



VETERAN'S RESOURCE BOOK

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER, GOVERNOR
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

THOMAS JOHNSON, SECRETARY
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

ROGER BRAUTIGAN, UNDERSECRETARY
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS



Table of Contents

Governor’s Message	2
County Veteran Service Officers	3
How to file a claim with the VA	15
Traumatic Brain Injury & PTSD	21
Veterans Administration Health Care	22
Veteran Facilities in California	25
Hearing Loss & Tinnitus	29
Agent Orange and Vietnam Veterans	33
Employment for Veterans	35
The GI Bill, Educational Opportunities for Vets.....	39
Troops to Teachers	48
Troops to College	48
State Veterans Benefit	49
Homeless Veterans Assistance	62
Cal-Vet Farm & Home Loans	73
California State Veteran Homes	77
Military Medals & Records	80
Women and Minority Veterans	84
Suicide Prevention	89
Cemetery & Burial Benefits	92
Cemetery Locations	100
California National Guard	101
Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise	105
Incarcerated Veterans	107
Veterans’ License Plate Program	109
California Veteran Memorials	111
California State Military Museum	112



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 honorable commitment to our nation.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger



California County Veteran 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 nearly three 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
- Cal-Vet 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., Suite 300

Oakland, CA 94605

Hours: Mon, Wed & Fri, 9 a - 5 p

Phone: 510-577-3547

Fax: 510-577-1947

Lawrence Gurst,

Veterans Representative

24100 Amador St., 3rd Floor

Hayward, CA 94544

Hours: Mon, Wed & Fri, 9 a - 5 p

Phone: 510-265-8271

AMADOR

Floyd Martin,

County Veterans Service Officer

Highway 49 & New Airport Rd.

Mail: 810 Court St.

Jackson, CA 95642

Hours: Mon - Fri, 8 a - 4 p

Phone: 209-267-5764

Fax: 209-267-0419

BUTTE

Patrick Hoover,

County Veterans Service Officer

196 Memorial Way, #5

Chico, CA 95926

Hours: Mon - Fri, 9 a - 12 n & 1 - 4 p

Phone: 530-891-2759

Fax: 530-895-6508

CALAVERAS

Chele Beretz,

County Veterans Service Officer

509 East Saint Charles St.

San Andreas, CA

95249

Hours: Mon - Fri, 8 a - 4 p

Phone: 209-754-6624

Fax: 209-754-4536

COLUSA

Henry E. Rodegerdts,

County Veterans Service Officer

Carol S. Pearson,

Assistant Veterans Service Officer

901 Parkhill St.

Colusa, CA 95932

Hours: Mon - Fri, 8:30 a - 5 p

Phone: 530-458-0494

Fax: 530-458-0461

CONTRA COSTA

Phillip A. Munley,

County Veterans Service Officer

10 Douglas Dr., #100

Martinez, CA 94553-4078

Hours: Mon - Thu, 9 a - 12 n & 1 - 4 p;

Fri, 9 a - 12 n

Phone: 925-313-1481

Fax: 925-313-1490

Jill Martinez,

Veterans Service Representative

100 37th St., #1033

Richmond, CA 94805

Hours: Tue, 1 - 3 p

Phone: 510-374-3241

Fax: 510-374-7955

DEL NORTE

Linndell Scarbrough,

Assistant Veterans Service Officer
810 "H" St.

Crescent City, CA 95531

Hours: Mon - Fri, 8 a - 12 n & 1 - 5 p

Phone: 707-464-2154

Fax: 707-465-0409

EL DORADO

Rod Barton,

County Veterans Service Officer

130 Placerville Dr., Ste. B

Placerville, CA 95667

Hours: Mon - Fri, 8 a - 5 p

Phone: 530-621-5892

Fax: 530-621-2218

Francis "Doc" League,

Veterans Service Representative

1360 Johnson Blvd., Suite 103A

South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150

Hours: Tue - Fri, 8 a - 5 p

Phone: 530-573-3134

Fax: 530-543-6730

FRESNO

Charles Hunnicutt,

County Veterans Service Officer

3845 North Clark St., #101

Fresno, CA 93726

Hours: M-Th, 9 a - 4 p; Fri, 9 a - 12 n

Phone: 559-454-5436

Fax: 559-454-5400

GLENN

John Greco,

County Veterans Service Officer

Cindy Holley,

Assistant Veterans Service Officer

525 W. Sycamore, Ste. A

Willows, CA 95988

Hours: M & Th, 8 a - 5p; WED, 8a-12 n

Phone: 530-934-6524

Fax: 530-934-6355

HUMBOLDT

Rena Maveets,

County Veterans Service Officer

825 5th St., Room 310

Eureka, CA 95501-1172

Hours: Mon - Fri, 8:30 a - 12 n &

1 - 4 p

Phone: 707-445-7341 or 707-445-7611

Fax: 707-476-2487

IMPERIAL

Saul Sanabria

County Veterans Service Officer

2695 S. 4th St.

El Centro, CA 92243

Hours: Mon - Fri, 7 a - 5 p

Phone: 760-337-5012

Fax: 760-337-5042

INYO

Yvette Mason,

Assistant County Veterans Service Officer

207 West South St.

Bishop, CA 93514

Hours: Mon - Thu, 7 a - 5 p

Phone: 760-873-7850

Fax: 760-872-1610

KERN

Chuck Bikakis,

County Veterans Service Officer

1120 Golden State Ave.

Bakersfield, CA 93301

Hours: Mon - Thu, 8 a - 12 n & 1 - 5 p;
Fri, 8 a - 12 n

Phone: 661-868-7300

Fax: 661-868-7301

455 Lexington St.

Delano, CA 93215

Hours: 2nd Fri, 9 a - 12 n

Phone: 661-868-7300

400 North China Lake Blvd.
Ridgecrest, CA 93555
Hours: Wed, 8:30 a - 4 p
Phone: 661-868-7300

1775 Hwy. 58
Mojave, CA 93501
Hours: 2nd Thu, 10 a - 12 n
Phone: 661-868-7300

1379 Sierra Hwy.
Rosamond, CA 93560
Hours: 2nd Thu, 1 p - 3 p
Phone: 661-868-7300

315 Lincoln St.
Taft, CA 93268
Hours: 4th Tue, 9 a - 12 n
Phone: 661-868-7300

7050 Lake Isabella Blvd.
Lake Isabella, CA 93240
Hours: 1st & 3rd Tue, 9 a - 12 n

KINGS

Joe Wright,
County Veterans Service Officer
400 West Lacey Blvd.
Hanford, CA 93230
Hours: Mon - Fri, 8 a - 5 p
Phone: 559-582-3211 ext. 2664
Fax: 559-584-0438

LAKE

Jim Brown,
County Veterans Service Officer
285 N. Main
Mailing: 255 North Forbes St.
Lakeport, CA 95453
Hours: Mon - Fri, 8 a - 5 p
Phone: 707-263-2384
Fax: 707-262-1861

3981 Veterans Way
Clearlake, CA 95422
Hours: Wed, 10 a - 12 n
Phone: 707-994-0646

LASSEN

Michael Schneider,
County Veterans Service Officer
1205 Main St.
Susanville, CA 96130
Hours: Mon - Thu, 7 a - 5:30 p
Phone: 530-251-8192
Fax: 530-251-4901

LOS ANGELES

Col. Joseph N. Smith,
Director

Robert Saxon,
Chief - Veterans Services
2615 S. Grand Ave., Ste. 100
Los Angeles, CA 90007
Hours: Mon - Fri, 8 a - 4 pm
Phone: 213-744-4827
Fax: 213-744-4444

Dorene Hartley,
Veteran Services Officer
17171 E. Gale Ave.
City of Industry, CA 91745
Hours: Mon - Fri, 7 a - 3 p
Phone: 626-854-4844

Frances Govens,
Veteran Services Officer
5730 Uplander Way, Ste. 100
Culver City, CA 90230
Hours: Mon - Fri, 9 a - 4 p
Phone: 310-641-0326
Fax: 310-641-2653

Robert Ortiz,
Veteran Services Officer
335-A East Ave. K-6
Lancaster, CA 93535
Hours: Mon - Fri, 8 a - 4 p
Phone: 661-723-4495
Fax: 661-723-5247

Ruben Trejo,

Veteran Services Officer
Antelope Valley Senior Center
777 Drackman St.

Lancaster, CA 93534

Hours: Mon & Wed, 8 a - 4 p

Phone: 661-726-4410

Fax: 661-940-7947

24271 San Fernando Rd.

Newhall, CA 91321

Hours: Tue, Thu & Fri, 8 a - 4 p

Phone: 661-254-3413

Fax: 661-255-8620

Armand Assayag,

Veteran Services Officer
5400 E. Olympic Blvd., Rm. 140
Los Angeles, CA 90022

Hours: Tue & Wed, 9 a - 4 p by
appointment

Phone: 323-728-9966

Fax: 323-887-1082

11301 Wilshire Blvd., Building 206,
Room B-29

West Los Angeles, CA 90073

Hours: Mon, Thu & Fri, 8 a - 4 p

Phone: 310-478-3711 ext. 48425

Fax: 310-268-4153

George Dixon,

Veteran Services Officer
351 East Temple, Room B-307
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Hours: Mon - Fri, 8 a - 4 p

Phone: 213-253-2677 ext. 4605

Fax: 213-253-5123

Peter Roman,

Veteran Services Officer
17600-B Santa Fe Ave.
Rancho Dominguez, CA 90221

Hours: Mon, Tue & Thu, 8a - 4p

Phone: 310-761-2221

Fax: 310-635-7024

2001 River Ave.

Long Beach, CA 90810

Hours: Wed, 8 a - 4 p

Phone: 562-388-8008

Fax: 562-388-8047

Christopher Duarte,

Veteran Services Officer
Sepulveda VA Outpatient Clinic
Bldg. 200, Goldtine 2nd floor
16411 Plummer St.

Sepulveda, CA 91343

Hours: Tue - Fri, 8 a - 4 p

Phone: 818-891-7711 ext. 9146

Fax: 818-895-9493

Frank Valencia,

Veteran Services Officer
1427 West Covina Pkwy., Room 100A
West Covina, CA 91790

Hours: Mon - Fri, 8 a - 4 p

Phone: 626-813-3402

Fax: 626-338-4481

MADERA**Dennis Blessing,**

County Veterans Service Officer
200 W. 4th St.

Madera, CA 93637

Hours: Mon - Fri, 8 a - 5 p

Phone: 559-675-7766

Fax: 559-675-7911

MARIN**Mort Tallen,**

County Veterans Service Officer
10 North San Pedro Rd., Suite 1010
San Rafael, CA 94903

Hours: Mon, Tue, Wed, & Fri, 8 a -
4:30 p

Phone: 415-499-6193

Fax: 415-499-6465

MARIPOSA

Robert N. Johns,

County Veterans Service Officer

5085 Bullion St.

P.O. Box 774

Mariposa, CA 95338

Hours: Tue & Wed, 9 a - 5 p

Phone: 209-966-3696

Fax: 209-966-3293

MENDOCINO

Carl Stenberg,

County Veterans Service Officer

360 N. Harrison St.

Mail: P.O. Box 1306

Fort Bragg, CA 95437

Hours: Mon, Wed & Fri, 8 - 11:30 a or
by appointment

Phone: 707-964-5823

Fax: 707-961-6396

Alice Watkins,

Veterans Service Representative

419 Talmage Rd., Ste. K

Mail: P.O. Box 839

Ukiah, CA 95482

Hours: Mon - Fri, 8 a - 12 n & 1 - 5 p

Phone: 707-463-4226

Fax: 707-463-4637

George Froschl,

Veterans Service Representative

189 N. Main St.

Willits, CA 95490

Hours: T, W & Th, 8 a - 12 n & 1 - 3 p

Phone: 707-456-3792

Fax: 707-459-7603

MERCED

Darren Hughes,

County Veterans Service Officer

Kay Spears,

Supervising Veterans Claims

Representative

3605 Hospital Rd., Suite E

Atwater, CA 95301

Hours: Mon - Fri, 8 a - 5 p

Phone: 209-385-7588

Fax: 209-725-3848

MODOC

Harry Hitchings,

County Veterans Service Officer

211 E. 1st St.

Alturas, CA 96101

Hours: Mon - Fri, 9 a - 3 p

Phone: 530-233-6209

Fax: 530-233-1235

MONO

Yvette Mason,

Assistant County Veterans Service
Officer

207 West South St.

Bishop, CA 93514

Hours: Mon - Thu, 7 a - 5 p

Phone: 760-873-7850

Fax: 760-872-1610

MONTEREY

Rich Garza,

County Veterans Service Officer

1200 Aguajito Rd., Room 103

Monterey, CA 93940

Hours: Mon - Fri, 8 a - 12 n & 1 - 5 p

Phone: 831-647-7610

Fax: 831-647-7618

Eddie Humada,

Military & Veterans Service
Representative

1000 S. Main St., Room 107
Salinas, CA 93901

Hours: Mon - Thu, 1 - 5 p; Tue,
Thu & Fri, 8 a - 12 n

Phone: 831-796-3585

Fax: 831-755-4449

William Zeigler,

Military & Veterans Service
Representative

VA Outpatient Clinic
3401 Engineer Ln.
Seaside, CA 93955

Hours: Mon - Fri, 8 a - 12 n & 1 - 5p

Phone: 831-883-3811

Fax: 831-883-3860

NAPA**Patrick Jolly,**

County Veterans Service Officer
900 Coombs St., Ste. 357
Napa, CA 94559

Hours: Mon - Fri, 8 a - 4 p

Phone: 707-253-6072

Fax: 707-299-1489

NEVADA**Mark Nagafuchi,**

Interim, County Veterans Service
Officer

255 South Auburn St.
Grass Valley, CA 95945

Hours: Mon - Fri, 8 a - 5 p

Phone: 530-273-3396

Fax: 530-272-3182

ORANGE**John Parent,**

Interim County Veterans Service
Officer

1300 South Grand Ave., Building B
Santa Ana, CA 92705

Hours: M-W-Fri, 8a - 5p; Tue, 9:30a-5p

Phone: 714-567-7450

Fax: 714-567-7674

PLACER**Rick Buckman,**

County Veterans Service Officer
2995 First St.

Auburn, CA 95603

Hours: Mon - Fri, 8 a - 12 n & 1 - 5 p

Phone: 530-889-7968

Fax: 530-885-8648

Roger Gobel,

Intake Specialist
1880 Sierra Gardens Dr.
Roseville, CA 95661

Hours: Tue & Thu, 8 a - 5 p

Phone: 916-784-6127

Fax: 916-789-4575

PLUMAS**Sheryl Austin,**

County Veterans Service Officer
270 County Hospital Rd., Suite 107
Quincy, CA 95971-9126

Hours: Tue - Thu, 9 a - 4 p

Phone: 530-283-6275

Fax: 530-283-6146

RIVERSIDE**William Earl,**

Director
1153A Spruce St.

Riverside, CA 92507-2428

Hours: Mon - Fri, 8 a - 5 p

Phone: 951-955-6050 or 955-3010

Fax: 951-955-6061

Jeannett Phillips,

Veterans Representative I
1075 N. State St.
Hemet, CA 92543

Hours: Mon - Thu, 9 a - 12 n & 1 - 4 p

Phone: 951-766-2566

Fax: 951-766-2567

Clinton Hollins,

Veterans Representative II
82-675 Hwy. 111, Room 120
Indio, CA 92201

Hours: Mon - Fri, 8 a - 5 p

Phone: 760-863-8266

Fax: 760-863-8478

SACRAMENTO**Jeff Pealer,**

County Veterans Service Officer
2007 19th St.
Sacramento, CA 95818

Hours: Mon - Fri, 8 a - 5 p

Phone: 916-874-6811 or 874-6713

Fax: 916-874-8868

SAN BENITO**Rich Garza,**

County Veterans Service Officer
649 San Benito St.
Hollister, CA 95203

Hours: Mon, Wed & Fri, 8 a - 12 n;
Tue & Thu, 1 - 5 p

Phone: 831-637-4846

Fax: 831-637-1609

SAN BERNARDINO**Bill J. Moseley,**

Director
175 W. 5th St., 2nd Floor
San Bernardino, CA 92415-0470

Hours: M-Th, 7:30a -4:30p; Fri 8 a - 4 p

Phone: 909-387-5516

Fax: 909-387-6090

Julie Lujan,

Veterans Service Representative II
13260 Central Ave.
Chino, CA 91710

Hours: Mon - Thu, 7:30 a - 4:30 p

Phone: 909-465-5241

Fax: 909-465-5245

Rhoda Rhoades,

Veterans Service Manager
15456 West Sage St., Suite 201
Victorville, CA 92392-2311

Hours: Mon - Thu, 7:30 a - 4:30 p

Phone: 760-843-4300

Fax: 760-843-4306

Darlene Lee,

Veterans Service Representative II
Loma Linda VA Medical Center
11201 Benton St.
Loma Linda, CA 92357

Hours: Mon, Tue & Thu, 8 a - 3 p

Phone: (909) 583-6018

Misty Taylor,

Veterans Service Representative II
56357 Pima Trail
Yucca Valley, CA 92284

Hours: Tue, 9 a - 3 p

Phone: 760-228-5234

73629 Sun Valley Dr.
Twentynine Palms, CA 92277

Phone: 760-361-4636

Hours: Wed, 9 a - 3 p

Rachel Hay,

Veterans Service Representative II
Veterans Home of California
100 East Veterans Pkwy.,
Building 100

Barstow, CA 92311-7003

Hours: Mon & Thu, 8 a - 4:30 p

Phone: 760-252-6257

SAN DIEGO

Tom Splitgerber,

County Veterans Service Officer

734 W. Beech St., Suite 200

San Diego, CA 92101-2441

Hours: Mon - Fri, 8 a - 4 p

Phone: 619-531-4545

Fax: 619-232-3960

Mike Schuster,

Veterans Advocate

1830 West Dr., Room 107

Vista, CA 92083

Hours: M-Th, 6:30a-4:30p; F 6a-4:30 p

Phone: 760-643-2049

SAN FRANCISCO

Cheryl Cook,

Assistant Veterans Service Officer

875 Stevenson St., Suite 250

San Francisco, CA 94103

Hours: Mon - Thu, 9 a - 12 n & 1 - 4 p

Phone: 415-554-7100

Fax: 415-554-7101

VA Medical Center

4150 Clement St., Building 2, Room 169

San Francisco, CA 94121

Hours: Mon - Thu, 7:30 a - 4:30 p

Phone: 415-379-5613

Fax: 415-750-2256

SAN JOAQUIN

Ron Green,

County Veterans Service Officer

105 S. San Joaquin St.

Stockton, CA 95202

Hours: Mon - Fri, 8 a - 5 p

Phone: 209-468-2916

Fax: 209-468-2918

SAN LUIS OBISPO

Michael Piepenburg,

County Veterans Service Officer

801 Grand Ave.

San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

Hours: Mon - Fri 9 a - 5 p

Phone: 805-781-5766

Fax: 805-781-5769

Senior Center

240 Scott St.

Paso Robles, CA 93446

Hours: 2nd Thu, call for appointments

Phone: 805-781-5766

SAN MATEO

Jim Kenny,

County Veterans Service Officer

260 Harbor Blvd., Bldg. A

Belmont, CA 94002

Hours: Mon - Fri, 8 a - 5 p

Phone: 650-802-6598

Fax: 650-595-2419

VAPAHCS Next Step Center

795 Willow Rd., Bldg. 323A

Menlo Park, CA 94025

Hours: Mon, 8 a - 5 p

Phone: 760-566-0240

Peninsula Vet Center

2946 Broadway St.

Redwood City, CA 94062

Hours: Wed, 8 a - 5 p

Phone: 650-299-0672

SANTA BARBARA

Mozart Booker,

County Veterans Service Officer

108 E. Locust

Lompoc, CA 93436

Hours: Mon - Fri, 8 a - 12 n & 1 p - 5 p

Phone: 805-737-7900

Fax: 805-735-1386

Rhonda Murphy,

Veterans Representative
511 E. Lakeside Pkwy., Room 47
Santa Maria, CA 93455

Hours: Mon - Thu, 7:30 a - 6 p

Phone: 805-346-7160

Fax: 805-346-8331

Robert Langley,

Veterans Representative
315 Camino Del Remedio, Building 2
Santa Barbara, CA 93110

Hours: Mon - Fri, 8 a - 5 p

Phone: 805-681-4500

Fax: 805-681-4501

SANTA CLARA**Ken Kershaw,**

County Veterans Service Officer
68 North Winchester Blvd.
Santa Clara, CA 95050

Hours: Mon - Fri, 8 a - 12 n & 1 - 4 p

Phone: 408-553-6000

Fax: 408-553-6016

80 Great Oaks Blvd.

San Jose, CA 95119

Hours: Wed & Thu, 8 a - 12 n & 1 - 3 p

Phone: 408-363-3000, ext. 75544

SANTA CRUZ**Allan R. Moltzen,**

County Veterans Service Officer
842 Front St.
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Hours: Mon - Thu, 8 a - 12 n & 1 - 5 p

Phone: 831-458-7110

Fax: 831-458-7116

Lorena Vasquez,

Veterans Service Representative
215 E. Beach St.
Watsonville, CA 95076

Hours: W-T, 8:30 a-12:30p & 1 - 5 p

Phone: 831-763-4419

Fax: 831-763-4720

SHASTA**Dave Lanford,**

County Veterans Service Officer
2625 Breslauer Way #4
Redding, CA 96001

Hours: Mon - Fri, 8 a - 12 n & 1 - 5 p

Phone: 530-225-5616

Fax: 530-245-6454

SISKIYOU**Tim Grenvik,**

County Veterans Service Officer
311 Lane St.
Yreka, CA 96097

Hours: Mon - Fri, 8 a - 5 p

Phone: 530-842-8010

Fax: 530-842-8378

SOLANO**Bill Reardon,**

County Veterans Service Officer
675 Texas St., Suite 4700
Fairfield, CA 94533

Hours: Mon - Fri, 9 a - 12 n & 1 - 4 p

Phone: 707-784-6590

Fax: 707-784-0927

Dennis Murphy,

Veterans Benefits Counselor
401 Amador St.
Vallejo, CA 94590

Hours: Mon - Fri, 9 a - 12 n & 1 - 4 p

Phone: 707-553-5261

Fax: 707-553-5672

SONOMA**Chris Bingham,**

County Veterans Service Officer
3725 Westwind Blvd., Ste. 10.
P.O. Box 4059
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Hours: Mon - Fri, 8 a - 5 p

Phone: 707-565-5960

Fax: 707-565-5980

STANISLAUS

Carolyn Hebenstreich,

Assistant Veterans Service Officer

121 Downey Ave., Suite 102

P.O. Box 1143

Modesto, CA 95353

Hours: Mon - Fri, 8 a - 4:30 p

Phone: 209-558-7380

Fax: 209-558-8648

SUTTER and YUBA

Marvin King, Jr.,

County Veterans Service Officer

1114 Yuba St., Suite #150

Marysville, CA 95901

Hours: Mon - Fri, 8 a - 5 p

Phone: 530-749-4967

Fax: 530-749-4992

TEHAMA

Bill Johnson,

County Veterans Service Officer

633 Washington St., Room 15

P.O. Box 729

Red Bluff, CA 96080

Hours: Mon - Thu, 12 n - 4 p;

Outreach Fri mornings

Phone: 530-529-3664

Fax: 530-529-7933

TRINITY

Douglas Bue,

County Veterans Service Officer

101 Memorial Mail: P.O. Box 1230

Weaverville, CA 96093

Hours: M, W, F 8a-4:30p; Th, 8a-2:30p

Phone: 530-623-3975

Fax: 530-623-8365

TULARE

Dan Britton,

County Veterans Service Officer

205 North "L" St.

Tulare, CA 93274

Hours: Mon-Thu, 7:30a-5p; Fri, 8a-12 n

Phone: 559-685-3300

Fax: 559-685-3370

Veterans Memorial Building

1900 W. Olive

Porterville, CA 93257

Hours: 2nd & 4th Thu, 9 a - 4 p

Phone: 559-781-7963

Fax: 559-781-7979

TUOLUMNE

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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 identify 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.

PROCESS

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 .

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 speed 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, 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.

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 USDVA at 1-800-827-1000.

Tip:

Any time you call a VA 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 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:

Notice of Disagreement (NOD)

Statement of the Case (SOC)

Formal Appeal (VA Form 9 or equivalent)

Hearings (Optional)

Board of Veterans' Appeals (BVA)

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 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 7 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, we are 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 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 Notice of Disagreement is filed or when new evidence is received. Once the first SOC is done on an appeal, any ones done after that are 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 VA. Although most decision are done in Washington, BVA does have travel boards that come to local offices. Travel boards have been limited the past couple of years, and Manchester 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 decision is the final VA one on the issue, 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).

Traumatic Brain Injury

Post Traumatic Stress Injury

Traumatic Brain Injury and Post Traumatic Stress have been called the signature wounds of the Iraqi and Afghanistan conflict. They have been seen in other conflicts but given the new more powerful explosives and excellent medical care our troops are receiving in the field, the blasts are more powerful



and more troops are surviving blast that would have killed soldiers in other conflicts. These two changes are creating a situation where the concussion created by intense pressurization and depressurization from the blasts are injuring soldiers in a different way than what was experienced in earlier wars. PTSD has always been a problem, but is now exacerbated because of repeated tours of duty for many troops.

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

To this end all OIF/OEF veterans are encouraged to take advantage of the Veterans Administration Health care system. The VA is offering you 5 years of VA healthcare regardless of your financial or health status. You can contact the Veterans Administration directly by calling (800) 827-1000 or their web-site at www.va.gov to find the nearest VA Healthcare facility. In addition you can contact our office at the State Department of Veteran Affairs at (800) 952-5626 or go our web-site at www.calvet.ca.gov/vetservice.

Welcome home and thank for serving our county. Call us or email 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.

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 Sept. 7, 1980, or who entered active duty after Oct. 16, 1981, must have served 24 continuous months or the full period for 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.

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, on line at www.va.gov/1010ez.htm or by calling 1-877-222-VETS (8387), or your County Veterans Service Office. 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:

- 1: Veterans with a service-connected disability of 50 percent or more.
- 2: 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.
- 3: Veterans seeking care for a service-connected disability only.
- 4: 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 or 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 nonservice-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 Nov. 11, 1998; for any illness associated with participation in tests conducted by the Department of Defense (DoD) as part of Project 112/ Project SHAD; and veterans with zero percent service-connected disabilities who are receiving disability compensation benefits.
- Group 7: Nonservice-connected veterans and non-compensable, zero-percent service-connected veterans with household income and/or net worth above VA's national income threshold, but whose household income is below the geographically-based income threshold for their resident location.
- Group 8: All other nonservice-connected veterans and zero percent, non-compensable service-connected veterans who agree to pay copays. (Note: Effective Jan. 17, 2003, VA no longer enrolls new veterans into priority group 8. However, this group is currently undergoing a change in status for updates please call (877) 222-VETS).

Veterans Administration Facilities in California

Veterans Health Administration

VA Medical Center

Fresno:	VA Central California Health Care System
Livermore:	Livermore
Loma Linda:	VA Loma Linda Healthcare System
Long Beach:	VA Long Beach Healthcare System
Los Angeles: (GLA)	VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System
Sacramento:	VA Northern California Health Care System
Menlo Park:	Menlo Park
Palo Alto:	VA Palo Alto Health Care System
San Diego:	VA San Diego Healthcare System
San Francisco:	San Francisco VA Medical Center

Outpatient Clinic

Atwater:	VA Castle OPC
Auburn:	Sierra Foothills Outpatient Clinic
Capitola:	Capitola Clinic
Chico:	Chico Outpatient Clinic
Eureka:	Eureka Veterans Clinic
Fairfield:	Fairfield Outpatient Clinic
French Camp:	Stockton Clinic
Laguna Hills:	Laguna Hills OPC
Los Angeles:	Los Angeles Ambulatory Care Center
Los Angeles:	VA West Los Angeles Healthcare Center
Martinez:	Martinez Outpatient Clinic and Center for Rehabilitation & Extended Care
Sacramento:	Sacramento Mental Health Clinic at Mather
Sacramento:	McClellan Dental Clinic – Sacramento
Sacramento:	McClellan Outpatient Clinic – Sacramento
Modesto:	Modesto Clinic
North Hills:	Sepulveda OPC and Nursing Home

Oakland:	Oakland Mental Health Clinic
Oakland:	Oakland Outpatient Clinic
Redding:	Redding Outpatient Clinic
San Diego:	Mission Valley
San Francisco:	SFVAMC Downtown Clinic
San Jose:	San Jose Clinic
Santa Rosa:	Santa Rosa Clinic
Seaside:	Monterey Clinic
Sonora:	Sonora Clinic
Tulare:	VA South Valley OPC
Vallejo:	Mare Island Clinic

Community Based Outpatient Clinic

Anaheim:	Anaheim CBOC
Bakersfield:	Bakersfield CBOC
Chula Vista:	Chula Vista (South Bay) CBOC
City of Commerce:	East Los Angeles CBOC
Corona:	Corona CBOC
El Centro:	Imperial Valley CBOC
Escondido:	Escondido CBOC
Gardena:	Gardena CBOC
Lancaster:	Antelope Valley CBOC
Long Beach:	Villages At Cabrillo CBOC
Oxnard:	Oxnard CBOC
Palm Desert:	Palm Desert CBOC
San Bruno:	San Bruno CBOC
San Gabriel:	Pasadena CBOC
San Luis Obispo:	San Luis Obispo Pacific Medical Plaza COBC
Santa Ana:	Santa Ana - Bristol Medical Center CBOC
Santa Barbara:	Santa Barbara Clinic CBOC
Santa Fe Springs:	Whittier/Santa Fe Springs Clinic CBOC
Santa Maria:	Santa Maria COBC
Sun City:	Sun City CBOC
Ukiah:	VA Ukiah CBOC
Upland:	Upland CBOC
Ventura:	Ventura CBOC
Victorville:	Victorville CBOC
Vista:	Vista CBOC

Vet Center

Fairfield:	4B Pacific Western Regional Office
Capitola:	Santa Cruz County Vet Center
Chico:	Chico Vet Center
Commerce:	East Los Angeles Vet Center
Concord:	Concord Vet Center
Corona:	Corona Vet Center
Culver City:	West Los Angeles Vet Center
Eureka:	Redwoods Vet Center
Fresno:	Fresno Vet Center
Garden Grove:	Orange County Vet Center
Gardena:	Los Angeles Veterans Resource Center
Modesto:	Modesto Vet Center
Oakland:	Oakland Vet Center
Redwood City:	Peninsula Vet Center
Rohnert Park:	Northbay Vet Center
Sacramento:	Sacramento Vet Center
San Bernardino:	San Bernardino Vet Center
San Diego:	San Diego Vet Center
San Francisco:	San Francisco Vet Center
San Jose:	San Jose Vet Center
San Marcos:	San Marcos Vet Center
Sepulveda:	Sepulveda Vet Center
Ventura:	Ventura Vet Center

VISN

Long Beach:	VISN 22: Desert Pacific Healthcare Network
Mare Island:	VISN 21: Sierra Pacific Network

Veterans Benefits Administration — Regional Offices

Los Angeles:	Los Angeles Regional Office
Oakland:	Oakland Regional Office
San Diego:	San Diego Regional Office

National Cemetery Administration

Memorial Service Network

Oakland: Oakland Memorial Service Network

National Cemeteries

Arvin: Bakersfield National Cemetery

Sacramento: Sacramento Valley National Cemetery

Los Angeles: Los Angeles National Cemetery

Riverside: Riverside National Cemetery

San Bruno: Golden Gate National Cemetery

San Diego: Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery

San Francisco: San Francisco National Cemetery

Santa Nella: San Joaquin Valley National Cemetery

Check the VA locator website for specific addresses and phone numbers.

www2.va.gov/directory/guide/state.asp?State=CA&dnum=ALL

Hearing Loss

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 ailments 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 will 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 place 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.

Rifle fire	157 decibels
Pistol fire	157 decibels
Machine gun	155 decibels
Grenade at 50 feet	164 decibels
Recoilless rifle	190 decibels
Antitank gun	182 decibels
Antitank missile	166 decibels
Heavy artillery	185 decibels
Tank	115 decibels
APC	120 decibels
Helicopter	105 decibels
Jet Engine at 100 meters	140 decibels
Cargo Transport	88 decibels
Ambulance	85 decibels

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 & Vietnam



Information for veterans, their families and others about VA health care programs related to Agent Orange.

Agent Orange Overview:

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 and outreach and education.

Health Conditions Presumptively Recognized to Date

The information contained in this article updates earlier issues of this newsletter. 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, see www.VA.gov/AgentOrange.

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) is (are) related to their military service to get disability compensation. VA presumes that their condition is service-connected.

Conditions Recognized in Veterans:

- 1: Chloracne (must occur within 1 year of exposure to Agent Orange)
- 2: Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma
- 3: Soft tissue sarcoma (other than osteosarcoma, chondrosarcoma, Kaposi's sarcoma, or mesothelioma)
- 4: Hodgkin's disease
- 5: Porphyria cutanea tarda (must occur within 1 year of exposure)
- 6: Multiple myeloma
- 7: Respiratory cancers, including cancers of the lung, larynx, trachea, and bronchus
- 8: Prostate cancer
- 9: Acute and subacute transient peripheral neuropathy (must appear within 1 year of exposure and resolve within 2 years of date of onset)
- 10: Type 2 diabetes
- 11: Chronic lymphocytic leukemia



Employment for Veterans

Programs for Veterans

The 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 CalJOBSSM 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 on-line eApply4UI application at www.edd.ca.gov or phone 1-800-300-5616.

Resources

HireVetsFirst 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 ironworker, 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 counselling.

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 apprentice-

ship programs by craft and geographic region at <http://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 California Employment Development Department (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 <http://www.dir.ca.gov/DAS/das.html>. And employers, check out the video, Apprenticeship - California's Best Kept Secret, on line at <http://www.dir.ca.gov/das/apvideo.htm> for streaming versions or <http://www.dir.ca.gov/das/apvideowdownload.htm> for download versions.

Troops to Teachers, Proud to Serve Again!"

The Troops to Teachers (TTT) 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.

Troops to Teachers is a federal program funded by the Department of Education and administered by the Department of Defense through the Defense Activity for Non-traditional Education Support (DANTES). The program provides a link between current and prior armed service members who desire to pursue a career in education by providing counseling, financial and placement assistance. Learn more about Department of Industrial Relations programs at www.dir.ca.gov.

Hire a Veteran Now!

One-Stop Career Centers

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 1-877-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 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 Web site, obtain examination announcements, applications for examinations, forms, and other brochures on the civil service examination process. Local Employment Development Department (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.

The GI Bill

Education Opportunities for Vets



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 now on August 1, 2009 the Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2008 the "New GI Bill".

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: http://www.gibill.va.gov/GI_Bill_Info/rates.htm or call: 1-888-GI BILL1 (1-888-442-4551)

Educational Programs Available for Veterans

Veterans Educational Assistance Program (VEAP) Chapter 32 is the post-Vietnam era educational assistance program. VEAP is available if you elect to make contributions from your military pay to participate in this education benefit program. The government matches your contributions on a \$2 for \$1 basis. You may use these benefits for degree, certificate, correspondence, apprenticeship/on-the-job training programs, and vocational flight training programs. In certain circumstances, remedial, deficiency, and refresher training may also be available. Benefit entitlement is one to 36 months depending on the number of monthly contributions. You have 10 years from your release from active duty to use VEAP benefits. If there is entitlement not used after the 10-year period, your portion remaining in the fund will be automatically refunded.

Eligibility

To qualify, you must meet the following requirements:

- Entered service for the first time between January 1, 1977 and June 30, 1985.
- Opened a contribution account before April 1, 1987.
- Voluntarily contributed from \$25 to \$2,700.
- Completed your first period of service.
- Were discharged or released from service under conditions other than dishonorable.

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. 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. The Department of Defense may provide further guidance as to the retroactive nature of this program.

Eligibility

- 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)

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 Dependents' Educational Assistance (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.

Vietnam Era GI Bill Chapter 34 Education benefits to individuals who served on Active Duty after January 31, 1955 and prior to January 1, 1977, expired December 31, 1989. There is a conversion program available, for those Vietnam Era veterans who think they may be eligible. They should contact the VA Education Customer Service Office and speak with an Education Counselor. 1-888-GIBILL1

Vocational Rehabilitation & Employment Program Chapter 31 is a unique program designed specifically for disabled veterans. It has two primary goals. First, to assist the service-disabled veteran to prepare for, obtain, and maintain suitable employment. Second, for those veterans who are severely disabled (10% service connected disability) and for whom gainful employment is not an option, assistance may be provided to allow the veteran to live more independently in his or her community.

GI Bill Apprenticeship and OJT Program

To qualify for this program

- You must be supervised at least 50 percent of the time.
- Job training must lead to an entry-level position. (Management training programs do not qualify.)
- You must be a full-time paid employee — not on commission.
- Your training must be documented and reported.
- You cannot have previous experience job experience in that field.
- You must be recently hired (within one to two years).
- The job must require at least six months training to become fully trained. The employer may be private, local or state government.

Eligibility

- You may be eligible if you are eligible for the GI Bill either under the Active Duty (Veteran) or Reserve GI Bill programs and:
- You are no longer on active duty
- You were recently hired or promoted
- You left active duty less than 10 years ago or
- You are currently a member of the Guard or Reserve (Reserve GI Bill)

So, if you are qualified for the GI Bill and you have started a new job or apprenticeship program, you should apply for this little known GI Bill benefit. In some cases, the VA will even pay retroactively for OJT from the past 12 months. For additional information on VA benefits for Apprenticeship & On-the-Job Training, contact the VA Education Customer Service Office and speak with an Education Counselor at 1-888-GIBILL1. Note: You may not receive GI Bill OJT benefits at the same time you receive the GI Bill education benefits.

The “New GI Bill”

Many post 9/11 veterans and service members will soon see a new package of education benefits. This new Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2008 or 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 Sept. 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, and 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 \$2,000.00. 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.

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

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, 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.

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.

Veterans Upward Bound

Veterans Upward Bound (VUB) is a free U.S. Department of Education program designed to help you refresh your academic skills and give you the confidence you need to successfully complete your choice of college degrees.

The VUB program services include:

- Basic skills development to help veterans successfully complete a high school equivalency program and gain admission to college education programs.
- Short-term remedial or refresher classes for high school graduates that have put off pursuing a college education.
- Assistance with applications to the college or university of choice.
- Assistance with applying for financial aid.
- Personalized Counseling.
- Academic advice and assistance.
- Career Counseling.
- Assistance in getting veterans services from other available resources.
- Exposure to cultural events, academic programs, and other educational activities not usually available to disadvantaged people.

The VUB program can help you improve your skills in:

- Mathematics
- Foreign Language
- Composition · Laboratory Science
- Reading
- Literature
- Computer Basics
- Any other subjects you may need for success in education beyond high school.
- And Tutorial & Study Skills Assistance.

To be eligible for VUB you must:

- Be a U.S. Military veteran with 181 or more days active duty service and discharged on/after January 31, 1955, under conditions other than dishonorable; and
- Meet the criteria for Low-income according to guidelines published annually by the U.S. Department of Education,
- AND/OR a first-generation potential college graduate; and
- Demonstrate academic need for Veterans Upward Bound according; and
- Meet other local eligibility criteria as noted in the local VUB project's Approved Grant Proposal.

For additional information visit the National Association of Veterans Upward Bound Project Personnel Website at www.navub.org

California Veterans Educational Programs

Tuition Fee Waiver for Dependents of Service-Connected Disabled Veterans'

The dependent child, spouse or unmarried surviving spouses of a service connected disabled or deceased veteran may be entitled to tuition and fee waiver benefits at any campus of the California State University system, University of California or a California Community College.

To be eligible, students must:

- Have a parent who is a disabled veteran (0% or more disabled); or
- Be a spouse or unmarried surviving spouse or Registered Domestic Partner (RDP) of a service-connected (S/C) deceased or rated 100% S/C disabled.
- Be a child earning less than the current federal poverty level per year (student's income, not parents').
- Note: there is no income limit for a spouse or children of S/C deceased or 100% S/C veterans.
- Attend a California Community College, California State University, or a University of California school.
- Provide proof of the student's age and relationship to the veteran such as a copy of a birth and marriage certificate.

To obtain complete eligibility requirements and assistance in applying for these valuable benefits, please contact your local County Veterans Service Office or your school's veteran's office.

You may also contact CDVA at (916) 503-8397 or by mail:

California Department of Veterans Affairs

Division of Veterans Services

1227 O Street, Suite 105

Sacramento CA 95814

Non-Resident College Fee Waiver

The tuition fee waiver benefits allows non-resident to pay at California resident rate at all State of California Community Colleges, California State University or University of California campuses.

The Troops to Teachers Program

California Troops to TeachersThe Troops to Teachers (TTT) 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:<http://www.caltroops.org/> or write to:California Troops to Teachers, 1227 O Street, RM 313, Sacramento, CA 95814

The 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 student 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 or visit the www.cccco.edu website or write to : California Community Colleges System Office, 1102 Q Street, 4th Floor, Sacramento, CA 95811

Or call: (916) 445-8752

State Veterans Benefits

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, go to www.cdva.ca.gov/VetService/Waivers.aspx.

Note: All students must meet California residency requirements.

**Note that 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 go to 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

At the Admissions Office of any California State University, University of California or Community College system campus or at your local County Veteran Service Office.

DISABLED VETERAN BUSINESS ENTERPRISE OPPORTUNITIES

THE BENEFITS

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 Floor, Room 400
West Sacramento, CA 95798-9052
(916) 375-4940 or (800) 559-5529
<http://www.pd.dgs.ca.gov/smbus>

OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES

The State DVBE Advocate
California Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Services Division
1227 'O' Street, Suite 105
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 653-2573
<http://www.cdva.ca.gov/VetService/DVBE.aspx>

VETERANS HOMES OF CALIFORNIA

THE BENEFITS

Professional and low cost residential, assisted living, and medical care facilities throughout California.

WHO MAY BE ELIGIBLE

Aged or disabled U.S. veterans who are residents of California.

WHERE TO APPLY

To obtain additional information or an application, or to schedule a visit, contact one of our Veterans Homes:

Veterans Home of California, Yountville (Napa County)

1-800-404-8387

Veterans Home of California, Barstow (San Bernardino County)

1-800-746-0606

Veterans Home of California, Chula Vista (San Diego County)

1-888-857-2146

(Additional information and an application for these three homes and the three new homes in West Los Angeles, Lancaster and Ventura may be obtained at the Veterans Homes admission page on our web site: www.cdva.ca.gov/homes)

Or by writing to:

California Department of Veterans Affairs

Veterans Home Division

1227 'O' street

Sacramento, CA 95814

Or you can call:

1-800-952-5626

MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATION FEES WAIVED

THE BENEFITS

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 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

1-800-777-0133

On the Web at:

www.dmv.ca.gov

DISABLED VETERAN LICENSE PLATES

THE BENEFIT

Waiver of registration fees and free “DV” 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:

- (a) 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 or,
- (b) Is so severely disabled as to be unable to move without the aid of an assistant device or,
- (c) Has lost, or has lost use of, one or more limbs or,
- (d) 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
1-800-777-0133

On the Web at:
www.dmv.ca.gov

FREE LICENSE PLATES

THE BENEFITS

Free specialized license plates.

WHO MAY BE ELIGIBLE

- a) Legion of Valor plates for recipients of the Medal of Honor, Distinguished Service Cross, Navy Cross or the Air Force Cross.
- b) Purple Heart Medal recipients
- c) Pearl Harbor Survivors
- d) 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
1-800-777-0133

On the Web at:

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:

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

Note: 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 Website, www.sbp.ca.gov.

WHO MAY BE ELIGIBLE

- a) Veterans with service-connected disabilities rated at 10% or greater.
- b) “Wartime” veterans who served have served with honor.
- c) A veteran who served under honorable conditions for a period of at least 181 days
- d) Spouses of totally disabled service-connected veterans.
- e) Unmarried, surviving spouses of a veteran who has died of service-connected causes.

WHERE TO APPLY

Please mail an application, discharge papers, and other documents to:

State Personnel Board

Veterans Preference Coordinator

P.O. Box 944201

Sacramento, CA 94244-2010

(916) 653-1502

On the Web at:

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

On the Web at:

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

**VETERANS CLAIMS REPRESENTATION AT U.S.
DEPARTMENT 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
1227 'O' Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Telephone:

1-800-952-5626

On the Web at:

www.cdva.ca.gov/otherbenefits/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.

The California Department of Fish and Game
License and Revenue Branch
1740 N. Market Blvd.
Sacramento, CA 95834
Phone (916) 928-5805
<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/>
OR any Department of Fish and Game Office.

STATE PARKS AND RECREATION PASS

THE BENEFITS

A lifetime State of California Parks pass for only \$3.50.

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: (1) a completed Department of Parks and Recreation form DPR 619, (2) a letter from the USDVA verifying a service-connected disability rated at 50% or greater, or former Prisoner of War status (3) a copy of the veterans drivers license to verify California residency, and (4) a check or money order for \$3.50 made payable to the Department of Parks and Recreation.

California Department of Parks and Recreation
Field Services Division
P.O. Box 942896
Sacramento, CA 94296-0001
(916) 653-4272
<http://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

Any California Department of Veterans Affairs CalVet District Office, or
California Department of Veterans Affairs
Farm and Home Loan Division
1227 'O' Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Telephone:

1-800-952-5626

On the Web at:

www.cdva.ca.gov/CalVetLoans

PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS

THE BENEFITS

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

- a) Wartime veterans who are in receipt of service-connected disability compensation at the totally disabled rate.
- b) Unmarried surviving spouses, or registered domestic partners, of veterans who are in receipt of service-connected death benefits.
- c) Wartime veterans who are service-connected for loss of, or loss of use of, two or more limbs.
- d) 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).

Homeless Veterans Assistance

Homelessness is on the rise. Resources available to help these individuals are not. According to the National Alliance on Homelessness, California has the largest number of homeless individuals in our nation. Behind each number is a person who desperately needs our help. One out of every four homeless individuals is a veteran.

Among the many reasons a person becomes homeless today is our current economic situation. California has the fourth-highest foreclosure rate in the nation. The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) also reports veteran home foreclosures are increasing. As employers close down their doors, more and more veterans are losing their jobs. As a result, they are losing their homes to foreclosure by defaulting on their monthly mortgage payments and/or for non-payment of property taxes. The United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is working in partnership with the VA, the Department of Labor (DOL), and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to help with this national issue.

The VA has given millions in funding to assist veterans with special needs and billions in Homeless Assistance Grants. Since the VA's first benefits outreach efforts 20 years ago, the number of initiatives to help homeless veterans has grown. The United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) introduced an initiative called the "Ten-Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness." Communities around the nation were asked to support the development of a comprehensive plan that would focus on ending chronic homelessness. Since the initiative's start, some regions have chosen to widen the scope of chronic homelessness to all homeless. Many California cities and counties have been preparing 10 year plans to end homelessness.

Emergency and transitional housing projects are important, but increasing permanent housing opportunities for homeless veterans is the answer.

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), in consultation with the Housing and Urban Development (HUD)-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) program, identified 132 VA Medical Centers (VAMC) in California that will participate with the program. In doing so, the VA took into account the population of homeless veterans needing services in the area, the number of homeless veterans served by the

Returning home to family, friends and the community after active duty is a challenging time. Sudden changes to your roles, living stressful. Without support to deal with these events, some veterans may turn to alcohol and drugs and begin to feel like their lives are spinning out of control. You're not alone, we can help.

Coming home can be hard

We can help. **1-800-273-TALK**

VETERANS PRESS 1

ADP CALVET

homeless programs at each VAMC during Fiscal Years 2006 and FY 2007, geographic distribution, and the proximity of a local VAMC with the capacity to provide case management services.

There is at least one site in each of the 50 states and in the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. HUD, in consultation with the VA, and in consideration of a public housing agencies' (PHA) administrative performance, identified eligible PHAs located in the jurisdiction of the VAMCs and invited them to apply for HUD-VASH vouchers.

HUD and the VA determined the number of HUD-VASH vouchers to be awarded to each PHA. Approximately 35 rental vouchers were awarded for each professional, full-time HUD-VASH case manager at the local VAMC. HUD-VASH vouchers may be reallocated in the future based on need and usage.

According to Kathryn Greenspan Housing Program Specialist, HUD Headquarters, Washington, DC (202) 402-4055, California was awarded a total of \$12,501,422 to permanently house 1295 homeless veterans in May 2008.

For assistance with HOUSING, contact:

The Continuum of Care (CoC) Coordinator coordinates the homeless assistance providers that are receiving HUD funding.

For more information about homeless assistance providers in your area, contact your county's Continuum of Care Coordinator.

Northern California

This Continuum of Care website contains all the homeless assistance coordinators' contact information for Northern California.

<http://www.hud.gov/local/ca/homeless/continuumcare/ncalcoc.cfm>

Alameda County

Riley Wilkerson

Alameda Co. Housing & Comm.

Dev.224 West Winton Avenue, Rm.

108Hayward, CA 94544

Phone: (510) 670-9797

Butte County/Chico

Gloria Rodgers

Community Action Agency of Butte County

2255 Del Oro Avenue

Oroville, CA 95965

Phone: (530) 891-2977 ext. 205

Central Sierra (Amador, Calaveras, and Tuolumne Counties)

Margaret BarbourAmador

Tuolumne Community Action Agency

427 N. Highway 49, Suite 302

Sonora, CA 95370

Phone: (209) 533-1397, ext 251

Sacramento County

Suzanne Hammer

Program Manager

Sacramento County Department of

Human Assistance Sacramento City & County Co

C1590 North A Street

Sacramento, CA 95814

Phone: (916) 874-4323

Contra Costa County

Cynthia Belon

Contra Costa County

597 Center Avenue, #355

Martinez, CA 94553-4670

Phone: (925) 313-6736

Dos Rios (Colusa, Glenn, Trinity, and Tehama Counties)

Bill Wathen, Housing Manager

Glenn County Human Resources Agency

420 E. Laurel Street

Willows, CA 95988

Phone: (530) 642-7276

ElDorado County

Joyce Aldrich

Human Services Department

3057 Briw Road Placerville, CA 95667

Phone: (530) 642-7276

San Francisco

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

Fresno/Madera County

Karri Gordon
FMCoC Administrator
P.O. Box 11626
Fresno, CA 93774
Phone: (559) 250-7797

San Joaquin County

Ms. Chris Becerra
Community Development Department
1810 Hazelton Avenue
Stockton, CA 95205
Phone: (209) 468-3157

Humboldt County

Rob Amerman
Humboldt County Department of
Health and Human Services
720 Wood Street Eureka, CA 95501-
Phone: (707) 268-2923

San Mateo County

Wendy Goldberg
San Mateo County Office of Housing
262 Harbor Blvd., Bldg. A
Belmont, CA 94002
Phone: (530) 802-3378
FAX: (650) 802-3373

Kings/Tulare Counties

Nanette Villarreal
Kings United Way
11050 13th Avenue
Hanford, CA 93230
Phone: (559) 584-1536
FAX: (559) 781-6437

Santa Clara County

Marjorie Mathews
Office of Affordable Housing
2310 North First Street, Suite 100
San Jose, CA 95131
Phone: (408) 441-4257

Marin County

Bobbe Rockoff
Health and Human Services Agency
20 North San Pedro Road, Suite 2028
San Rafael, CA 94903
Phone: (415) 499-3283

Santa Cruz County

Erik Shapiro, Housing Chief
Planning Department – Housing
Division
701 Ocean Avenue, 4th Floor
Santa Cruz, CA 95060
Phone: (831) 454-5166
FAX: (831) 454-2920

Mendocino County

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

Solano County

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

Merced County

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

Sonoma County

Jenny Helbraus Abramson
Continuum of Care Coordinator
708 Gravenstein Highway NPMB#95
Sebastopol, CA 95472
Phone: (707) 824-2852

Monterey County

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

Stanislaus County

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

Napa County

Charlene Horton Community Action
Napa Valley
2521 Old Sonoma Road
Napa, CA 94558
Phone: (707) 253-6103

Placer County

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

Yolo County

Amara Pickens
Yolo County Dept. of Employment and
Social Services
25 North Cottonwood Street
Woodland, CA 95695
Phone: (530) 661-2934

Redding/Shasta County

Don Meek Homeless CoC Coordinator
4750 Enchanted Way
Redding, CA 96001
Phone: (530) 246-7542

State of California

Dan Apodaca
Homeless Programs Manager
Dept. of Housing and Community Dev.
P.O. Box 952054
Sacramento, CA 94252-2054
Phone: (916) 327-3633

Southern California

This Continuum of Care website contains all the homeless assistance coordinators' contact information for Southern California.

<http://www.hud.gov/local/ca/homeless/continuumcare/scalcoc.cfm>

Bakersfield/Kern County

Kern County Homeless Collaborative
David Press
2700 M Street
Bakersfield, CA 93301
Phone: (661) 862-5039
FAX: (661) 862-5052

Riverside County DPSS

Ron Stewart
4060 County Circle Drive
Riverside, CA 92503
Phone: (951) 358-5636
FAX: (951) 358-7755

City of Glendale

Ivet Samvelyan
141 N. Glendale Room 202
Glendale, CA 91206
Phone: (818) 548-2060
FAX: (818) 548-3724

San Bernardino County

Isaac Jackson
696 S. Tippecanoe Avenue
San Bernardino, CA 92415
Phone: (909) 421-4614
FAX: (909) 421-4600

Imperial County

Marilyn Boyle
Grant Program Specialist
Imperial Valley College,
Room 1604E
380 E. Aten Road
Imperial, CA 92251
Phone: (760) 355-6166
Fax: (760) 355-6461

San Diego County

HCD
Ms. Dolores Diaz
Continuum of Care Coordinator
3989 Ruffin Road
San Diego, CA 92123
Phone: (858) 694-4804
FAX: (858) 514-6561

City of Long Beach

DHHS
Ms. Susan Price
Homeless Services Coordinator
2525 Grand Avenue
Long Beach, CA 90815
Phone: (562) 570-4003
FAX: (562) 570-4049

City of San Diego

Continuum of Care
Ms. Patricia Leslie
Point Loma Nazarene University
Culbertson #1063
900 Lomaland
San Diego, CA 92106
Phone: (619) 849-2676
FAX: (619) 849-7019

Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority

Ms. Christine Mirasy
Glascos Director of Compliance
548 S Spring St #400
Los Angeles, CA 90013
Phone: (213) 683-3328
FAX: (213) 892-0093

County of San Luis Obispo

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

County of Orange

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

County of Santa Barbara

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

City of Oxnard

Will Reed
Homeless Assistance Coordinator
300 West Third Street
Oxnard, CA 93030
Phone: (805) 385-8044
FAX: (805) 385-7969

County of Ventura

VCHHC
Ms. Cathy Brudnicki
President, VCHHC
P.O. Box 417
Camarillo, CA 93011-0417
Phone: (805) 493-2471
FAX: (805) 654-5106

Pasadena CD Commission

Anne Lansing
649 North Fair Oaks Avenue,
Room 202
Pasadena, CA 91103
Phone: (626) 744-6701
FAX: (626) 744-8340

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

Bay Area

These listings can be found at: www.baha.org

Or by calling: 1-800-7SHELTER (1-800-774-3583)

A Shelter Bed Hotline offering toll-free, 24-hour access to shelter information for the entire Bay Area from anywhere in the Bay Area.

The Bay Area Homeless Alliance (BAHA) website, a collaboration of greater San Francisco Bay Area service agencies contains information for ten counties; Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Solano and Sonoma.

The Central Valley

The Central Valley Shelters and Emergency Housing website contains information for 6 cities:

Fresno, Bakersfield, Visalia, Madera, Modesto, and Merced. Their Website is: www.hud.gov/local/ca/homeless/shelters/cvshelter.cfm

FRESNO:

Plaza Terrace Emergency Housing

559-453-6794 or 559-453-6793

Provides temporary housing for families who are without housing, money, friends, or relatives who can help. It has 28 units. If all the units are filled, they will refer families to other shelters. Residents are required to save for permanent housing. A social worker is available to assist in meeting the needs of the residents.

Fresno Rescue Mission AND Overnight Shelter for Men

310 G Street, Fresno CA 93706

P. O. Box 1422 Fresno CA 93716-1422

Phone: (559) 268-0839

Fax: (559) 268-1317

Emergency Family Shelter

315 G Street, Fresno CA 93706

(559) 237-4118

Poverello House

412 "F" Street, Fresno, CA 93706

Phone: (559) 498-6988

Fax: (559) 485-6548

MERCED

Merced County Human Services Agency

www.co.merced.ca.us/CountyWeb/

2115 West Wardrobe Ave,

Merced, CA 95340

(209) 385-3000

BAKERSFIELD

Bakersfield Homeless Center

<http://www.bakhc.com/>

1600 E. Truxtun Avenue

Bakersfield, Ca 93305

(661) 322-9199

Bakersfield Rescue Mission (BRM)

www.thebrm.org/

BRM's Administration Office

724 East 21st Street

Bakersfield, CA 93305

661-325-0863

VISALIA

Visalia Rescue Mission

www.visaliarescue.org/

322 N. E. 1st Street

Visalia, CA 93291

(559) 733-2231

MADERA, MODESTO AND OTHER COMMUNITIES

Association of Gospel Rescue Missions in California

Madera Rescue Mission Inc

PO Box 642 Madera, CA 93639-0642

(559) 675-8321

Fax: (559) 675-8073

Merced County Rescue Mission

110 East 22nd Street

Merced, CA 95340

(209) 722-9269

Fax: (209) 722-6597

Modesto Union Gospel Mission

PO Box 1203 Modesto, CA 95353-1203

(209) 529-8259

Fax: (209) 529-3450

www.agrm.org/

This Rescue Mission Directory website contains information for 33 cities.

LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Dial 211-- *This enables a caller to access over 28,000 health and human service programs throughout Los Angeles County 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and is TTY accessible.*

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 statewide 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, healthcare services, job training, and placement assistance. For a statewide directory of California homeless veterans' assistance organizations, visit:

www.cacvso.org/ContentPage.asp?ContentID=71

U.S. Department of Veterans of Affairs

The VA provides hands-on assistance directly to homeless veterans. The VA conducts outreach to connect homeless veterans to both mainstream and homeless-specific VA programs and benefits. Contact your local VA for assistance or the homeless outreach coordinator at the locations below:

Central CA HCS

VAMC/122

2615 East Clinton

Fresno CA 93703

(559) 225-6100 Ext. 5775

Greater LA Comprehensive Hmles. Cntr

VAMC Bldng 206, Rm 131

11301 Wilshire Blvd.

West LA CA 90073

(310) 478-3711 Ext. 43623

Phone Number (310) 268-3508

Phone Number (310) 268-4690

N. California HCS

VAMC

HCHV/122

150 Muir Rd.

Martinez CA 94553

Phone Number (510) 587-3405

Palo Alto

VAMC/122MPD

795 Willow Road

Menlo Park CA 94025

Phone Number (650) 493-5000 ext 25717

Loma Linda

VA Medical Center/122

11201 Benton St.

Loma Linda CA 92357

Phone Number (909) 825-7084 Ext. 1773

San Diego

HCHV Program Suite 2200

8810 Rio San Diego Drive

San Diego CA 92108

Phone Number (619) 400-5167

Long Beach

Social Work Service/122

VA Medical Center

5901 East 7th Street

Long Beach CA 90822

Phone Number (562) 826-8000 Ext. 4822

San Francisco

Health Care/Homeless Vets

401 3rd Street

San Francisco CA 94107

Phone Number (415) 551-7309

Housing and Urban Development Offices in California

San Francisco Regional Office
600 Harrison Street
San Francisco, CA 94107
Phone: 415-489-6400
Fax: 415-489-6601

HUD Veteran Resource Center
(800) 998-9999
www.hud.gov/hudvet

Los Angeles Field Office
611 W. 6th Street, Suite 800
Los Angeles, CA 90017
Phone: 213-534-2555
Fax: 213-894-8122

San Francisco Regional HUD Office
450 Golden Gate Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102-3448
(415) 489-6400

Housing Opportunities for Persons
with AIDS (HOPWA)—
www.hud.gov/offices/cpd/aidshousing/

National Coalition of Homeless Veterans

Provides help to homeless veterans. Call to find a local shelter.
(800) VET-HELP (800-838-4357) 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 FAX (916) 393-8389 email -- vvcsac@vietvets.org

North Coast Veterans Resource Center 2107 Third Street, Eureka, CA 95501 (707) 442-5852 FAX (707) 442-4113 email -- 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 FAX (707) 578-2788 email -- nbvrc@vietvets.org

Next Step Center ~ NSC Menlo Park, CA 94025

(650) 566-0240 FAX (650) 566-9571 email -- 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 in 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.

Call to apply for this program: (800) 848-7254

California Veterans Assistance Foundation (CVAF)

A 501 (c) (3), nonprofit, tax exempt corporation established in 2003 to operate transitional housing programs for military veterans who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless currently operates two of these programs in Kern County, California. (www.cavaf.org). For more information, contact 661-695-3626. You may also contact us at 866-225-8387 to make contact or referrals for admission.

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, see this website: www.cdss.ca.gov/agedblinddisabled/res/pdf/County%20APS%20Phone%20List%207-1-08.pdf

Stand Downs: 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 Downs are organized by community-based veteran service organizations with cooperation from the California VA and a variety of other state, federal, private, and nonprofit agencies. For a list of all the organizations and 2008 Stand Down dates, log on to: <http://www.cdva.ca.gov/Resources/StandDown.aspx>

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 log onto this website: www.usw.salvationarmy.org

Eleven Caregiver Resource Centers (CRCs), throughout the state serve thousands of families and caregivers of those with Alzheimer's disease, stroke, Parkinson's disease and other disorders. Log onto this website to see all the centers in California: 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
CRC of Orange County Serving Orange County

Family Caregiver Alliance . 180 Montgomery St, Ste 1100, San Francisco, CA 94104 phone: (415) 434.3388 . (800) 445.8106 . fax: (415) 434.3508

For assistance with FOOD, contact:

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (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. State programs may have different names.

For more information, call 877-847-FOOD (3663).

The Emergency Food and Shelter Program (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 and EFSP staff are housed in United Way's headquarters. For more information about United Way please call (213) 985-2000.

Emergency Food Assistance Program (EFAP) About 50 California food banks with the California Association of Food Banks. They can be reached at:

(916) 321-4435 or by sending an email to info@cafoodbanks.org

Or in the Bay Area call (510) 272-4435 or email [email: info@cafoodbanks.org](mailto:info@cafoodbanks.org)

California Emergency Foodlink

5800 Foodlink Street, Sacramento, CA 95828 tel: (800) 283-9000**fax: (916) 387-7046

Other Helpful Phone Numbers:

Department of Health and Human Services Drug and Alcohol Treatment Referral
Routing Service 1-800-662-4357

Department of Mental Health 1-800-896-4042

Food Stamps information line 1-800-221-5689

Focus on Recovery Helpline (alcohol/drugs) 1-800-374-2800 or 1-800-234-1253

National AIDS Hotline 1-800-342-2437

National Alliance for the Mentally Ill 1-800-950-6264

National Coalition for Homeless Veterans 1-800-838-4357 (1-800-VET-HELP)

National Crisis Hotline 1-800-784-2433

National Low Income Housing Coalition <http://www.nlihc.org/template/index.cfm>

National Mental Health Association 1-800-969-NMHA

National Personnel Records Center fax line (to obtain DD214) 1-314-801-9201

National Suicide Support Number 1-888-784 2433 (1-888-SUICIDE)

Supplemental Security Income (SSI) information line 1-800-772-1213

Traveler's Aid International 1-202-546-1127

Women in Community Service (WICS) location information line 1-800-442-9427

United States Department of Veterans Affairs

- Benefits 1-800-827-1000
- Medical Centers 1-800-827-1000
- Persian Gulf War Helpline 1-800-749-8387
- Locate the closest VAMC or VA Regional Office 1-877-222-8387

Veteran Service Organizations

The American Legion 1-317-630-1323 " www.legion.org

AMVETS 1-877-726-8387 " www.amvets.org

Blinded Veterans Association 1-800-669-7079 " www.bva.org

Disabled American Veterans 1-859-441-7300 " www.dav.org

Jewish War Veterans 1-202-265-6280 " www.jwv.org

Military Order of the Purple Heart 1-703-642-5360 " www.purpleheart.org

Non Commissioned Officers Association 1-703-549-0311 " www.ncoausa.org

Paralyzed Veterans of America 1-800-424-8200 " www.pva.org

Veterans of Foreign Wars 1-816-756-3390 " www.vfw.org

Vietnam Veterans of America 1-301-585-4000 " www.vva.org

CalVet Home Loans

If you are a veteran and want the best home loan on the market, then you need a CalVet Home Loan. You'll find the CalVet Loan 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
- Subsequent eligibility - Use the loan again
- Home and loan protection plans

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 California Department of Veterans Affairs website. 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 1.800.952.5626, 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 payment's 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 should shop for? You may receive free prequalification for a CalVet loan by using our new Apply Online system 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. However, this is another area where you deserve the best. 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 floods 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.

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: 866-653-2507
5500 Ming Avenue, Suite 155
Bakersfield, CA 93309

RIVERSIDE: 800-700-2127
1770 Iowa Avenue, Suite 260
Riverside, CA 92507

FRESNO: 866-653-2511
1752 E. Bullard Avenue, Suite 101
Fresno, CA 93710

SACRAMENTO 866-653-2510
1227 O Street, Room 101
Sacramento, CA 95814

REDDING: 866-653-2508
1900 Churn Creek Rd, Suite 221
Redding, CA 96002

SAN DIEGO 866-653-2504
1350 Front Street, Room 2023
San Diego, CA 92101

The Veterans Homes of California



**Veterans Home at Yountville
Veterans Home Station
Yountville, CA 94599
Tel: 1-800-404-8387**

The Veterans Homes of California are live-in facilities that provide complete healthcare within a comfortable and safe, Home-like environment. Currently there are three Veterans Homes open. The first is just north of the San Francisco Bay Area in the town of Yountville. Two Homes are in Southern California, one in Barstow and one in Chula Vista.

Five new Homes will be opening beginning with Ventura and Lancaster in 2009 and in West Los Angeles in 2010. In addition, planning is underway for Homes in Fresno and in Redding with opening dates yet to be determined.

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 healthcare, from independent living to skilled nursing care.



Veterans Home at Barstow:
100 East Veterans Parkway
Barstow, CA 92311
Tel: 1-800-746-0606

Applying for Admission

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:

1. You are age 62 or over and/or you have a significant disability.
2. You served in the U.S. military and you were honorably discharged.
3. 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).
4. You are a California resident.
5. 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 <http://www.cdva.ca.gov/Homes/DocsAndImages/vhcapp.pdf>



Veterans Home at Chula Vista
700 East Naples Court
Chula Vista, CA 91911
Tel: 1-888-857-2146

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 will be 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 will mail application packages, when they are available, to each veteran who submits a Statement of Intent to Apply. We anticipate mailing the Application Packages in early 2009. 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 your County Veterans Service Office, or on the Web at:

www.cdva.ca.gov/Homes/DocsAndImages/statementofintentform.pdf



The Pathway Home Program - Offered by the Veterans Home at Yountville

What is the Pathway Home Program? 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 post-deployment functioning. The Pathway Program can help to address those problems and maximize each Warrior's mental and physical health, coping, resiliency, and overall functioning—whether that is post-deployment, or to re-deployment, or 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, functioning, and transition issues.

For an application and eligibility please visit the web at <http://www.thepathwayhome.org/> or contact your local County Veteran Services Office.

Military Medals & Records



Veterans who need assistance with obtaining military medals and records to which they may be entitled can contact the California Department of Veterans Affairs at 1-800-952-5626 or go online to www.archives.gov/veterans/ and use the “eVetRecs” request system.

If you do not have the internet or do not feel comfortable submitting your information online you should complete a USGovernment “Standard Form 180” and mail it to the following address:

National Personnel Records Center,
Military Records,
9700 Page Boulevard,
St. Louis, MO 63132-5100.

To obtain the Form SF 180 you can call the National Personnel Records Center at 314-801-0800, retrieve one from your local County Veteran Service Office which is listed in this

booklet, or download from a local library on the internet at <http://www.archives.gov/>.

Your request must contain certain basic information for us 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, 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.

Replacing Military Medals

Medals awarded while in active service are issued by the individual military services if requested by veterans or their next of kin. Requests for replacement medals, decorations, and awards should be directed to the branch of the military in which the veteran served. However, for Air Force (including Army Air Corps) and Army veterans, the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) verifies awards and forwards requests and verification to appropriate services. Requests for replacement medals should be submitted on Standard Form 180, "Request Pertaining To Military Records," which may be obtained at VA offices or the Internet at www.va.gov/vaforms/search_action.asp. Forms, addresses, and other information on requesting medals can be found on the Military Personnel Records section of NPRC's Web site at: www.archives.gov/st-louis/military-personnel/index.html. For questions, call Military Personnel Records at (314) 801-0800 or e-mail questions to: mpr.center@nara.gov. When requesting medals, type or clearly print the veteran's full name, include the veteran's branch of service, service number or Social Security number and provide the veteran's exact or approximate dates of military service.

Replacing Military Records

If discharge or separation documents are lost, veterans or the next of kin of deceased veterans may obtain duplicate copies by completing forms found on the Internet at: www.archives.gov/research/index.html and mailing or faxing them to the NPRC. Alternatively, write the National Personnel Records Center, Military Personnel Records, 9700 Page Ave., St. Louis, MO 63132-5100. Specify that a duplicate separation document is needed. The veteran's full name should be printed or typed so that it can be read clearly, but the request must also contain the signature of the veteran or the signature of the next of kin, if the veteran is deceased. Include the veteran's branch of service, service number or Social Security number and exact or approximate dates and years of service. Use Standard Form 180, "Request Pertaining To Military Records." It is not necessary to request a duplicate copy of a veteran's discharge or separation papers solely for the purpose of filing a claim for VA benefits. If complete information about the veteran's service is furnished on the application, VA will obtain verification of service.

Correction of Military Records

The secretary of a military department, acting through a Board for Correction of Military Records, has authority to change any military

record when necessary to correct an error or remove an injustice. A correction board may consider applications for correction of a military record, including a review of a discharge issued by courts martial. The veteran, survivor or legal representative must file a request for correction



within three years after discovering an alleged error or injustice. The board may excuse failure to file within this time if it is in the interest of justice. It is an applicant's responsibility to show why the filing of the application was delayed and why it would be in the interest of justice for the board to consider it despite the delay.

To justify a correction, it is necessary to show to the satisfaction of the board that the alleged entry or omission in the records was in error or unjust. Applications should include all evidence, such as signed statements of witnesses or a brief

of arguments supporting the correction. Application is made with DD Form 149, available at VA offices, veterans organizations or at the following web address:

www.dtic.mil/whs/directives/infomgt/forms/formsprogram.htm

Applying for Review of Discharge

Each of the military services maintains a discharge review board with authority to change, correct or modify discharges or dismissals not issued by a sentence of a general courts-martial. The board has no authority to address medical discharges. The veteran or, if the veteran is deceased or incompetent, the surviving spouse, next of kin or legal representative may apply for a review of discharge by writing to the military department concerned, using DD Form 293 - "Application for the Review of Discharge from the Armed Forces of the United States." This form may be obtained at a VA regional office, from veterans organizations or from the Internet at:

www.dtic.mil/whs/directives/infomgt/forms/formsprogram.htm.

If the discharge was more than 15 years ago, a veteran must petition the appropriate service Board for Correction of Military Records using DD Form 149 - "Application for Correction of Military Records Under the Provisions of Title 10, U.S. Code, Section 1552." A discharge review is conducted by a review of an applicant's record and, if requested, by a

hearing before the board. Discharges awarded as a result of a continuous period of unauthorized absence in excess of 180 days make persons ineligible for VA benefits regardless of action taken by discharge review boards, unless VA determines there were compelling circumstances for the absence. Boards for the Correction of Military Records also may consider such cases. Veterans with disabilities incurred or aggravated during active duty may qualify for medical or related benefits regardless of separation and characterization of service. Veterans separated administratively under other than honorable conditions may request that their discharge be reviewed for possible recharacterization, provided they file their appeal within 15 years of the date of separation. Questions regarding the review of a discharge should be addressed to the appropriate discharge review board at the address listed on DD Form 293.



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 1.8 million. Approximately 255,000 women veterans use U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA) health care services. California is ranked as the number one state in having the highest number of women veterans.

As of September 2008, California's women veteran population total was 166,984. 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, Veterans Health Care Act of 1992, authorized new and expanded services for women veterans, including counseling for sexual trauma on a priority basis; 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.

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.

Health Care Access

The Women Veterans Health program has as its mission 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 women veterans program manager at every USDVA medical center, a women's liaison at every community-based outpatient clinic and a women veterans 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.”

Contacts

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. You may also call the Women Veterans line for assistance at anytime by dialing (916) 653-2551. You can also contact the Deputy Secretary of Women and Minority Veterans Division at the same number at anytime for assistance.

For more specific 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/EFIF/
- VHA Online Health Eligibility – www.va.gov/healtheligibility
- VHA: National Center for Health Promotion and Disease Pro
- www.va.gov/nchp/womenscorner.asp
- HHS Women’s Health Website – www.4woman.gov
- Homeless Veteran Programs – www.va.gov/homeless/index.cfm

Women Veterans Newsletter

The Department also produces a quarterly newsletter for Women Veterans. Subscriptions to receive the quarterly newsletter can be done at womenminorityveterans-subscribe@dva.ca.gov. To view copies of previous newsletters please visit the following link:

<http://www.cdva.ca.gov/Resources/Women.aspx>

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.



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.

Contacts

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. 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.

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 – www1.va.gov/centerforminorityveterans/

Minority Veterans Support Groups & Resources

Please visit the following websites for additional information:

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

Minority and Women Veterans Newsletter

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

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 cause 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.



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

Help for Veterans returning from the Iraqi 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 healthcare enrollment, providing certain veterans up to five 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 site.

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

Cemetery & 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 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, send copies only) to:

Northern California Veterans Cemetery

POBox76

11800 Gas Point Road

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.

Eligibility...

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, or
- Veteran died while on “active duty”, or Veteran served at least 20 years in the National Guard or
- 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 veterans cemeteries must meet one of the following:
- Veteran was a California resident at the time of entry or re-entry into military service, or
- Veteran was a California resident at the time of death, or
- 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 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

Burial benefits

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 VSOs 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]

1-888-634-7496

Fort Huachuca, AZ [Fresno & South]

1-800-248-0759



Air Force – For All of California (Travis AFB),
Mort AffairsMil Honors

1-800-586-8402

Casualty Assistance/ Benefits

1-866-819-7250

Navy – (San Diego)

1-800-326-9631



Marine Corps – (Quantico)

1-866-826-3628



Coast Guard – (Alameda)

1-510-437-5922

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, or
- the veteran was receiving VA pension or compensation at the time of death, Or
- the veteran was entitled to receive VA pension or compensation, but decided not to reduce his/her military retirement or disability pay, or
- the veteran died while hospitalized by VA, or while receiving care under VA contract at a non-VA facility, OR
- 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, OR
- 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, OR
- 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 may be reimbursed.

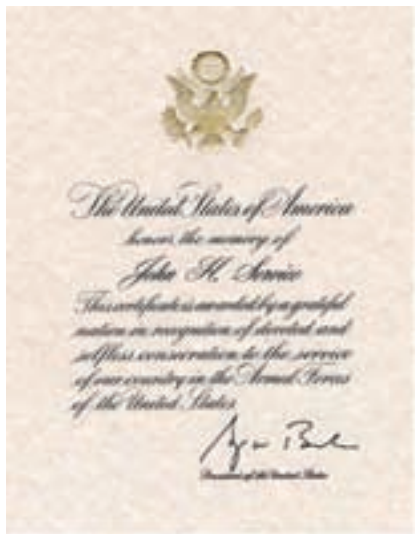
Nonservice-Related Death. VA will pay up to \$300 toward burial and funeral expenses and a \$300 plot-interment allowance for deaths on or after December 1, 2001. If the death happened while the veteran was in a VA hospital or under VA contracted nursing home care, some or all of the costs for transporting 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. You may download the form at <http://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 United States 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

Headstones and Markers

The Department of Veterans Affairs (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 Nov. 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 (available spring 2009).

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.

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

Fort Rosecrans
National Cemetery,
San Diego
Phone: (619) 553-2084

Golden Gate
National Cemetery,
San Bruno
Phone: (650) 589-7737

Los Angeles
National Cemetery,
Los Angeles
Phone: (310) 268-4675 or 4494

Riverside
National Cemetery,
Riverside
Phone: (951) 653-8417

Sacramento Valley
National Cemetery,
Dixon
Phone: (707) 693-2460

San Francisco
National Cemetery,
San Francisco
Phone: (650) 589-7737 or 1646

San Joaquin Valley
National Cemetery,
Santa Nella
Phone: (209) 854-1040

Northern California Veterans
Cemetery
Redding
Phone: (866) 777-4533





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 and the Air National Guard. 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 for ever 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 life. 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. 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 National Guard continues to demonstrate its ability to recruit and retain a quality force despite the demands of simultaneous wars in Iraq and Afghanistan as well as unprecedented missions at home such as support for border security and response to natural disasters, such as hurricanes and wildfires.”

— LTG H Steven Blum, chief of the
National Guard Bureau.

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.

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.

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.

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 Sept. 11, 2001.

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 at: (800) 449-9662, or www.guard.org/public/FileDownload.

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. The lines are open 0700 to 1900 EST Monday through Friday at 1-800-984-8523.

TRICARE eligibility for family members, whose sponsor dies while on active duty, continues to receive TRICARE benefits. During the three years following a sponsor's death, surviving spouses and children under 21 years of age (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 1-888-TRIWEST (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) TriWest is a star-level supporter of ESGR, 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.

About the DVBE Participation Program

The Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise (DVBE) Participation Program was established to acknowledge disabled veterans for their service and to further DVBE participation in state contracting, promote competition and encourage greater economic opportunity.

The state established a DVBE participation goal of at least three percent. The goal applies to the total contract dollars expended each year by an awarding department. Each state agency establishes their own method for attaining the goal and they have the discretion to include the program goal within individual contracts. Every year, state agencies must also report to the governor and the legislature their total DVBE contracting participation. If the minimum three percent goal is not met, the state agency must provide their reasons for not meeting the goal and an implementation plan for future DVBE participation improvement. They may also be required to stand before a legislative panel to further clarify their results and efforts.

Added DVBE Incentive, Effective 10/09/07

The Department of General Services (DGS) established a DVBE incentive pursuant to Senate Bill 115 chaptered October 3, 2005 and the Military and Veterans Code section 999.5(a). The new regulations apply to all competitive solicitations for public works, services, goods, and information technology goods and services posted or released after October 09, 2007. The DVBE incentive is required in solicitations that include DVBE program requirements and may be offered in other competitive solicitations.

The DVBE incentive offers state agencies a tool to increase their DVBE participation while still allowing the flexibility to exempt a contract from the participation requirement should the department deem it necessary. Each state agency should incorporate the use of the DVBE incentive into their plan or strategy to ensure achievement of at least three percent DVBE participation on their total contract dollars.

DVBE Incentive (SB 115) The “Good Faith Effort”

For each applicable contract, prime contractors must achieve the minimum DVBE participation goal or demonstrate they made a “Good Faith Effort” to achieve participation. The law intends DVBE participation, however should

a bid be submitted with less than minimum participation, to be program responsive the prime contractor must make and document their efforts to attain participation.

The five legally defined “Good Faith Effort” steps are:

- 1: Contact was made with the awarding department to identify DVBE’s.
- 2: Contact was made with other state and federal agencies and with local DVBE organizations to identify DVBE’s.
- 3: Advertising was published in trade papers and papers focusing on DVBE’s, unless time limits imposed by the awarding department do not permit that advertising.
- 4: Invitations to bid were submitted to potential DVBE contractors.
- 5: Available DVBE’s were considered.

Added DVBE Participation Requirements, Effective 1/1/04

- 1: DVBE’s must perform a commercially useful function related to the contract’s specifications.
 - 2: A DVBE that rents equipment to an awarding department is considered an equipment broker, unless one or more disabled veterans own 51% of the equipment with evidence to support the fact. This includes submitting to the Office of Small Business and DVBE Services (OSDS), a copy of the complete personal federal income tax return for each of the disabled veteran owners.
 - 3: DVBE brokers awarded a contract under the 3% goal provisions must disclose their broker status prior to contract performance.
 - 4: Equipment rented from DVBE equipment brokers cannot be credited towards the 3% participation goal.
 - 5: State agencies must not use a DVBE if the agency knows that the DVBE does not maintain certification requirements.
- See DVBE Program Changes and AB 669 Impact on Small Businesses & DVBE’s & SB 1008 Impact on DVBE’s.

Need Help? Contact Us

Email: dvbe@cdva.ca.gov or call (916) 653.2573 and ask for a DVBE Outreach Coordinator.

Website info: www.pd.dgs.ca.gov/smbus

Incarcerated Veterans

Re-Entry Services and Resources

Incarcerated Veterans Benefits

Veterans that are Incarcerated 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.

Compensation Pay

Incarcerated Veterans receiving a monthly 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 \$201 or more, your new payment amount will be \$104. If you were getting \$104 before you were imprisoned, your new payment will be \$52.

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.

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 Healthcare 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 Healthcare
System
5901 E. 7th Street
Bldg 128 K245
Long Beach, CA 90822-5201
Attn: Re-Entry Specialist
(562) 825-8000

VA-Palo Alto Healthcare System
795 Willow Road
Bldg 347 (180 D)
Menlo Park, CA 94025
Attn: Re-Entry Specialist
(650) 493-5000

Veterans' License Plate Program

“Salute our Veterans”, when you take advantage of one of California’s Veterans’ License Plates Program. These programs allow those serving on active duty, veterans, and their families the opportunity to proudly display their support for those men and woman that served in the United States Armed Forces. This offer is extended to non-veterans too. The program has numerous of emblems & 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; by going to the nearest DMV office or on their website www.DMV.ca.gov, you may also download information and an application form from the California Department of Veterans Affairs web site www.CDVA.ca.gov.



Veteran License Plate

This is the California “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. Over 100 insignias are available, and your logo will be prominently displayed to the left of a six number/letter combination (see sample). Sequential plates are only \$30 per year. You may also “personalize” your Veterans’ License Plates (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 and logos and emblems are available on the California Association of Veterans Service Officers, Inc. web site, www.cacvso.org
Special License Plates for California Veterans

The California also offers special license plates to honor the service of the following categories of veterans:



Medal of Honor

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



Legion of Honor

Veterans who are recipients of some of the other highest decorations for valor are eligible for special Legion of Honor license plates.



Ex-Prisoners of War

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



Pearl Harbor Veterans

Any 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. With the passage of Senate Bill 1455 which created this special plate, the license “Gold Star Family” plate will be available for a family who want to Honor their lost a loved one that made the greatest sacrifice for their country in early 2010.



Disabled Veterans

Service-connected disabled veterans with any of the conditions listed below may receive, free of charge, a set of special “DV” plates which permit free parking at all parking meters in the state with no time limit, and allows for parking in handicapped zones. USDVA proof of service connection is required. The veteran’s service-connected disability must:

- Be rated at 100% service-connected AND must substantially impair or interfere with mobility.
- Require the use of an assistive device for mobility.
- Have resulted in the loss or loss of use of one or more limbs.
- Have rendered the veteran permanently blind.

California Veterans Memorials

Veterans memorials and cemeteries are an important element of the California Department of Veterans Affairs.

Through a partnership of state and federal funding, and donations from veterans and family members, the CDVA manages the construction and maintenance of several veterans memorials located in Sacramento.

Capitol Park Veterans Memorials:

- California Veterans Memorial
- California Vietnam Veterans Memorial
- The Bell of the USS California
- Spanish-American War Memorial
- Mexican-American Veterans Memorial *
- Memorial Grove (Civil War Memorial)

** The Mexican-American Veterans Memorial is located next to the State Treasurer's building across 10th Street from the State Capitol.*

Other CDVA responsibilities in this area are:

- Maintenance and updates to the California Veterans Registry, which is accessible through an electronic kiosk located at the California Veterans Memorial. Any California veteran may have personal information entered into the registry without charge.
- Maintenance of the Registry of California Veterans Memorials. This registry is intended to provide on-line information on veterans memorials in the state.

For more information on CDVA's memorial and cemetery programs please contact:

California Department of Veterans Affairs

Division of Veterans Services

1227 O Street, Room 101

Sacramento, California 95814

or call the office at (800) 952-5626 or (916) 653-2573.

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 only a few minutes 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 11 September 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 13 July 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 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, the 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.

Californians who have served our nation reads like a who's who of American Military History. 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

The museum is open

10:00 am until 4:00 pm Tuesday through Thursday and Sunday

10:00 am until 5:00 pm 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.



This resource directory is produced by the California Department of Veterans Affairs - Division of Veteran Services.

www.calvet.ca.gov/vetservice

(916) 653-2573



Prepared by:
The California Department of Veterans Affairs, Veteran Services Division
and the Office of Communications and Legislation

Cover concept and design:
Thomas Morales