

www.vvsd.net

Mission and Services

Veterans Village of San Diego (VVSD), also known as Vietnam Veterans of San Diego, is dedicated to extending assistance to needy and homeless veterans of all wars and eras and their families by providing housing, food, clothing, substance abuse recovery and mental health counseling, job training and job search assistance. VVSD operates a 160-bed residential treatment program that offers veterans up to one year of treatment with a case manager, classroom instruction, individual therapy, job readiness counseling and PTSD therapy, if needed. VVSD also operates two sober-living programs and one program

that serve veterans with children. They are a non-profit agency, but work closely with the VA and provide benefits assistance and referrals.

The Warrior Traditions program provides peer-to-peer, post-combat experience support for any service member who has served in Iraq or Afghanistan.

New Directions

11303 Wilshire Blvd., VA Bldg. 116
Los Angeles, CA 90073
(310) 914-4045
(310) 914-5495 (F)
www.ndvets.org

Mission and Services

The mission of New Directions is to assist veterans in becoming healthy, sober and self-sufficient. New Directions offers a wide array of services, including treatment for co-occurring disorders, job training and placement, parenting and money management classes, legal and financial assistance, counseling, remedial education and resources for alumni. Clients leave New Directions with a job, housing, a savings account, computer skills, renewed self-confidence and the support of mentors and peers. Such transformations take hard work, motivation and accountability, but the results are life-altering—and for many veterans, life-saving. New Directions also provides a homeless prevention program in the community specifically for veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan.

U.S. Veterans Initiative (Three sites in California)

www.usvetsinc.org

Mission and Services

The mission of U.S. Vets is the successful reintegration of homeless and at-risk veterans. U.S. VETS is the largest non-profit organization in the country dedicated to helping such veterans, and is a nationally recognized leader in the field of service

delivery to veterans. U.S. Vets offers assistance at three locations in California (Inglewood, Long Beach and Riverside) and offers transitional and long-term housing, case management, employment assistance, mental health counseling and substance abuse treatment. See below for information about the three assistance locations:

U.S. VETS–Inglewood

733 S. Hindry Ave.

Inglewood, CA 90301

(310) 348-7600

(310) 645-2605 (F)

lmason@usvetsinc.org

www.usvetsinc.org/locations/location.asp?id=4

The inaugural site in Inglewood, near Los Angeles International Airport, opened in 1993. The renovated eight-story building offers homeless veterans over 500 beds of transitional and permanent housing and a host of support services.

Special needs programs include a Non-Custodial Father’s Program, which offers parenting classes and reunites fathers with their children. The High Barriers Program designed to address additional barriers some veterans face (such as older workers) in getting back to work.

U.S. VETS–Long Beach

2001 River Ave.

Long Beach, CA 90810

(562) 388-8016

(562) 388-7991 (F)

gmccormack@usvetsinc.org

www.usvetsinc.org/locations/location.asp?ID=3

U.S. VETS–Long Beach is located at the Villages at Cabrillo, the former 26-acre Cabrillo/Savannah Naval housing site. Since 2001, the Long Beach site has provided a seamless and comprehensive array of services to

homeless and at-risk veterans. It is the largest transitional housing facility for homeless veterans in the country with 520 veteran beds.

The advance Women's Program includes a module serving female veterans suffering from PTSD and/or sexual trauma. The Veterans Village Recovery Center (VVRC), is a VA staffed substance abuse treatment program, and includes treatment for dually diagnosed veterans.

U.S. VETS–Riverside

15105 6th St.

March ARB, CA 92518

(951) 656-6892

(951) 656-6890 (F)

gvaughn@usvetsinc.org

www.usvetsinc.org/locations/location.asp?id=10

In the summer of 2003, U.S. VETS opened the U.S. VETS–Riverside at the March Air Reserve Base. The 103-bed project, in partnership with the Loma Linda VA Medical Center, provides stable housing and a variety of support services that gives homeless veterans the skills to become self-sufficient.

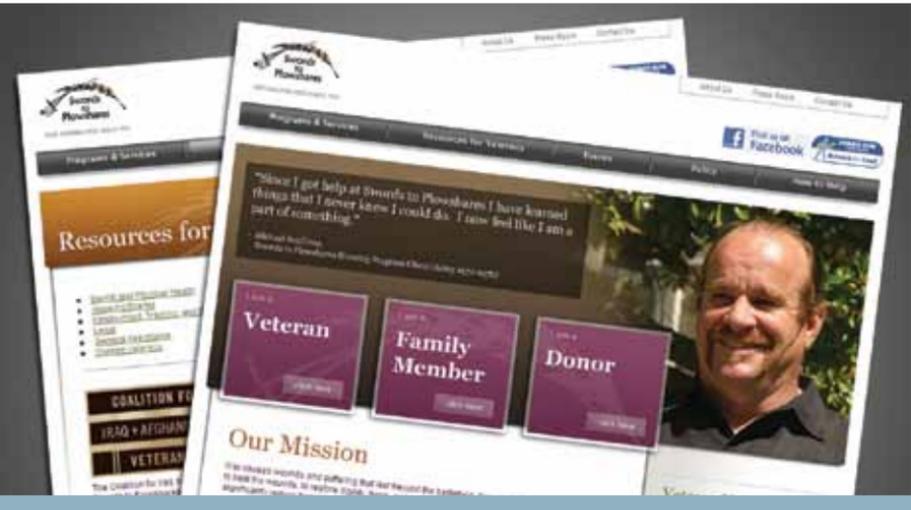
The project offers services to homeless veterans from both Riverside and San Bernardino Counties and will offer hope to the more than 7,000 veterans living on the streets of the Inland Empire. Services include: Outreach and Assessment, Residential Substance Abuse Treatment, Residential Employment Program, Career Center, Senior and Disabled Housing, and Food Services.

Swords to Plowshares

1060 Howard St.
San Francisco, CA 94103
(415) 252-4788
(415) 552-6267 (F)
info@stp-sf.org
www.stp-sf.org

Mission and Services

War causes wounds and suffering that last beyond the battlefield. Swords to Plowshares' mission is to heal the wounds, to restore dignity, hope and self-sufficiency to all veterans in need, and to significantly reduce homelessness and poverty among veterans. Founded in 1974, Swords to Plowshares is a community-based, non-profit organization that provides counseling and case management, employment and training, housing and legal assistance to veterans in the San Francisco Bay Area. Swords to Plowshares does not discriminate based on length of service, branch of service or military discharge status.



Vietnam Veterans of California (VVC) (Four sites in California)

www.vietvets.org

Established in 1980, VVC offers community based services for veterans and their families. VVC has several programs located in Sacramento, Eureka, Santa Rosa and Menlo Park. Their focus is on employment and training support, transitional housing, and alcohol & drug recovery. See below for the four sites in the state of California:

Sacramento Veterans Resource Center (SVRC)

7270 E. Southgate Dr.

Sacramento, CA 95823

(916) 393-8387

(916) 393-8389 (F)

vvcsac@vietvets.org

www.vietvets.org/svrc.htm

The Sacramento Veterans Resource Center (SVRC) is a multi-function campus with the most comprehensive mix of services for veterans in Northern California. Below are some of the services offered:

Employment Counseling & Training: The SVRC originated in 1989, and the first, and now longest, service offered to veterans was employment assistance. The SVRC is proud of their long tradition of helping veterans obtain career training and self sustaining employment opportunities.

Supportive Housing: The SVRC offers fifty-two onsite and eight offsite beds for homeless veterans- including female veterans with children. Their supportive housing programs offers up to twenty-four months of stable living, combined with comprehensive supportive services to effectively end the cycle of homelessness and assist veterans in the acquisition of permanent housing and sustainable-wage jobs. The Jon Oberg Center is a state licensed, twenty-two

bed transitional housing program for veterans and non-veterans alike who are in need of drug/alcohol recovery services.

The Veterans Business Outreach Center (VBOC), is one of only four Small Business Administration funded business centers in the nation for veterans who own, or are interested in starting a small business.

North Coast Veterans Resource Center (NCVRC)

2107 Third St.

Eureka, CA 95501

(707) 442-5852

(707) 442-4113 (F)

ncvrc@vietvets.org

www.vietvets.org/ncvrc.htm

The NCVRC also has a long tradition of helping veterans obtain career training and self-sustaining employment opportunities. In addition to career assessment, counseling and support services, eligible veterans who are homeless have access to stable housing.

The “Eureka House” is the first transitional housing project for veterans in Eureka. The 12-bed Victorian has been in continuous operation since 1998. The veterans residing in the house work toward training, employment and permanent housing goals.

North Bay Veterans Resource Center (NBVRC)

2455 Bennett Valley Rd., B-117

Santa Rosa, CA 95402

(707) 578-8387

(707) 578-2788 (F)

nbvrc@vietvets.org

www.vietvets.org/nbvrc.htm

The North Bay Veterans Resource Center is the original location in Northern California established in 1980.

Services offered include career development and job search workshops in conjunction with resume preparation instruction, Winning the Employment Game Workshop, and transitional housing & training assistance.

Next Step Center (NSC)

795 Willow Road (MS-116B-6), Bldg. 323-C

Menlo Park, CA 94025

(650) 566-0240

(650) 566-9571 (F)

nextstep@nextstepjobs.org

www.nextstepjobs.org

The NSC is a non-profit organization located on the grounds of the VA in Menlo Park and has provided comprehensive employment services to veterans since 1988. Using a “whole person” model approach to vocational rehabilitation, coupled with intensive case management, the NSC has served thousands of veterans since its inception and placed them in a wide variety of positions throughout San Mateo and Santa Clara counties.

VOLUNTEER SERVICES



California Volunteers

California Volunteers is the state office that manages programs and initiatives aimed at increasing the number of Californians engaged in service and volunteering.

Learn more about volunteering in the State of California by visiting, www.californiavolunteers.org.

Department of Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service (VAVS)

VA Voluntary Service (VAVS) has joined President Barack Obama's United We Serve initiative. VAVS is committed to engaging American citizens in service during the summer months and provide lasting benefits to the veterans and communities in which they live through volunteer service. To Volunteer or Donate contact a VAVS Program Manager in your area.

The following are four volunteer opportunities that are available at varying VA facilities throughout the nation. If one of the opportunities peaks your interest, go to the Volunteer or Donate page to complete an introductory application and specify in the comments field your preference.

1. VA Homeless Veterans Program
2. VA National Cemetery Administration
3. VA Volunteer Transportation Network
4. VA Welcome Home Celebrations

Visit www.volunteer.va.gov or by calling (800) 827-1000.

Student Volunteer Program

Student volunteers are an important part of the VA medical centers' treatment team. They will receive valuable experience and training which will benefit them in applying for college and jobs. The James H. Parke Memorial Youth Scholarship Award provides scholarship opportunities to students who volunteer at VA medical centers (your local VA health care Voluntary Service staff has current nomination criteria). Student volunteers are liaisons with their communities and provide a valuable element of caring for veterans. The VA Voluntary Service program offers students excellent opportunities for:

- Exploring health care career options;
- Gaining experience in a health care environment;
- Learning new skills; making new friends; and
- Qualifying to be nominated for James H. Parke Memorial college scholarships.

There are many opportunities to explore in the Student Volunteer Program. Here are just a few of the services and specialties available to student volunteers:

- Audiology and Speech Pathology
- Extended Care
- Information Technology
- Laboratory Medicine
- Medical Administration
- Medical Illustration
- Nursing
- Nutrition and Food Service
- Outpatient/Ambulatory Care Activities

- Occupational Therapy
- Patient Escort
- Pharmacy
- Physical Therapy
- Research
- Social Work

How do I become a VA student volunteer? You have two convenient ways:

Contact the VA facility nearest you and ask for Voluntary Service. Tell their staff of your interest in becoming a VAVS Volunteer. The staff will take care of everything else including your interview, orientation and assignment. To find your nearest facility, visit, www2.va.gov/directory/guide/home.asp?isFlash=1 or call (800) 827-1000.

You can also fill out an application at: www.volunteer.va.gov/apps/VolunteerNow and someone will contact you.

Stand Downs

Stand Downs are typically one to three day events providing services to homeless veterans such as food, shelter, clothing and health screenings; the California Department of Veterans Affairs (CDVA), United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and Social Security benefits counseling; and referrals to a variety of other necessary services, such as housing, employment and substance abuse treatment.

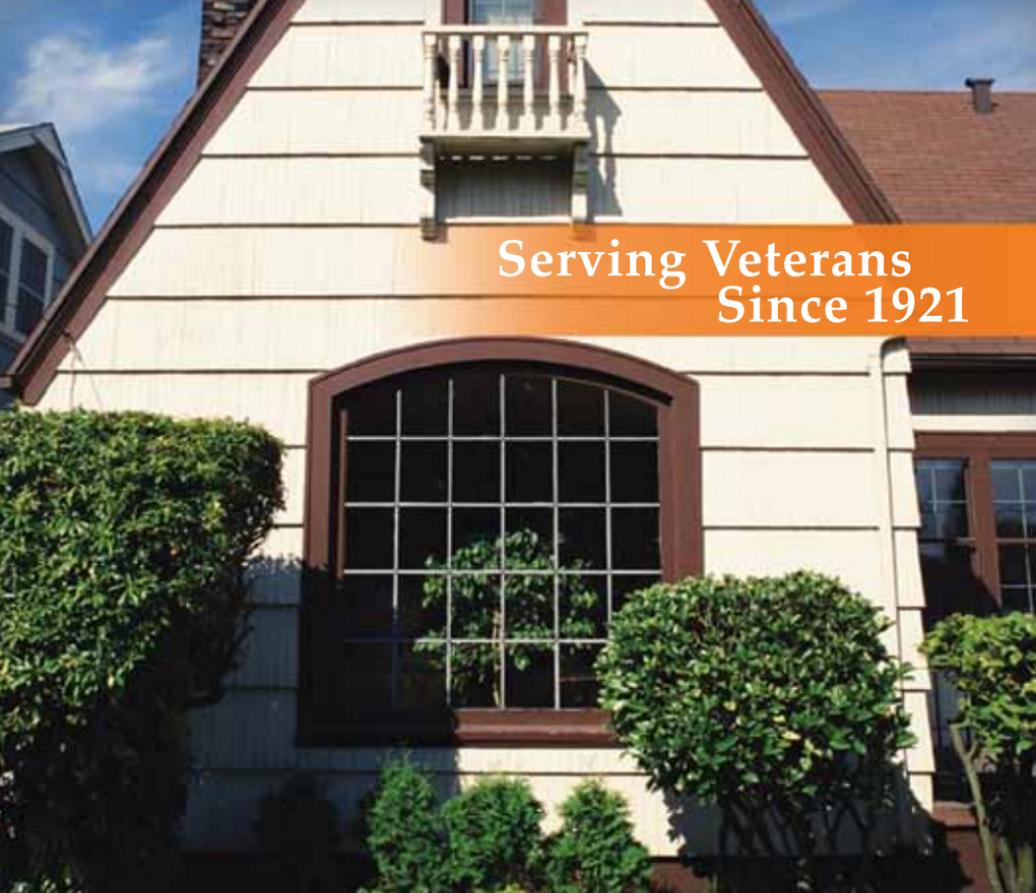
Stand Downs are collaborative events, coordinated between the CDVA Veterans Services Division district offices (Los Angeles, Oakland, San Diego), the VA, the California Employment Development Department, California Association of County Veterans Service Officers, and other government and community agencies that serve the homeless, including the members of the California Association of Veteran Service Agencies.

The first Stand Down was organized in 1988 by Vietnam Veterans of San Diego. Since then, Stand Downs have been used as an effective tool in reaching out to homeless veterans, reaching more than 200,000 veterans and their family members nationwide between 1994-present.

To volunteer visit:

www.cdva.ca.gov/Resources/StandDown.aspx

for schedule and contact information or call the Homeless Coordinator at (800) 952-5626.



Serving Veterans
Since 1921

No Money Down & \$8000/\$6500 Back From The Government

The GREAT NEWS is that Armed Forces members serving abroad have until April 30, 2011, to enter into a contract to purchase a house, and until June 30, 2011, to close on it. Contact us at www.cdva.ca.gov/calvetloans or by calling your local CalVet Home Loans Office below.

Sacramento: (866) 653-2510

Bakersfield: (866) 653-2507

San Diego: (866) 653-2504

Redding: (866) 653-2508

Fresno: (866) 653-2511

Riverside: (800) 700-2172

*Any individual who serves on qualified official extended duty services (as defined in section 121(d)(9)(C)(i)) outside the United States for at least 90 days during the period beginning after December 31, 2008, and ending before May 1, 2010, and, if married, such individual's spouse.



CALVET FARM AND HOME LOAN PURCHASE PROGRAM



If you are a veteran and want the best home loan on the market, then you need a CalVet Home Loan. You'll find that CalVet Loans will save you money and provide protection for your home and investment. CalVet has expanded eligibility so that most veterans (including those now on active duty) wanting to buy a home in California are eligible, subject to financial qualification and available bond funds. The good news about CalVet is the money you'll save with our low interest rates, low down payment and easier qualification. Compare it with other loans, and you'll see why CalVet is the loan of choice for veterans. You and your family will benefit from this great loan from day one! It is the State of California's way of saying "thanks" for what you gave to your country through your military service. Best of all, this program is available to you at no cost to California taxpayers. Just look at some of the great features of the CalVet loan:

- Low interest rate
- Even lower rate for qualified first time home buyers
- Low or no Down Payment
- Loans up to \$521,250

Interest rates

Interest rates for new loans are reviewed frequently to insure that the rates we offer are below market. Interest rates are subject to change without notice. Current rates are posted on the California Department of Veterans Affairs website, www.calvet.ca.gov. Your rate is “locked in” as of the date you apply, and if rates are reduced while your loan is being processed you will receive the benefit of the lower rate. While technically a flexible rate, there is a 1/2% cap on increases during the term of the loan. Call our toll free number at (800) 952-5626, for up-to-date information.

Low Down Payment

Keep your out-of-pocket investment minimal with our low down payment requirements. CalVet Home Loans are available for up to \$521,250 with no down payment if you are eligible for a loan guaranty from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet/VA), or with a down payment of just 3% of the purchase price for our CalVet 97 loan program.

Maximum loans up to \$521,250

Our loan maximum works well in nearly every California market. The loan maximum for regular properties is \$521,250; up to \$175,000 for mobile homes in rental parks and \$625,500 for farm properties. First-time homebuyer loans have lower purchase price limits in some counties. See “Average Area Purchase Price Limitations—Single Family Residences Revenue Bond Funded Loans” for the limits in your county or contact your nearest CalVet office.

Loan fees

CalVet obtains a loan guaranty on all loans. With the CalVet/VA loan we obtain the guaranty from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs. On other loans we purchase private mortgage insurance. In all cases a loan guaranty fee of between 1.25% and 3.30% of the loan amount will be charged with down payments of less than 20% of the sales price. Under certain

circumstances the fee may be added to the loan amount. This is a one-time fee, and will not affect your interest rate or monthly installment unless it is financed in the loan. There is NO fee if the down payment is 20% or more. You will also be charged a loan origination fee (common with most loans) of one percent of the loan amount. This fee must be paid in escrow.

Free prequalification

Have you been shopping for a home, only to be advised by your agent that you should be “prequalified” so you know how much of a house you can afford? You may receive free prequalification for a CalVet loan by using our new online application or by downloading and completing our prequalification form and sending it to your local CalVet office. You can also call (800) 952-5626 to obtain the prequalification form.

Reusable loans

You may obtain a new CalVet loan each time you decide to change your residence—it may be used again and again. Once the previous loan has been paid off, you may obtain a new loan with the current features, subject to eligibility and financial qualification.

Home and Loan Protection Plans

In an effort to ensure that your investment is safe and sound, CalVet provides comprehensive protection for you and your family. No other lender offers you protection against natural disasters like CalVet. While thousands of Californians have lost everything in natural disasters like floods and earthquakes, CalVet loan holders have full guaranteed replacement cost coverage for their home, keeping disaster in check. You'll be fully protected against flood and earthquake damage with your CalVet financed home. CalVet's deductible is a low \$500 on flood claims, and \$500 or 5% of the coverable loss (whichever is greater) on earthquake and mudslide claims. Should disaster strike, you'll be on your way to recovery in days and at a considerable savings over the costs associated with private

policies. Most loans also include fire and hazard insurance coverage. You will have guaranteed replacement cost coverage on the home, with low premiums and a \$250 deductible. But this still isn't all! With the CalVet loan you'll receive limited guaranteed life insurance in an amount to make the principal and interest payments for one to five years, depending on your health status at the time you obtain the loan. Optional coverage is offered by the insurance carrier including additional life insurance for the veteran, life insurance for the spouse, and disability insurance. Applicants must be under the age of 62 when their loan is funded to receive the life insurance coverage.

Loan processing

You may process your loan through the local CalVet office or with a certified mortgage broker. CalVet will assist you and your real estate agent each step of the way. Your agent or broker may coordinate the entire process with CalVet, just as they would do with loans from other lenders. Loan processing functions have been centralized to provide consistent and timely processing. We are now closing most loans within 30 days from receipt of the application.

There are three loan programs available:

1. CalVet/VA loans use your USDVA Loan Guarantee eligibility for loans with no down payment. The VA funding fee is waived for veterans who have a VA disability rating of 10% or higher. If you don't have a lot of cash for the down payment and loan fees, this is the way to go.
2. CalVet 97 loans require only 3% down payment. If your VA eligibility is tied up and you need a loan that exceeds the VA maximum, this program offers loans up to 125% of the conventional conforming loan limit.
3. CalVet 80/20 loans with a down payment of 20% (or more) have reduced costs and paperwork and no funding fee.

Eligibility

Nearly all veterans purchasing homes in California are now eligible, including veterans who served during peacetime. Only 90 days of active duty and a discharge classified as “honorable” or “Under Honorable Conditions” are required. Information to confirm your eligibility is on your DD-214. Those that are currently on active duty are eligible after you meet the 90 days of active duty requirement. A statement of service from your current command is required. Current members of the National Guard and the US Military Reserves who qualify as first time home buyers or purchase in certain targeted areas are eligible as well. Former members of the National Guard and or Reserves whose only active duty was for training purposes are not eligible; however if during your service you were ordered to active duty by Presidential Executive Order, you may be eligible. For any other questions regarding eligibility contact your local CalVet office.

CalVet Locations

Bakersfield

5500 Ming Ave., Ste. 155
Bakersfield, CA 93309
(866) 653-2507

Fresno

1752 E. Bullard Ave., Ste. 101
Fresno, CA 93710
(866) 653-2511

Redding

1900 Churn Creek Rd., Ste. 221
Redding, CA 96002
(866) 653-2508

Riverside

1770 Iowa Ave., Ste. 260
Riverside, CA 92507
(800) 700-2127

Sacramento

1227 O St., Rm. 101
Sacramento, CA 95814
(866) 653-2510

San Diego

1350 Front St., Rm. 2023
San Diego, CA 92101
(866) 653-2504

Information on Non-conventional loans

The California Department of Veterans Affairs and its CalVet Home Loan program is committed to helping veterans and active duty personnel attain the American Dream of home ownership and while we currently don't have the legal authority to refinance homeowners who are in difficult situations, we are exploring possible legislative solutions. In the mean time if you need assistance you can call or access the following websites:

- HOPE Hotline at (888) 995-HOPE or online at www.995HOPE.org, which provides free mortgage counseling 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
- Helpful information for prospective homebuyers, as well as homeowners whom are experiencing difficulty in keeping payments current: www.yourhome.ca.gov and the Spanish language version: www.sucasa.ca.gov

For those service members who find themselves in a difficult situation as a result of a non-conventional loan or because of activation and deployment, there are certain protections within state and federal law that could help you including:

- The Service members Civil Relief Act of 2003 (SCRA) formerly known as the Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act of 1940 (SSCRA) is a federal law that gives all military members some important rights as they enter active duty or are called to deployment. One benefit of the SCRA is the ability to reduce your mortgage interest rate to 6% under certain circumstances.
- California Military Families Financial Relief Act allows for the deferral of mortgage payments for members of the reserves or National Guard who are called to active duty.

If you need assistance please contact the CalVet Customer Services Unit at (800) 952-5626 or (916) 503-8362.

VETERANS HOMES OF CALIFORNIA

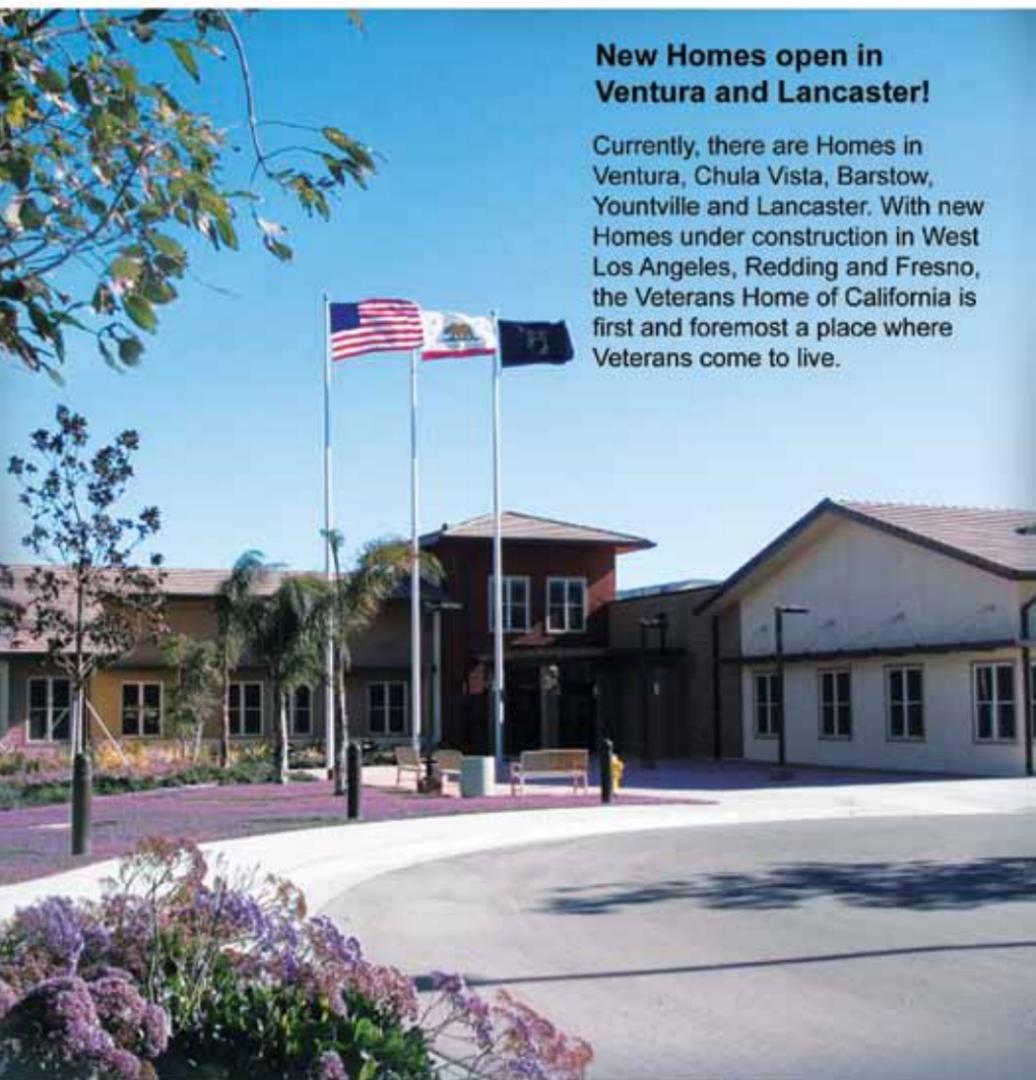


The Veterans Homes of California are live-in facilities that provide complete health care within a comfortable, safe and home-like environment. Currently there are five Veterans Homes open. The first is just north of the San Francisco Bay Area in the town of Yountville. Four Homes are in Southern California, one in Barstow, Chula Vista, Lancaster and Ventura. In addition, construction is underway for Homes in Fresno and in Redding with opening dates set for 2012. Each Home is distinctive and offers its own unique environment, amenities and range of social and recreational activities which can include: participation in veterans service organizations, social events, holiday and patriotic celebrations, religious services, arts and crafts, computer classes, dances, gardening, golf and swimming. Residents can also exercise their talents and interests in a volunteer program that offers physical, mental and social opportunities. Those who are able may participate in off-campus activities of their choice. Each Home also offers different levels of health care, from independent living to skilled nursing care.

WHERE VETERANS COME TO LIVE.

New Homes open in Ventura and Lancaster!

Currently, there are Homes in Ventura, Chula Vista, Barstow, Yountville and Lancaster. With new Homes under construction in West Los Angeles, Redding and Fresno, the Veterans Home of California is first and foremost a place where Veterans come to live.



CAL  **VET**
VETERANS HOMES

For more information, visit our
website at www.calvet.ca.gov.

To save time, before you start to fill out the application form, check to see you meet the basic qualifications for admission. In brief, these qualifications are:

- You are age 62 or over and/or you have a significant disability.
- You served in the U.S. military and you were honorably discharged.
- You are still able to live independently or you qualify for a higher level of care offered at one of the Homes (contact the Home for clarification on qualifying for a higher level of care).
- You are a California resident.
- You are able to live with and get along with other people in a structured communal environment.

Applications for the Homes can be obtained through your County Veterans Service Office, or on the web at www.cdva.ca.gov/Homes/DocsAndImages/vhcapp.pdf

Application packages for admission to the California Veterans Homes to be constructed in Lancaster, Ventura and West Los Angeles are not yet available. However, beginning July 1, 2007, the California Department of Veterans Affairs (CDVA) began accepting a Statement of Intent to Apply from veterans who intend to apply for admission. Statement of Intent to Apply forms are being accepted in our Sacramento offices by mail or in person only. We cannot accept Statement of Intent to Apply forms by email or by fax. CDVA has mailed application packages to each veteran who submitted a Statement of Intent to Apply. If you submit a Statement of Intent to Apply, you are not obligated to apply when application packages become available. Statement of Intent to Apply can be obtained at your County Veterans Service Office, or on the web at, www.cdva.ca.gov/Homes/ApplyingNew.aspx.

Background

The United States Department of Veterans Affairs lists California as one of two states in “Great Need” for additional Veterans Homes. The construction of new Veterans Homes of California in Lancaster and Ventura are now complete and residents will soon be moving in. The Veterans Home in West Los Angeles will be opening in the summer 2010 and soon two other Veterans Homes in Fresno and Redding are in the development phase of design and construction.

Current Veterans Home of California



Veterans Home of California– Yountville

260 California Dr.
Yountville, CA 94599
(800) 404-8387



Veterans Home of California– Barstow

100 East Veterans Pkwy.
Barstow, CA 92311
(800) 746-0606



Veterans Home of California– Chula Vista

700 East Naples Ct.
Chula Vista, CA 91911
(888) 857-2146

New Veterans Homes



**William J. "Pete" Knight
Veterans Home of California–
Lancaster**

45221 30th St. West
Lancaster, CA 93536
(661) 974-7035



**Veterans Home of California–
Ventura**

10900 Telephone Rd.
Ventura, CA 93004
(805) 746-9115



**Veterans Home of California–
West Los Angeles**

800 Bringham Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90049
(818) 742-1752

The Pathway Home Program offered by the Veterans Home of California–Yountville

The Pathway Home Program is a residential recovery program specifically created for, and dedicated to serve, our Nation's "New Warriors"—those of any age, who have served our Nation's Global War on Terror in areas of the world such as Afghanistan and Iraq. Our New Warriors have survived the stressors of war, but may find themselves experiencing problems that are "getting in the way" of their ability to function post-deployment. The Pathway Program can help to address those problems and maximize each Warrior's mental and physical health, coping, resiliency and overall functioning whether is during post-deployment, or when the veterans is being re-deployed, or simply transitioning back to their civilian status. At The Pathway

Home we provide residential treatment programs for combat-related stress or other military-related stressors. We provide a variety of treatments—all done in a group format, lead by health care professionals—in which each Warrior is supported by the community of other Warfighters. Each Warfighter plays an important part in working with the staff to develop his/her Individualized Treatment Plan to address symptoms, functionality, and transition issues. For an application and eligibility please visit the web at www.thepathwayhome.org or contact your local County Veteran Services Office.

WOMEN AND MINORITY VETERANS



Women Veterans

Women veterans are a vital part of the veteran population in California and the United States Armed Forces. Today, more than 200,000 women are serving in the Armed Forces. The estimated population of women veterans as of September 2008 is approximately 1.8 million. Approximately 255,000 women veterans use VA health care services. California is ranked as the number one state in having the highest number of women veterans.

As of October 2009, California's women veteran population total was 167,086. The California Department of Veterans Affairs seeks to ensure that women veterans are aware of their USDVA and state benefits, and obtain the unique services that are available to them. Our outreach efforts continue to expand so that assistance can be provided to facilitate easy access and utilization of specially designed services that address the needs of women veterans.

Public Law 102-585 of the Veterans Health Care Act of 1992 authorized new and expanded services for women veterans, including counseling for sexual trauma on a priority basis and specific health care services such as pap smears, mammography

and general reproductive health care at many USDVA facilities. Additionally, mental services provided include substance abuse counseling, evaluation and treatment of military sexual trauma and Post Traumatic Stress Disorders.

Health Care access

The Women Veterans Health program’s mission is to promote the health, welfare and dignity of women veterans and their families by ensuring equitable access to timely, sensitive and quality health care. There is a full time women veteran’s program manager at every USDVA medical center, a women’s liaison at every community-based outpatient clinic and a women veteran’s coordinator at every regional office.

The Women Veteran Coordinators assigned in all USDVA Regional Offices will assist women veterans with development of claims and assist in handling claims for gender specific conditions, including sexual trauma. Additionally, a special pocket guide has been developed that describes women veteran services and benefits along with “Women Veterans–25 Frequently Asked Questions.”

The mission

- Ensure women veterans have access to VA benefits and services on par with male veterans.
- Ensure VA programs are responsive to the gender-specific needs of women veterans.
- Perform outreach to improve women veterans’ awareness of VA services, benefits and eligibility criteria.
- Ensure that women veterans are treated with dignity and respect.

You may call the Women Veterans line for assistance at anytime by dialing (916) 653-2551. The Deputy Secretary of Women and Minority Veterans Division will gladly assist you anytime.

For more information on women veteran services and benefits, please visit the following websites:

- **The Center for Women Veterans**
www.va.gov/womenvet/
- **Federal Benefits for Veterans and Dependents**
www1.va.gov/opa/vadocs/fedben.pdf
- **National Center for PTSD**
www.ncptsd.va.gov
- **VA Benefits for Veterans of Enduring Freedom**
www.vba.va.gov
- **VHA Online Health Eligibility**
www.va.gov/healtheligibility
- **VHA: National Center for Health Promotion and Disease Pro**
www.va.gov
- **HHS Women's Health Website**
www.4woman.gov
- **Homeless Veteran Programs**
www.va.gov/homeless/index.cfm

Subscriptions to receive the quarterly newsletter can be done at womenminorityveterans-subscribe@cdva.ca.gov. To view copies of previous newsletters visit, www.cdva.ca.gov/Resources/Women.aspx.

Grace After Fire

Grace After Fire is a website that supports women veterans who have served our country and need support for the adjustment that needs to be made to go back to live in the USA, whether it be still in the service or as a veteran. Grace has many features and forums to assist women veterans in their transition.

At Grace, they support the VA in serving our women veterans. Where the VA cannot reach—where they need their help—they will be there. Visit their website at www.graceafterfire.org.

US Department of Veterans Affairs Veterans Health Administration Women Veterans Program Coordinators

Ann Thraikill

Palo Alto Health Care System
(650) 493-5000 ext. 64153

Julie Laguardia

Northern California Health Care System
(925) 372-2494

Kelli Johnston

Fresno Health Care System
(559) 225-6100 ext. 5446

Cheryl Wenell

San Francisco Health Care System
(415) 221-4810 ext. 3956

Gina Gutierrez-Rawson

Long Beach Health Care System
(562) 826-8000 ext. 2534

Lisa Roybal

Loma Linda Health Care System
(909) 825-7084 ext.2985

Leslie Satz

San Diego Health Care System
(619) 400-5087

Callie Wight

Sepulveda Ambulatory Care Center
(818) 895-9555



Minority veterans

Minority veterans are less likely to access their U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA) benefits than non-minority veterans. Therefore, outreach efforts have been implemented at the federal and state level to identify barriers to services and health care access and to develop strategies for improving minority participation in existing USDVA benefit programs. There are approximately 22 Minority Veterans Coordinators in California located at USDVA regional offices, health care facilities and national cemeteries to promote the use of USDVA benefits, programs and services. These Minority Veterans Coordinators belong to a minority group themselves, and thus are able to initiate activities that educate and sensitize internal staff to the unique needs of minority veterans. They also target outreach efforts to minority veterans through community networks, advocate on behalf of minority veterans by identifying gaps in services, and make recommendations to improve service delivery within their facilities.

For information on any of your veteran benefits, contact your local County Veterans Service Office (CVSO). Locations of CVSOs are available online at www.cacvso.org. Additional information

that may be helpful to minority veterans is available at these websites:

- **Homeless Veterans Program**
www.va.gov/homeless/index.cfm
- **U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs**
www.va.gov
- **VA Center for Veterans Enterprise & Business**
www.vetbiz.gov
- **VA Benefits for Veterans of Enduring Freedom-Iraqi Freedom**
www.oefoif.va.gov
- **VA online Health Eligibility**
www.va.gov/healtheligibility
- **National Native American Veterans Association**
www.nnava.org
- **Center for Minority Veterans**
www.va.gov

You may call the Minority Veterans line for assistance at anytime by dialing (916) 653-2551. The Deputy Secretary of Women and Minority Veterans Division will gladly assist you anytime.

The goal

- The goal is to provide and promote the use of VA programs, benefits, and services use by minority veterans.
- To make benefits and services more accessible to minority veterans.
- To evaluate current programs and make recommendations on how VA can better serve minority veterans.

Minority veterans support

Please contact the following Groups and Resources websites:

- **American Coalition of Filipino Veterans, Inc.**
www.usfilvets.tripod.com
- **African-American Post Traumatic Stress Disorder Association**
www.aaptsdassn.org
- **National Japanese-American Veterans Council**
www.discovernikkei.org
- **American G.I. Forum**
www.agif.org

Subscriptions to receive the quarterly newsletter can be done at womenminorityveterans-subscribe@dva.ca.gov. To view copies of previous newsletters visit, www.cdva.ca.gov/Resources/Women.aspx.

US Department of Veterans Affairs Veterans Health Administration Minority Veterans Program Coordinators

Sam Maze

J.L. Pettis VA Medical Center
(909) 583-6848

Robert Valdez

Los Angeles VA Medical Center
(310) 268-3526

Paul Burton

Greater Los Angeles
Health Care System
(818) 895-9596

Irene Wellington

Mather VA Health Care System
(916) 366-5343

Charlie Lonan

VA Long Beach
Health Care System
(562) 826-5405

Johnny Lewis

San Diego VA Medical Center
(858) 642-3306

Lynn Hart

San Francisco VA
Medical Center
(415) 221-4810

Beth Stovall

Palo Alto VA Medical Center
(605) 493-5000

Marlene Carvajal

San Diego VA Medical Center
(858)642-3840

Maurice Turner

Fresno VA Medical Center
(559) 225-6100

VA Northern

CA Health Care System
(916) 366-5346

VETERANS LICENSE PLATES PROGRAM



Take advantage of one of California's Veterans' License Plates Program to "Salute our Veterans". These programs allow those serving on active duty, veterans and their families the opportunity to proudly display their support for those men and women that served in the United States Armed Forces. This offer is extended to non-veterans too. The program has numerous of emblems and logo's to choose from and place on your license plate. The proceeds of the licenses plate program help support veterans by funding the County Veterans Services Offices. You can receive information on how to obtain Veterans License Plates by visiting your local County Veterans Service Office, from your local DMV office or on their website at www.dmv.ca.gov. You may also download information and an application form from the following websites: www.cacvso.org or www.calvet.ca.gov.



Veteran License Plate

This license plate is available to all California motorists. These special California license plates may be ordered with the armed force or veterans' service organization logo/emblem of your choice.

Veteran License Plate (Cont.)

Over 100 insignias are available. Your logo will be prominently displayed to the left of a six number/letter combination (see previous page). Sequential plates are only \$30 per year (this may be a tax-deductible contribution and is in addition to normal DMV license fees). You may also personalize your license plate (your choice of up to 6 characters) for an additional one-time fee of \$10. All proceeds from the sale of Veterans' license plates are used to expand veteran services statewide. The organization codes, logos and emblems are available online at, www.cacvso.org.

Special License Plates for California Veterans

California also offers special license plates to honor veterans for the following categories:



Medal of Honor

A recipient of the Medal of Honor is eligible for one set of free commemorative license plates.



Legion of Valor

Veterans who are recipients of the Medal of Honor, Army Distinguished Service Cross, the Navy Cross, or the Air Force Cross are eligible for special Legion of Valor license plates.



Former Prisoners of War

Former American Prisoners of War are eligible for one set of free commemorative license plates.



Pearl Harbor Veterans

An honorably discharged veteran who was stationed at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, is eligible for special Pearl Harbor Survivor plates.



Purple Heart

Any veteran who was the recipient of a Purple Heart is eligible for special Purple Heart plates.



Gold Star License Plates

The California Department of Veterans Affairs is proud to announce the Gold Star License Plates. The "Gold Star Family" license plate should be available by mid 2011 for families who want to honor their lost loved ones that made the greatest sacrifice for our country. Fundraising efforts to make this plate a reality are underway. For additional information, please visit, www.cdva.ca.gov/VetFund/GoldStar



Disabled Veterans

Service-connected disabled veterans may receive, free of charge, a set of special "DV" plates which permits free parking at all parking meters in the state with no time limit and allows for parking in

Disabled Veterans (Cont.)

handicapped zones. USDVA proof of service-connection is required. The service-connected disability must be, according to California Vehicle Code Section 295.7, as identified below:

- Has a service-connected disability which has been rates at 100% disabled due to a diagnosed disease or disorder which substantially impairs or interferes with mobility
- Has a service-connected disability that limits movement without the aid of an assistive device; or,
- Has a service-connected loss of, or lost the use of, one or more limbs
- Has service-connected permanent blindness, as defined in Section 19153 of the Welfare and Institutions Code

THE CALIFORNIA STATE MILITARY MUSEUM



A UNITED STATES ARMY MUSEUM ACTIVITY- PRESERVING CALIFORNIA'S MILITARY HERITAGE

The California State Military Museum is located at 1119 Second Street in the Old Sacramento State Historical Park. It is a short walk from the State Capital, The California State Railroad Museum and several other fine museums, parks, and tourist attractions. The museum, opened by Governor Pete Wilson in 1991, is the official military museum and historical research center of the State of California. This was reinforced on September 11, 2002 when Governor Gray Davis signed legislation making the museum a permanent museum under the California State Military Department and providing permanent funding for the museum. Finally on July 13, 2004, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger signed legislation to amend the government code to make the museum the state's official military museum.

Today the museum houses over 30,000 artifacts as well as a substantial library and archives. In addition to the main facility in Sacramento, the museum also has five satellite museums at Camp Roberts in southern Monterey County, Camp San Luis Obispo, Fresno Air National Guard Base, Los Alamitos

Joint Forces Training Base in Orange County and the National Guard Armory in San Diego. The museum also maintains relationships with the Aerospace Museum of California at the former McClellan AFB in North Highlands and the Sons of the Revolution in the State of California Library in Glendale.

It should be noted that our program does not glorify war. Rather, its intent is to remind this and future generations of the sacrifices made by previous generations to keep our state and nation free.

Californians have a long and proud tradition of service that stretches back over two centuries when Alta California was a Spanish colony and later a Mexican province. Since joining the Union, California has provided more of its citizens to our common defense than any other state. From the lonely 18th century colonial presidios of the El Real Ejército de California (Royal Spanish Army of California) to the mountains of Afghanistan, Californians have always been there and continue the tradition of selfless service.

American Military History is filled with prominent Californians who served our country. Generals William T. Sherman, Henry Halleck and Joseph Hooker all served in the California State Militia before the Civil War. Many of the leaders on both side of that war served in California. California Volunteers were among the first to enter Manila during the Spanish-American War. Nelson Holderman, considered by many to be the most decorated American soldier of the First World War, served in the California National Guard before and after the war. Generals George Patton and James Doolittle were native Californians and Fleet Admiral Chester Nimitz and General of the Air Force Henry "Hap" Arnold considered California their home state.

Thanks to the support of the Governor, the State Legislature, and the Adjutant General, California has one of the most active and innovative programs in the United States.

Location and hours

The California State Military Museum will be on its Winter schedule effective September 7, 2009. The museum is open from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday and Sunday and 10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. Friday and Saturday. The museum is open Armed Forces Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day and Veterans Day regardless of the day of the week. The museum is closed on Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, New Year's Day and Easter.

CALIFORNIA VETERANS MEMORIAL REGISTRY



Anyone who served in any branch of the U.S. military and resided in California at any time before, during or after his or her military service and received an honorable discharge is eligible to register at the California Veterans Memorial Registry (CVMR).

The registry is located in a kiosk, which is part of the California Veterans Memorial. Using a touch screen, visitors to the memorial are able to access specific information about California veterans.

There are two types of entries:

- 1. Basic Registry:** A veteran may register their name, occupation, rank and branch of service and dates of service free of charge.
- 2. Enhanced Registry:** In addition to the above, a photo and/or 100 word statement may be submitted for the veteran regarding their military career for a fee of \$35 for a photo and \$15 for a statement or \$50 for both. The 100-word statement is your opportunity to describe your military experience, or that of a loved one. The written statement can include such information as medals awarded, duty stations, nicknames or other relevant information.

These fees are deposited into the California Veterans Memorial Registry Fund, which is provided for maintenance and data entry into the registry. Additional donations are accepted and encouraged.

Enroll today! You may either download an enrollment form to fill out and send to us. You may also register on-line on our web site: www.cdva.ca.gov/Memorials/CVRRegister.aspx

Also, you may find the names of Californians in military service from the California Veteran Memorial in Sacramento or online: www.cdva.ca.gov/Memorials/CVRSearch.aspx

You may enter information into any or all of the boxes available. If you do not know the information for any of the fields, you may leave the field blank. Also, if you are not certain of the exact spelling of a first or last name, you may enter just the beginning of the name.

For example: if you enter "Smi" in the last name field, the listing will show all of the veterans in the database whose last name begins with "Smi", including "Smith", "Smithson", etc.

For more information or to submit your enrollment form, please write to:

California Veterans Memorial Registry

1227 O St., Ste. 105
Sacramento, CA 95814

Or call:

In California (916) 653-2573
Outside California (800) 808-2862

ing Other Vets Help Themselves



"Helping Other Vets Help Themselves"



What is an SDVOB?

What is a DVBE?

A Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Business (SDVOB) is a business which has been self-certified for Federal procurements. A Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise (DVBE) is certified by the State of California (applicable if the business is headquartered in CA). Both SDVOBs and DVBEs are either a:

- sole proprietor (ownership)
- publicly or privately owned business (stock)
- subsidiary (voting stock of parent corporation)
- joint venture (earnings)
- at least 51% is owned by one or more veterans with a service-connected disability
- is managed and controlled by one or more service-disabled veterans
- the home office is located in the United States, and is not a branch of a foreign-based firm



Elite SDVOB Network

3829 University Ave,
San Diego, CA 92105

619-284-9922

www.elitesdvo.org

The Elite SDVOB Network is a non-profit 501(c) 19 corporation. Contact the National SDVOB office to find out about Chapters in your area or about starting a Chapter today.

Proud Corporate Sponsors



DISABLED VETERANS BUSINESS ENTERPRISE PROGRAM



The State of California established The Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise Program (DVBE) in 1989 under Public Contract Code 10115 to primarily help DVBE's compete more effectively for a portion of these dollars and to promote self-reliance for California's disabled veterans by offering veterans the opportunity to gain experience in business, while sharing their expertise with the citizens of California and provide a goal of 3% of all state contracts spent to certified disabled veterans.

To become a DVBE the state requires a business be 51% owned by one or more California resident disabled veterans. A DVBE may have its daily operations managed and controlled by one or more disabled veterans; the disabled veteran(s) who manages and controls the business is not required to be the disabled veteran business owners(s). The home office of the DVBE must be located in the United States: the office cannot be a branch or subsidiary of a foreign corporation, foreign firm or foreign-based business. The business must be certified through California Department of General Services (DGS) as a DVBE. More information is available at www.dgs.ca.gov/smbus.

A disabled veteran means a veteran of the U.S. Military, naval or air service, with a service connected disability of 10% or more, and who is a California resident.

As a certified DVBE, your firm is eligible for the DVBE Participation Program:

- May market to State agencies under GC Section 14838.5, the **SB/DVBE Option**, described on the following pages.
- Is listed in the State's Internet Certified firm listing giving your firm more visibility and expanded business networking opportunities with State and Local Government Reciprocity partners
- Is now eligible for a DVBE incentive on applicable State contracts

Certify Online

Visit www.getcertified.dgs.ca.gov to certify online. There is no charge for certification. Your business can apply online 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. It takes only minutes if all the required financial information is at hand.

The certification process is the responsibility of DGS, Procurement Division (PD), and Office of Small Business and DVBE Services (OSDS). The OSDS is available to assist in completing the necessary documents and appointments are available in Sacramento for personal assistance and immediate processing. There is no cost involved with applying for certification. Your firm may also qualify for small business certification, which offers additional contracting benefits. To obtain DVBE certification, a firm must:

- Submit a completed application, STD Form 812 Available at www.pd.dgs.ca.gov
- Provide a copy of an award of Entitlement (AOE) letter from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs or the U.S. Department of Defense, dated within six

months of the date the application is submitted to OSDS.

- To obtain a copy of the AOE letter, you may call the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs at (800) 827-1000.
- Other required support documents will be determined when completing the STD Form 812. OSDS will provide assistance in this area.
- You may download forms or apply on-line at above URL and mail in additional information.

Need help certifying or more info contact:

Office of Small Business and DVBE Services

707 3rd St., 1st Fl., Rm. 400

West Sacramento, CA 95605

(916) 375-4940

(916) 322-5060 (24 hour recording)

- Small Business and DVBE Certification
- Prompt Payment Rubber Stamp
- DVBE Compliance
- DVBE Utilization Plan
- Trade and Focus Publications

The California Department of Veterans Affairs **highly recommends** that all DVBE's also certify as a Small Business. To see if you are qualified as a small business, read the section "What Qualifies a Business as a Small Business". When certifying, fill out the small business form first. Upon completion most of that information will be transferred over to the DVBE application.

CAL  VET

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT
OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

CALIFORNIA NATIONAL GUARD



The Army National Guard predates the founding of the nation and a standing military by almost a century and a half—and is therefore the oldest component of the United States armed forces. America’s first permanent militia regiments, among the oldest continuing units in history, were organized by the Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1636. Since that time, the Guard has participated in every U.S. conflict from the Pequot War of 1637 to our current deployments in support of Operation Enduring Freedom (Afghanistan) and Operation Iraqi Freedom (Iraq).

The California State Military Department is comprised of the Army National Guard the Air National Guard and the California State Military Reserve. The National Guard is a broad based organization with more than 23,000 men and women performing many different types of operations. The California Guard has a proud history since its origin in 1849. This pride can be attested to how well the California Guard has performed their Federal missions during all major U.S. conflicts. In 1917 the nucleus of what is now the California Air National Guard was formed.

Even though it has changed functions many times, the National Guard is forever ready to fight and serve our Country in time of conflict. However, unlike the active duty military, the National Guard not only has a Federal mission, but a state mission that provides emergency support to civil authorities directed by the Governor, and community support as approved by proper authority. It is the Federal mission that determines what type of military units are needed and how they are equipped and trained. Moreover, during almost every day of the year, the National Guard performs local and state emergency missions saving millions of dollars in property damages, countless numbers of animals and human lives. In order for the National Guard to accomplish these tasks, they attend training assemblies one weekend per month, and an Annual Training of two weeks each year, training with the most modern weapons and equipment currently available in the Armed Forces. The National Guard's federal mission is to maintain well-trained, well-equipped units available for prompt mobilization during war and provide assistance during national emergencies (such as natural disasters or civil disturbances). During peacetime, the combat-ready units and support units are assigned to most Air Force major commands to carry out missions compatible with training, mobilization readiness, humanitarian and contingency operations such as Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. Air National Guard units may be activated in a number of ways as prescribed by public law. Most of the laws may be found in Title 10 of the U.S. Code.

The men and women who choose to serve in the National Guard do so for a variety of reasons. The Guard offers a series of benefits ranging from competitive pay and education assistance to insurance and retirement benefits. A broad range of skills are learned through schools and job training, and leadership opportunities are numerous. Beyond these tangible benefits, most Guard members agree that the greatest benefit is the opportunity to serve their country, state and community.

"We've made great strides and the State of California is extremely proud of all 1,500 soldiers from the State of California and what they've done to continue the great work that was started back in 2005 with the first California rotation."

*-Maj. Gen. William H. Wade II,
California National Guard Adjutant General*

Family Assistance Network

California National Guard strives to ensure all members and their families receive the most current and up to date information related to veterans benefits and where to go to receive information/assistance. Our goal is to guide our members and their families to the sources that provide these benefits. Taking care of our veterans, members and families is the highest priority in the California National Guard.

Since September 11, 2001, the Global War on Terrorism and its many subsequent operations have altered our lives and challenged our abilities to cope with the uncertainties of local, regional and overseas deployments. The California National Guard established a Family Assistance Network as a resource to Guard and other military families, especially those involved in current deployments. They have developed a network of civilian, government, and military agencies that can help families dealing with issues that have surfaced because of active duty. If you have a family member serving in the National Guard or Reserve, these agencies can assist in many different ways.

Additionally, in April 2005 The Department of Defense implemented a new premium-based, health care plan that is available to eligible National Guard and Reserve members activated for contingency operations on or after September 11, 2001.

Whether your loved one is supporting a military operation overseas, performing security or other duty in a local or regional location, or performing training at the local armory or reserve

center, you may face many challenges during these periods of active military service. Because of the geographic dispersion of many Guard and Reserve families, it is often more difficult to obtain information about benefits and in some cases to use them. It also may be more difficult to access various support services that are normally available at active duty installations.

To download our Organizational Chart and find your local community Family Assistance Network Coordinator contact the Family Assistance Network. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns please call (800) 449-9662, or visit, www.calguard.ca.gov/readyfamilies.

The Army's Wounded Soldier and Family Hotline offers wounded and injured Soldiers and their family members a way to seek help to solve medical issues. (800) 984-8523, M-F, 7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. (EST).

Transition Assistance Advisor (TAA)

The TAA is the first line of support for returning veterans to help troubleshoot concerns surrounding their benefits, education assistance, employment, and any other issues they may encounter when they return from a deployment. For further information contact the following TAA advisors:

Nicole Townsend

Transition Assistance Advisor
911 S. Chance Ave., Ste. 208
Fresno, CA 93702
(916) 826-6549
(559) 255-5796 (F)
nicole.townsend@us.army.mil

Horst Laube

Transition Assistance Advisor
Joint Forces Headquarters
9800 Goethe Rd. (Box 37)
Sacramento, CA 95826
(916) 854-3315
(916) 854-3439 (F)
horst.laube@us.army.mil

TRICARE

Created in the early 1990s, TRICARE is the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) health care entitlement for active duty, Guard and Reserve and retired members of the military, and their eligible family members and survivors. TRICARE's objectives are to optimize the delivery of health care services at military treatment facilities and supplement that with access to civilian health care networks where necessary. TRICARE receives its funding as part of the annual federal defense budget, which is approved by Congress and signed by the President of the United States.

TRICARE eligible family members whose sponsor dies while on active duty may continue to receive TRICARE benefits. During the three years following a sponsor's death, surviving spouses and children under the age 21 (23, if enrolled in a full-time course of study in an institution of higher learning) remain eligible for TRICARE Prime without enrollment fees and co-payments. For questions about enrollment, eligibility, benefits, authorizations, and claims, call (888) 874-9378, M-F, 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. (all U.S. time zones).

Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR)

ESGR was established in 1972 to promote cooperation and understanding between Reserve component members and their civilian employers. It acts to resolve conflicts arising from an employee's military commitment and is the lead DOD organization for this mission.

ESGR is a DOD agency that seeks to develop and promote a culture in which all American employers support and value the military service of their employees. It does so by recognizing outstanding support, increasing awareness of the law, and resolving conflicts through mediation.

Why is employer support important? Almost half of our military force resides in the Reserve Component which is comprised of the National Guard and Reserve. The men and women who serve in the Reserve Component are unique in that they also have civilian employers. Support of America's employers and the employees they share with the nation ensures the viability of the all-volunteer force, and thus our national security.

Who we help:

Employers and members of the National Guard and Reserve.

What we do:

Our staff and hundreds of volunteers within ESGR's 56 Field Committees throughout the U.S provide the following services:

We inform and educate service members and their civilian employers regarding their rights and responsibilities under the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA). Statutory authority for USERRA resides with the Department of Labor, and ESGR serves as a neutral, free resource to employers and service members. Many of ESGR's resources are available at www.esgr.mil.

For Employers:

Join thousands of American employers who visibly confirm their support for their National Guard and Reserve employees by signing a Statement of Support. Visit www.esgr.mil to request your Statement of Support.

- **Regulations:** Find copies of the USERRA Statute, law reviews, the Federal Code of Regulations for USERRA Implementation, and even a non technical guide to understanding the law.
- **Posters:** Employers are required to provide a notice of rights to persons entitled to the rights and benefits under USERRA. To meet this requirement, you can download free USERRA Notices for both federal and non-federal workplaces to display.

- **Training:** Free online training helps you better understand USERRA.
- **Briefs:** An ESGR volunteer can visit your workplace and provide USERRA briefings.

For Service members:

Show appreciation for supportive employers by nominating your boss for a Patriot Award. It's free and an easy way to say thanks. Visit www.esgr.mil to nominate your employer.

- **Resources:** ESGR provides military leave absence forms, sample letters, service policies, and tips to help you avoid employment challenges.
- **Understanding of the law:** Confused? We can help! ESGR provides wallet cards and other resources to help you understand your rights and responsibilities under USERRA. ESGR volunteers attend mobilization/demobilization briefings to answer questions. Call ESGR toll-free at (800) 336-4590 or contact your local National Guard or Reserve unit for more information.
- **Recognition:** We applaud employers who practice personnel policies that support employee participation in the National Guard and Reserve.

Mediation:

Trained ombudsmen provide information, consultation and mediation concerning USERRA compliance. We have hundreds of trained volunteer ombudsmen throughout the country ready to provide free mediation. Our success rate is high and we usually resolve conflicts since most cases are due to a misunderstanding, rather than a violation of the law. Our national customer service center is operational from 8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time, Monday through Friday, to provide answers to USERRA questions or refer cases to a trained ombudsman. Call our customer service center toll-free at (800) 336-4590. Questions may also be sent via email to USERRA@osd.mil.

CALIFORNIA STATE MILITARY RESERVE



The California State Military Reserve (CSMR) is an all-volunteer State Defense Force. Our primary mission is to support the Soldiers and Airmen of the California National Guard (CNG) in its Homeland Defense, Homeland Security missions and service to California during times of state emergencies. The CSMR is a State Military authorized by the California Military and Veterans Code.

We welcome experienced veterans, age 63 or younger, who have fulfilled their eight year Military Service Obligation; those who have been honorably discharged and have a favorable reenlistment code. We are looking for candidates that reflect the diversity of the communities that we serve; individuals who are loyal, passionate, highly motivated and committed; those with a desire to volunteer their time in a stimulating and professional military environment.

CSMR Soldiers and Airmen are sworn members of the California Military Department. Applicants must be US Citizens, California residents, be in good health and physically capable of performing CSMR missions and meet all other CSMR qualifications*.

The CSMR is definitely a commitment. Our members are required to attend monthly drills and serve a minimum of 100 volunteer service hours each year. In the event of a state emergency, members could be called to State Active Duty for days for weeks at a time. We serve in California and are not subject to mobilization overseas.

Do we have high demands, standards and expectations? Absolutely, but we offer you the opportunity to use your expertise, acquire new skills and make a real difference in the lives of your fellow citizens. You will be doing something important. You will be serving with a group of proud professionals as a member of an elite group of highly respected and well trained citizen-soldiers. CSMR Soldiers and Airmen are true Patriots in service to the Golden State.

We live in challenging times. Take your place in the ranks of CSMR Citizen-Soldiers and Airmen, those who have answered the call to volunteer service. The time is now and the need is great. Your contribution can make a difference!

THOSE WHO CAN-DO. THOSE WHO CAN DO MORE-
VOLUNTEER!

*For all application requirements go to the CSMR website.
www.calguard.ca.gov/casmr

MILITARY RECORDS

Veterans or their next of kin who need assistance to obtain replacement military medals and/or records including the DD-214 can contact their County Veterans Service Office (CVSO) (see pages 9-22), or go online to www.vetrecs.archives.gov.

If you do not have the internet or do not feel comfortable submitting your information online you may want to complete a "Standard Form 180" and mail it to the following address:

National Personnel Records Center

Military Records
9700 Page Blvd.,
St. Louis, MO 63132-5100

To obtain the SF-180 you can call your local County Veteran Service Office.

Your request must contain certain basic information for them to locate your service records. This information includes:

- The veteran's complete name used while in service
- Service number
- Social security number
- Branch of service
- Dates of service
- Date and place of birth (especially if the service number is not known)
- If you suspect your records may have been involved in the 1973 fire you must also include:
 - Place of discharge
 - Last unit of assignment
 - Place of entry into the service, if known
- All requests must be signed and dated by the veteran or next-of-kin.

Correction of Military Records

Whether you are active duty, separated, or retired, you can apply to your service's Board for the Correction of Military Records if you feel there is an error or an injustice in your military personnel records. These requests must be filed within three years of discovery of the error or injustice. Do not use this process to request the upgrade of your discharge; this procedure is discussed next in this booklet.

Any person with military records, or his or her heirs or legal representative, may apply to the appropriate service's Board for the Correction of Military Records. The Army, Air Force, and Coast Guard have separate boards. The Navy operates the board for both Navy personnel and members of the United States Marine Corps.

Application is a simple process; however you should use the services of your CVSO. If you choose to do it yourself you must use a form DD-149 (Application for Correction of Military Record). Attach copies of statements or records that are relevant to your case. Make sure you sign item 16 of the form. Mail the completed form to the appropriate address on the back side of the form.

The Board will correct your military records only if you can prove that you are the victim of error or injustice. You do this by providing evidence, such as signed statements from you and other witnesses or copies of records that support your case. It is not enough to provide the names of witnesses. The Board will not contact your witnesses to obtain statements. You should contact your witnesses to get their signed statements with your request.

Applying for Review of Discharge

You must make your application for discharge upgrade within 15 years of discharge. If your discharge is older than 15 years, you must apply for a change to your military records using the process detailed in the prior section. Your CVSO is available to help you through this process; however, if you choose to do this yourself you must use a DD Form 293 (Application for the Review of Discharge or Dismissal from the Armed Forces of the United States). The DD Form 293 is available online or from most DOD installations, or by writing to:

Army Review Boards Agency (ARBA)
ATTN: Client Information and Quality Assurance
Arlington, VA 22202-4508

Be sure to attach copies of statements or records that are relevant to your case. Make sure you sign item 9 of the form. Mail the completed form to the appropriate address on the back side of the form. The Board will upgrade your discharge only if you can prove that your discharge is inequitable or improper. You do this by providing evidence, such as signed statements from you and other witnesses or copies of records that support your case. It is not enough to provide the names of witnesses. The Board will not contact your witnesses to obtain statements. You should contact your witnesses to get their signed statements with your request.

Your own statement is important. Put your statement in clear terms in Section 8 of the DD Form 293. Make sure you carefully read the instructions on the back of the form concerning issues. Explain what happened and why it is an inequity or improper.

CEMETERY AND BURIAL BENEFITS



As a Veteran of the Armed Services of the United States and a resident of California you have certain End of Life Privileges that you may be Eligible to Receive. To find out information and what these entitlements are for sure contact your local County Veteran Service Office of the California Department of Veterans Affairs Veterans Services Division.

State Cemetery

The Northern California Veterans Cemetery (NCVC) is the first state-owned and operated veterans' cemetery in the Golden State. The cemetery serves the veteran population in eighteen Northern California counties and the currently developed area of the cemetery provides sufficient burial space for more than thirty years. Beyond that, the cemetery has the capacity for expansion. Any eligible veteran, along with spouses and eligible dependents, may be interred at the cemetery.

Eligibility for Burial

The Department Of Veterans Affairs has adopted regulations that establish the eligibility requirements for interment in a state veterans' cemetery. The regulations make the state eligibility

requirements equivalent to the requirements for burial in a national cemetery and provide for the Department's collection of information in order to determine eligibility.

Eligibility Determination Form

This form is required to assist the Cemetery in determining eligibility for burial in the Northern California Veterans Cemetery. The form is required at the time of need or may be used for a pre-need determination. The form is available for downloading at www.cdva.ca.gov/Cemetery or contact your local County Veteran Services Office. Pre-need determination allows a veteran to establish in advance, his/her eligibility for interment at the Northern California Veterans Cemetery. There is no cost for pre-need determination, and it does not obligate the veteran to be interred at the cemetery. Pre-need determination is intended to simplify and assist the veteran's next-of-kin at the time of death. There will be a \$500 interment fee for eligible spouses and dependent children at the time of need. Associated funeral expenses are incurred by the veteran and/or family. After you open the file you will be able to type the required information into the appropriate areas. After filling in all appropriate information, print it and return the completed form, with all supporting documentation (do not send originals, please send copies) to:

Northern California Veterans Cemetery

P.O. Box 76
11800 Gas Point Rd.
Igo, CA 96047-0076
(866) 777-4533

National Cemeteries

The VA's National Cemetery Administration maintains 125 national cemeteries in 39 states (and Puerto Rico) as well as 33 soldier's lots and monument sites. There are seven National Cemeteries in California, of which three (Riverside National Cemetery, Sacramento Valley VA National Cemetery, and San

Joaquin Valley National Cemetery) are presently accepting new interments. The Sacramento Valley VA National Cemetery began burial operations on October 16, 2006. The other National Cemeteries in California are only accepting burials of family members of persons already interred, although Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery (near San Diego) still offers burial of cremated remains. In addition, the initial planning stages of another new National Cemetery near Bakersfield are nearing completion, and construction is planned for completion sometime in 2010.

Burial in a National Cemetery

Persons eligible for burial in a National Cemetery include veterans; service members who die on active duty; certain Reservists and National Guard members; World War II Merchant Mariners; U.S. citizens who served honorably in the armed forces of an Allied government during a war; and such other persons or classes of persons as may be designated by either the Secretary of Veterans Affairs or the Secretary of the Air Force. The spouse or unremarried surviving spouse and the children (as defined) of eligible persons are also eligible for burial in a National Cemetery.

Burial in California State Veterans Cemeteries

Military service requirement for burial in California state veterans cemeteries must be in accordance with the eligibility standards as set by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and at a minimum must meet one of the following:

- Veteran was discharged from “active duty” under other than dishonorable conditions
- Veteran died while on “active duty”, or Veteran served at least 20 years in the National Guard
- Reserves and qualified for military retirement pay (or would have qualified except death occurred before age 60)

California state residency requirement for burial in state veteran's cemeteries must meet one of the following:

- Veteran was a California resident at the time of entry or re-entry into military service
- Veteran was a California resident at the time of death
- Veteran was a California resident for at least 12 consecutive months after entering or reentering service on "active duty."

NOTE: There is no residency requirement for a veteran who dies while on active duty. Spouses and dependent children of veterans who were eligible for burial may also be interred in state veterans' cemeteries.

Burial benefits

Burial benefits may include the following: gravesites for casket or cremation remains, headstones or markers, opening and closing of the graves, and continued perpetual care. Burial of an eligible veteran is at no cost to the veteran. A fee is charged at the time of interment for spouses and dependent children of eligible veterans. Veterans are encouraged to establish eligibility and pre-register for interment by contacting one of the cemeteries. There is no cost or obligation for pre-registration. There will be a \$500 interment fee for eligible spouses and dependent children at the time of need. Associated funeral expenses are incurred by the veteran and/or family.

Military Funeral Honors Program

Providing military funeral honors within the State of California for honorably discharged veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces.

What types of military funeral honors are available?

- At minimum, two service representatives will render honors, sound taps, fold the flag and present it to the next of kin.

- Additionally, a detail to fire volleys, a chaplain, and/or a detail to serve as pall-bearers may be provided depending on the desires of the surviving family and resources available.
- Frequently, Funeral Honors are rendered in concert with local Veteran Service Organization (VSO).

NOTE: The VSO's might include Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion, Marine Corps League, etc. who may perform one or more of the above functions.

Whom should I contact?

Family members of the deceased veteran should first notify their funeral director of their desire to have Military Funeral Honors rendered at the service. The family should provide the funeral director with as much of the following as possible: Name of deceased, date of birth, Social Security number, form DD-214 (discharge papers), or any other proof of veteran status or eligibility for burial honors.

- Branch of service (active, reserve or National Guard)
- Type of service (wartime, active duty, Reserve/National Guard)
- Special awards or medals (such as Purple Heart)

Who is eligible?

Veterans are eligible for military funeral honors if they meet one of the following requirements:

- Were discharged from active duty under conditions "other than dishonorable"
- Completed at least one term of obligated service in the Selected Reserve under conditions "other than dishonorable"
- Were enlisted on active duty at the time of death or in the Selected Reserve (drilling with a unit)

- Discharged from the Selected Reserve due to disability incurred or aggravated in the line of duty The funeral director should contact one of the following Casualty Area Commands (CAC) depending on the Veteran's branch of service:

For Northern & Southern California

Army



Fort Lewis, WA
(North of Fresno, CA)
(888) 634-7496

Fort Huachuca, AZ
(Fresno, CA & South)
(800) 248-0759

Air Force



Travis AFB
(All of California)
Mort Affairs Military Honors
(800) 586-8402

Casualty Assistance/Benefits
(866) 819-7250

Marine Corps



Quantico, CA
(866) 826-3628

Navy



San Diego, CA
(800) 326-9631

Coast Guard



Alameda, CA
(510) 437-5922

Burial and Plot-Interment Allowances

VA burial allowances are partial reimbursements of an eligible veteran's burial and funeral costs. When the cause of death is not service related, the reimbursements are generally described as two payments: (1) a burial and funeral expense allowance, and (2) a plot or interment allowance.

Who is eligible?

You may be eligible for a VA burial allowance if:

- You paid for a veteran's burial or funeral, AND
- you have not been reimbursed by another government agency or some other source, such as the deceased veteran's employer, AND
- The veteran was discharged under conditions other than dishonorable

In addition, at least one of the following conditions must be met:

- The veteran died because of a service-related disability
- The veteran was receiving VA pension or compensation at the time of death
- The veteran was entitled to receive VA pension or compensation, but decided not to reduce his/her military retirement or disability pay
- The veteran died while hospitalized by VA, or while receiving care under VA contract at a non-VA facility
- The veteran died while traveling under proper authorization and at VA expense to or from a specified place for the purpose of examination, treatment, or care
- The veteran had an original or reopened claim pending at the time of death and has been found entitled to compensation or pension from a date prior to the date of death

- The veteran died on or after October 9, 1996, while a patient at a VA-approved state nursing home

How much does VA pay?

Service-Related Death - VA will pay up to \$2,000 toward burial expenses for deaths on or after September 11, 2001. If the veteran is buried in a VA national cemetery, some or all of the cost of transporting the deceased maybe reimbursed.

Nonservice-Related Death - VA will pay up to \$300 toward burial and funeral expenses and a \$300 plot-interment allowance for deaths on or after December 1, 2001. If the death happened while the veteran was in a VA hospital or under VA contracted nursing home care, some or all of the costs for transporting the veteran's remains may be reimbursed.

How can you apply?

You can apply by filling out VA Form 21-530, Application for Burial Benefits. You should attach a copy of the veteran's military discharge document (DD-214 or equivalent), death certificate, funeral and burial bills. They should show that you have paid them in full. Download the form at www.va.gov/vaforms, or contact your local County Veteran Services Office.

Presidential Memorial Certificates

A Presidential Memorial Certificate (PMC) is an engraved paper certificate, signed by the current President, to honor the memory of honorably discharged deceased veterans.

History

This program was initiated in March 1962 by President John F. Kennedy and has been continued by all subsequent Presidents. Statutory authority for the program is Section 112, Title 38, of the United States Code.

Administration

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) administers the PMC program by preparing the certificates which bear the current President's signature expressing the country's grateful recognition of the veteran's service in the U.S. Armed Forces.

Eligibility

Eligible recipients include the next of kin and loved ones of honorably discharged deceased veterans. More than one certificate may be provided.

Application

Eligible recipients, or someone acting on their behalf, may apply for a PMC in person at any VA regional office or by U.S. mail or toll-free fax. Requests cannot be sent via email. Please be sure to enclose a copy of the veteran's discharge and death certificate to verify eligibility, as we cannot process any request without proof of honorable military service. Please submit copies only, as we will not return original documents. If you would like to apply for a Presidential Memorial Certificate, or if you requested one more than eight (8) weeks ago and have not received it yet, we ask that you complete the application and submit it to us.

Download VA Form 40-0247 at www.va.gov/vaforms.
Instructions on the PMC can be found at,
www.cem.va.gov/cem/pmc/faxpmc.asp.

Presidential Memorial Certificates are automatically ordered for the families of veterans buried at National or State Veterans Cemeteries.

Headstones and Markers

The VA furnishes upon request, at no charge to the applicant, a Government headstone or marker for the unmarked grave of any deceased eligible veteran in any cemetery around the world, regardless of their date of death.

For eligible veterans that died on or after November 1, 1990, VA may also provide a headstone or marker for graves that are already marked with a private headstone or marker. When the grave is already marked, applicants will have the option to apply for either a traditional headstone or marker, or a new device (Medallion available Spring 2010). Eligible Veterans are entitled to either a Government-furnished headstone or marker, or the new device, but not both.

Flat markers in granite, marble, and bronze and upright headstones in granite and marble are available. The style chosen must be consistent with existing monuments at the place of burial. Niche markers are also available to mark columbaria used for inurnment of cremated remains.

When burial or memorialization is in a national cemetery, state veterans cemetery, or military post/base cemetery, a headstone or marker will be ordered by the cemetery officials based on inscription information provided by the next of kin or authorized representative.

Spouses and dependents are not eligible for a Government-furnished headstone or marker unless they are buried in a national cemetery, state veteran's cemetery, or military post/base cemetery.

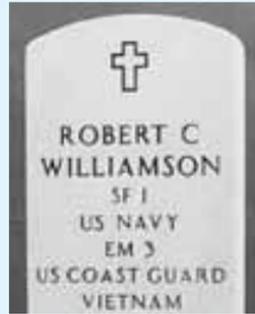
Headstones for placement in private may be ordered by completing VA Form 40-1330, Application for Standard Government Headstone or Marker. These must be submitted by the next of kin or a representative, such as funeral director, cemetery official or Veterans counselor, along with copies of Veterans military discharge documents. Do not send original documents, as they will not be returned.

Types of headstones and markers available

Upright Types:

Marble or Upright Granite

These headstones are 42 inches long, 13 inches wide and 4 inches thick. Weight is approximately 230 pounds. Variations may occur in stone color, and the marble may contain light to moderate veining. (Shown is the Upright Marble)



Flat Types:

Flat Bronze

The flat bronze grave marker is 24 inches long, 12 inches wide, with 3/4 inch rise. Weight is approximately 18 pounds. Anchor bolts, nuts and washers for fastening to a base are furnished with the marker. The government does not furnish a base.



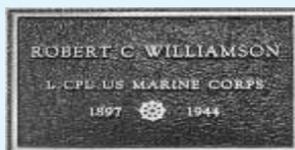
Flat Granite or Flat Marble

The flat granite and flat marble grave marker is 24 inches long, 12 inches wide, and 4 inches thick. Weight is approximately 130 pounds. Variations may occur in stone color; the marble may contain light to moderate veining. (Shown is the Flat Granite)



Bronze Niche:

This niche marker is 8 1/2 inches long, 5 1/2 inches wide, with 7/16 inch rise. Weight is approximately 3 pounds; mounting bolts and washers are furnished with the marker.



Applications can be mailed to:

Memorial Programs Services (41A1)
Department of Veterans Affairs
5109 Russel Rd.
Quantico, VA 22134-3903

Applications can also be sent by FAX to the following toll free number: **(800) 455-7143**. (When using the toll free fax number, do not send a paper copy of the application through the mail)

NOTE: There is no charge for the headstone or marker itself. However, arrangements for placing it in a private cemetery are the applicant's responsibility and all setting fees are at private expense.



Cemetery Locations

Bakersfield National Cemetery

Arvin, CA
(866) 632-1845

Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery

San Diego, CA
(619) 553-2084

Golden Gate National Cemetery

San Bruno, CA
(650) 589-7737

Los Angeles National Cemetery

Los Angeles, CA
(310) 268-4675 or 4494

Riverside National Cemetery

Riverside, CA
(951) 653-8417

Sacramento Valley National Cemetery

Dixon, AC
(707) 693-2460

San Francisco National Cemetery

San Francisco, CA
(650) 589-7737 or 1646

San Joaquin Valley National Cemetery

Santa Nella, CA
(209) 854-1040

Northern California Veterans Cemetery

Redding, CA
(866) 777-4533

INCARCERATED VETERANS BENEFITS



Veterans that receive benefits from the VA change when they are incarcerated in a federal, state or local penal institution. The amount that the veteran will be paid depends on the type of benefit and reason for incarceration.

Disability compensation pay

Incarcerated veterans receiving a monthly disability compensation benefits will have their payment reduced beginning with the 61st day of your imprisonment for a felony. For example, if your payment before you went to prison was \$243 or more, your new payment amount will be \$127 (10% rate). If you were getting \$127 before you were imprisoned, your new payment will be \$64 (1/2 of the 10% rate).

NOTE: If you are released from incarceration—participated in a work release or half-way house program, paroled, and completed sentence, your compensation payments will not be reduced.

Pension pay

Incarcerated veterans monthly pension benefits will have their payment discontinued effective on the 61st day of imprisonment following conviction of a felony or misdemeanor.

VA medical care

Although incarcerated veterans do not forfeit their eligibility for medical care, current regulations restrict the VA from providing hospital and outpatient care to an incarcerated veteran who is an inmate in an institution of another government agency when that agency has a duty to give the care or services.

Incarcerated Veterans benefits for dependent

VA can take all or part of the amount of compensation that the incarcerated veteran does not receive and apportion it to their spouse, children and dependent parents on the basis of individual need. Contact the nearest VA regional office for details and provide the necessary income information to start the application process.

Incarcerated Veterans Re-Entry services and resources

The veteran shall resume their award for compensation or pension benefits on the date they are released from incarceration. The Department of Veterans Affairs must receive the veteran's notice of release within 1 year from the release date. The Veterans Health Administration's (VHA) Mental Health Strategic Plan and national and state prisoner re-entry initiatives launched health care for Re-Entry Veterans (HCRV); the program is designed to address the community re-entry needs of incarcerated veterans.

While incarcerated the California Department of Veterans Affairs recommends that the veteran utilizes the counselors

and teachers trained to assist them in their preparation in the transition back into society. For additional information contact:

VA Long Beach Health Care System

Attn: Re-Entry Specialist

5901 E. 7th St., Bldg 128 K245

Long Beach, CA 90822-5201

(562) 825-8000

VA Palo Alto Health Care System

Attn: Re-Entry Specialist

795 Willow Rd., Bldg 347 (180 D)

Menlo Park, CA 94025

(650) 493-5000

CAL  VET

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT
OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS REINTEGRATION PROJECT



The objectives of The Reintegration Project are for the Veteran Services Division to develop an outreach process to begin an open forum with veterans and to link veterans with the proper resources. Our goal is to determine where and how to make contact with veterans, and mainly to provide veterans and their families with the necessary resources and the information they need and request.

The Reintegration Project will help service members transition, reintegrate and receive the assistance that is well deserved throughout life. We are avid about providing the necessary assistance and feel strongly that the Reintegration Project will meet the needs of veterans in their journey back to normal daily activities and with the improvement of the quality of life within the veteran population.

Why fill out the Reintegration form?

The Reintegration Project is an open forum of communication with California's military, veterans and dependents. It provides the distribution of resources, benefits and services, as well as direct contact from providers. We the California Department of

Veterans Affairs want to ensure your transition from your military career into a smooth civilian one. By filling out the Reintegration Form via web or by the form information is sent to you instantly and your requests are forwarded to professionals to follow up and assist you in various counseling, employment opportunities, health care enrollment, or filing for compensation, and you are stored in our database for future updates and new information.

Visit www.cdva.ca.gov/vetservice/reintegration.aspx to login or call (800) 952-5626, to start receiving information.

