



Idaho Division of **VETERANS SERVICES**

*Caring for
America's
Heroes*

The Office of Veterans Advocacy Bulletin May 2024



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To be connected to a VA Suicide prevention and mental health professional, call the toll-free National Suicide Prevention Hotline, and indicate you are a veteran.

Call or Text **988** or **(800) 273-8255**

ALL EMPLOYMENT ACTIVITIES AND SERVICES ARE ADMINISTERED IN A NON-DISCRIMINATORY MANNER IN CONFORMANCE WITH FEDERAL AND STATE EEO AND CIVIL RIGHTS LAWS



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*If you've not already done so, please volunteer to receive the bulletin via email
by emailing Tiffany Barrett at
tiffany.barrett@veterans.idaho.gov*



FROM BILL'S DESK

★★

We have made it to Spring, and I hope everyone is snow-free (especially for our friends in the mountainous regions) and enjoying the Beautiful weather! I want to thank the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Veterans of Foreign Wars National Veterans Service for most of the updates that I am providing.

The **2024 County and Post Service Officer Training** will be held **August 7-9** (with Friday the 9th being a half day) at the Riverside Hotel in Garden City. If you are interested in attending this year's training, please contact Tiffany Barrett at tiffany.barrett@veterans.idaho.gov

Don't Feed the Claim Sharks! There seems to be a rise of "For Profit" individuals and organizations that are taking advantage of our Veterans and family members for benefits that they have earned through service to our Country. The Individuals and Organizations are not accredited with the VA, have no specialized training in matters pertaining to the VA, and do not have access to any VA computer systems. They feed off elderly Veterans and Family Members that are looking for information on assisted living facilities, advertise on Facebook (promising to assist a Veteran get rated 100% service connected) and charge outrageous fees. I had an individual in the community "assist" a family member by charging \$1,500 to simply mail a form that I provided to them to the VA's Intake Center at Janesville, WI! We are told about an individual in Utah that charges Veterans \$5,000 to submit initial claims while other nationally advertised organizations charge Veterans the first six months of their VA award to repay them for their services. Please, NEVER direct anyone to these for-profit Claim Sharks. These are benefits that Veterans have earned by their service to Our Country and there is no need to pay for services that are provided for free. Veterans/family members can work with one of our many nationally accredited Veteran Service Officers that are located throughout the State, with the Disabled American Veterans or with a VA-Accredited Attorney. If anyone asks for your VA.gov Username and Password to file a claim and then asks for money or has you sign a contract that you owe them your VA Retroactive Award/monthly payments... Run!

As of March 1, 2024, the VA has already completed 1 million claims which is the earliest date ever to complete that number. The VA's Goal is to complete 2.4 million claims by the end of the year. VA has reduced the number of backlogged claims (claims that have been pending for over 125 days) by over 100,000 since October 2023. Idaho Veterans have received over \$29 Million in retroactive PACT Act Benefits and nationwide, Veterans have received \$4.66 Billion in retroactive PACT Act Benefits. The Boise VA Regional Office continues to hire Veteran Service Representatives (VSRs) and Rating VSRs. If interested, look on the USA Jobs website www.usajobs.gov for details.

VA Updates Disability Rating Schedule for Digestive System- Recently, the VA announced an update to the VA Schedule for Rating Disabilities specifically pertaining to digestive conditions. These changes add or modify rating criteria for 55 medical conditions in the rating schedule that incorporate medical advancements for treating certain disabilities and modern medical knowledge to compensate veterans more accurately. The three biggest changes that will impact veterans include the new evaluations for celiac disease, irritable bowel syndrome, and hemorrhoids. This change only changes rating criteria and does not do anything in the way of changing any presumptive conditions.

VA OIG Reports that VA did not consistently apply rating schedule updates for hip and knee replacements- In 2021, VA updated the rating schedule for the musculoskeletal body system. The VA Office of Inspector General (OIG) reviewed the effectiveness of VBA's implementation of the changes to the rating schedule specifically for hip and knee replacements or resurfacing and estimated that in approximately 33 percent of reviewed claims, VBA rating specialists did not assign the correct number of months when granting periods of convalescence. The VA's OIG found that VA Ratings specialists lacked effective tools to determine convalescence benefits to help calculate the proper period of time by relying on manually entered dates, increasing the risk of errors. Approximately 18 percent of claims did not accurately consider veterans' additional entitlement to special monthly compensation, and an estimated 38 percent resulted in improper payments of about \$3.3 million dollars in total benefit overpayments and underpayments. Further, VBA did not sufficiently monitor claims decision accuracy following the rating schedule update. The OIG team also determined that although VBA provided training on the rating schedule update, nearly 75 percent of staff did not achieve a passing score of 80 percent and required retraining. Because of these results, the VA Undersecretary for Benefits concurred with the OIG's four recommendations:

- Review hip and knee replacements and resurfacing claims completed from February 7, 2021, through August 31, 2022, to ensure benefits to veterans were correct. The goal date for VA to complete this review is September 30, 2024
- Implement a plan to assist rating specialists in determining accurate benefits
- Develop procedures to monitor claims and ensure processing is compliant with rating schedule revisions
- Supplement training on rating schedule updates to improve comprehension on applying changes

Steps to take if a Veteran erroneously receives a bill for any portion of a C&P examination:

- The Veteran must contact the examination vendor listed on their appointment letter for resolution (see numbers below)
- The Veteran should provide the following to the vendor:
 - A copy of the bill received, and
 - The date and location of the examination
- Vendor phone numbers:
 - LSGS – Loyal Source Government Services 1-833-832-7077
 - OSHS – OptumServe Health Services (formerly LHI) 1-866-833-8387
 - QTC – Leidos QTC Health Services 1-800-682-9701
 - VES – Veterans Evaluation Services •1-877-637-8387 (CONUS)
- 1-713-255-5656 (OCONUS)

VA Pension SSA Match Overpayment- Between 2011 and 2022, challenges in data matching resulted in an inability to reliably verify the self-reported Social Security income for veterans and survivors receiving a VA pension. Upon resuming income verification in June 2022, VA discovered that over 9,900 beneficiaries had higher incomes than reported. VA established debts for these veterans and survivors and contacted them to recoup overpayments. Upon further review, it was discovered that an additional 30,000 veterans and survivors might also have pension debts that have yet to be established.

In November 2023, VA halted the collection of all established pension debts and the formation of new debts while exploring all possible relief options. However, as VA continues to process other claim types, such as dependency claims or medical expense reports, an income match occurs that may identify additional debts. During the period between November 2023 and current day, VA has determined that more than 12,000 pension beneficiaries (up from the initial estimate of 9,900) had higher incomes than reported. Some of those were initially part of the 30,000 that had not yet been processed. VA anticipates this number will continue to increase as additional claims are processed. Currently, VA has more than 27,000 individual claims related to the SSA match to review. Based on the VA Secretary’s December 2023 guidance, VA will not collect pension debts associated with the June 2022 SSA income verification match and will contact the 12,000-plus affected individuals directly to inform them of the resolution process. Additionally, VA is refunding beneficiaries for any payments already made as a result of this income verification match.

NICS Reporting change under Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2024- When a veteran is determined to be mentally incompetent, VA is required by law (the Brady Act) to notify the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS). In passing the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2024, Congress did not amend federal law prohibiting these veterans from possessing firearms or ammunition; however, it did limit VA's ability to continue reporting to NICS in certain cases. Specifically, VA previously reported to NICS in situations when the Veterans Benefits Administration determined – based on clear and convincing evidence or a court order – that a VA beneficiary was unable to manage their financial affairs. The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2024 now restricts VA from using appropriated funds to report a beneficiary unless there is an order or finding from a judicial authority that the beneficiary is a danger to themselves or others. Therefore, through the remainder of Fiscal Year 2024, VA will report to NICS in instances when VA is aware that a mentally incompetent beneficiary has been found by a judicial authority to be a danger to themselves or others.

While VA implements this change and updates its electronic reporting, VA has stopped all weekly reporting to NICS of mentally incompetent beneficiaries. This stoppage also prevents VA from reporting any beneficiary who should be removed from NICS. VA is working to make the necessary updates so that it may resume reporting in accordance with the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2024's requirements as soon as possible.

VA was recently notified and confirmed an error by a contract service provider that nearly 6,000 Veterans and/or accredited representatives received letters advising them to submit an incorrect form. Veterans and/or accredited representatives who submitted outdated forms for decision review requests (VA forms 0995 and 0996) were sent letters directing them, inaccurately, to submit form 526EZ. VA will ensure all affected Veterans are made whole and they receive the benefits they have earned. Claims identified as impacted are being processed with adjusted effective dates and using the date of their original submission as appropriate. VBA continues to examine data to identify which cases are resolved satisfactorily and those that remain to be completed. The data breakdown will be provided once it is available. On March 7, 2024, VA was first alerted to the error by Veterans, Veteran Service Organizations, and VA Regional Office staff members. VA and the service provider took immediate corrective action to stop inaccurate letters from being sent by deploying system fixes to the automation process. Additionally, VA has initiated appropriate contractual actions to hold the service provider accountable for the failure and lack of appropriate configuration management procedures. VA utilizes the service providers automation capabilities to support receipt of claims and evidence submitted to VBA. To ensure the automation services are operating as designed, a full operational review will be required by the vendor. In parallel, VA will conduct an independent technical analysis of the service provider's solution and after-action report.

GI Bill Modernization of Payment System- Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) Education Service will soon take the first step to modernize and integrate its payment system, so all VBA benefits will be paid to beneficiaries through one system. This system update is part of VA's efforts to eliminate the 50-year-old, antiquated GI bill payment system, and requires Post-9/11 GI Bill beneficiaries who are receiving education benefits to have a single payment account on file. Allowing only one payment account also helps reduce improper payments and fraud, protecting beneficiaries from predatory actors. Nearly 50,000 of 800,000 total Post-9/11 GI Bill beneficiaries had more than one payment address on file as of February 2024 – one for their education benefits, and one for their other VBA benefits. In late February 2024, VBA deployed a phased communication plan, notifying impacted Post-9/11 GI Bill beneficiaries of the requirement to update their VA benefits payment information to use the same account for all benefits by April 20, 2024. The easiest way for beneficiaries to make this change is to logon to Change Your VA Direct Deposit Information | Veterans Affairs. When they get to the pay information, there is a section for the bank account information of their education benefit, and one for the bank account information for the other benefit they receive. The beneficiary should then update the bank account information to use the same account for all benefits. As of March 29, VBA has sent over 174,000 emails and 190,000 text messages to impacted beneficiaries and made over 100,000 calls. VBA has also worked closely with School Certifying Officials and stakeholders, like Student Veterans of America, and State Directors of Veterans Affairs to share the message with students about having a single payment account. VBA will continue communications to beneficiaries throughout March and April. Currently, there remain just over 17,000 beneficiaries with more than one payment address on file. Importantly, no Veteran will miss a benefits payment of any type. For students who do not consolidate their bank accounts for benefits by April 20, VA will make the change on their behalf.

Department of Veterans Affairs announced end to Five-Year Pilot Program, Veteran Employment Through Technology Education Courses (VET TEC)- The VET TEC program formally ended April 1, 2024. As of March 25, 2024, VA was unable to fund any new VET TEC students. Students currently enrolled in VET TEC programs will continue training uninterrupted. VET TEC monthly housing allowance and tuition and fees payments will be made through fiscal year 2024; so, no students' payments will be affected, even if their formal term ends after April 1. Veterans in receipt of a VET TEC Certificate of Eligibility, but not yet enrolled in a program will be notified that funding for the pilot program has ended and will be reminded that this is the last year of the VET TEC pilot program. VA is unable to fund any new VET TEC students. This means no new VET TEC enrollments can be submitted or paid. New VET TEC applicants will have their applications for the pilot program reviewed, and if found eligible will be notified that while they met the necessary criteria, no funding remains for the pilot program. Veterans or representatives with questions regarding their VET TEC eligibility or the VET TEC program, should email the VET TEC team at VETTEC.VBABUF@va.gov.

VA Home Loan Guarantee Covid Refund Modification Programs Extended through May 31, 2024-

To assist Veterans in retaining their homes, VA has extended COVID-19 related programs to provide several loss mitigation options to allow for deferral or modification to existing VA home loans. Specifically, VA extended the COVID Refund Modification, Disaster Extend Modification and Loan Deferment options through May 31, 2024, to assist Veterans impacted by the COVID-19 national emergency who are behind on their mortgage payments. By strongly encouraging mortgage servicers to pause foreclosures and extend the options above, we can continue assisting Veterans with their loans while we continue to develop our newest home retention option, VA Servicing Purchase (VASP) program. Through VASP, VA will purchase defaulted VA loans from mortgage servicers, modify the loans, and then place them in the VA-owned portfolio as direct loans. For more information, please visit [- https://www.benefits.va.gov/HOMELOANS/resources_circulars.asp](https://www.benefits.va.gov/HOMELOANS/resources_circulars.asp)

VA Medical Center Expansion of Eligibility due to Early Implementation of PACT Act:

1. What is changing? Beginning March 5, 2024, three new cohorts of Veterans will be eligible to enroll directly in VA health care without first applying for VA benefits. The three cohorts are:

- Veterans who participated in a toxic exposure risk activity (TERA), as defined by law, while serving on active duty, active duty for training, or inactive duty training.

- Veterans who were assigned to a duty station in (including airspace above) certain locations during specific periods of time:

 - On or after August 2, 1990, in the following countries: Bahrain, Iraq, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, or the United Arab Emirates.

 - On or after September 11, 2001, in the following countries: Afghanistan, Djibouti, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Yemen, Uzbekistan, or any other country determined relevant by VA. (Note: VA has not determined any other country relevant at this time.)

- Veterans who were deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Freedom's Sentinel, Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation New Dawn, Operation Inherent Resolve, and Resolute Support Mission.

VA has announced that they are expanding healthcare eligibility to all veterans who served in the Vietnam War, the Gulf War, Iraq, Afghanistan, or any other combat zone after 9/11/2001. Originally, the PACT Act called for a phased in approach, but has instead opened this expanded eligibility to VA Healthcare effective March 5, 2024. Please encourage any eligible veterans to enroll in VA healthcare; they can do so online at <https://www.va.gov/health-care/apply/application/introduction>, by phone at 877-222-8387, or by visiting a local VA medical facility. Veterans who qualify under Section 103 will be allocated to Priority Group 6, unless eligible for enrollment in a higher priority group, and can enroll directly in VA health care without first applying for VA benefits.

2. Why is it changing? Section 103 of the PACT Act required VA to make three new cohorts of Veterans eligible for VA health care, including hospital care (including mental health services and counseling), medical services, and nursing home care for any illness. These cohorts were originally scheduled to become eligible for health care on a phase-in schedule based on separation or discharge date, beginning October 2024, and continuing in two-year increments until October 2032. The law allowed the Secretary to modify the eligibility dates if the Secretary determined appropriate based on the number of Veterans in these categories receiving care and services and the resources available to VA.

3. Why is it changing now? At the direction of the President, VA will accelerate the initial schedule under the law to give all three cohorts of Veterans health care eligibility on March 5, 2024, and allow those who served to begin receiving the benefits they earned and deserve. This will eliminate the phase-in approach called for under the law, meaning that millions of Veterans will get access to VA health care more quickly. VA wants to bring as many Veterans as possible into their care because VA is proven to be the best, most affordable health care in America for Veterans.

4. What is not changing? VA will continue to deliver the best health care in America for Veterans by leveraging strong practices already in place and improving processes to support this expansion of care. VHA will continue to draw upon the wealth of knowledge and world-class resources available to care for Veterans and their unique health care needs. Additional PACT Act health care eligibility for Vietnam era and combat Veterans is also ongoing and unchanged. The changes to Section 103 implementation do not have any impact on the VA benefits process. Please visit [VA.gov/PACT](https://www.va.gov/PACT) for more information.

5. What are the individual and organizational risks of not changing? Many Veterans eligible under Section 103 with more recent discharge dates and who are not eligible under any other authorities would have to wait until October 2032 to become eligible for care or increased benefits.

6. What are the individual and organizational benefits of the change?

Individual Benefits

Veterans exposed to toxins and other hazards during their military service will be eligible sooner and can begin receiving exposure-informed care at VA

This authority will benefit enrolled Veterans in Priority Groups 7-8 who may be eligible for an upgrade to Priority Group 6

Quicker access to individualized health care needs through toxic exposure screening
Improved health outcomes
Improved patient experience

Organizational Benefits

Better alignment for continuity of care and services

Allow VA to move more quickly and comprehensively to determine if illnesses are related to a service-connected disability.

Increased enrollment and reliance on VA's high quality health care

Opportunity for health care providers to better understand Veteran needs through additional training on toxic exposures and research on patient populations

IVF Federal Register Notice & Expansion- VA posted a notice in the federal register on April 4, 2024, regarding its revised [in-vitro fertilization policy](#), which was announced on March 11, 2024. The expansion of VA's IVF policy is being executed initially through an Instruction of the Secretary. The instruction clarifies how VA's IVF policy has changed and provides direction to employees on how to implement the policy changes. This clarification supports VA employees in carrying out VA's IVF policy clearly and consistently throughout the VA system without delay. VA will also update its directive and regulations to reflect these changes and provide further guidance. By law, VA's IVF policy must adhere to the Department of Defense's. DoD updated its policy on March 8, permitting VA to offer this expansion in coverage. The Instruction of the Secretary does not create new policy, but instead clarifies how VA's IVF policy should be carried out given the DoD's recent policy amendment. The updated policy clarifies that VA's coverage of in-vitro fertilization (IVF) is expanded to include eligible unmarried Veterans and eligible Veterans who need to use donated sperm, eggs, or embryos, such as same-sex couples. VA expects to be ready to deliver this care to Veterans nationwide in the near future. Veterans who receive IVF from VA must be unable to procreate without the use of fertility treatment due to a health condition caused by their military service. All Veterans enrolled in VA health care are eligible for a wide range of reproductive health services at VA – including maternity care, gynecology care, access to contraceptives, cervical cancer screening, menopause care, and more. All enrolled Veterans are also eligible for fertility evaluation, management and select treatment for fertility conditions. Additionally, VA can cover up to \$2000 of adoption expenses for Veterans who have a service-connected disability that causes infertility. For the complete amendment of the Federal Register posting please visit: <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2024/04/04/2024-07040/instructions-for-determining-eligibility-for-in-vitro-fertilization-ivf-benefit>

For more information about reproductive health at VA, visit [VA.gov/ReproductiveHealth](https://www.va.gov/ReproductiveHealth).

VA provided free emergency suicide prevention care to nearly 50,000 Veterans and former service members in first year of new policy- In the first year of VA's [new policy](#) allowing eligible veterans and former service members in acute suicidal crisis to go to any VA or non-VA health care facility for no-cost emergency health care. 49,714 Veterans and former service members have used this benefit — providing them with lifesaving care and saving more than \$64 million in health care costs. This policy has helped prevent veteran suicide by guaranteeing no cost, world-class care to eligible individuals in times of crisis — including emergency room care, inpatient, or crisis residential care for up to 30 days, outpatient care for up to 90 days, and transportation costs. The policy has also increased access to no-cost emergent suicide care for up to 9 million veterans, because eligible veterans do not need to be enrolled in the VA system or go to a department facility

to use this benefit. Any veteran – enrolled in VA or not – can go to a VA or non-VA emergency room for no cost emergency suicidal care under this policy. Additionally, this benefit covers certain individuals who do not meet the requirements to be considered a veteran, including those who were released from active duty under conditions other than dishonorable. It also covers service members — including reservists and national guard members — who served at least 100 days on active duty under a combat exclusion or in support of a contingency operation either directly or by operating an unmanned aerial vehicle from another location. Veterans who experienced military sexual trauma while in uniform are also covered.

This benefit was created by the Veterans Comprehensive Prevention, Access to Care, and Treatment (COMPACT) Act of 2020. Under this policy, eligible individuals receive:

- Emergent suicide care provided by, paid for, or reimbursed by VA.
- Expanded access and eligibility (Individuals do not need to be enrolled in the VA system to use this benefit).
- Assurance that they will not be responsible for costs associated with emergency suicide care, including emergency transportation.
- Referral for appropriate VA programs and benefits they may be eligible for following the period of emergent suicide care.

To use this benefit, any eligible individual who is experiencing an emergency suicidal crisis should go to the nearest ER as soon as possible — transportation costs are covered by VA — and tell the ER staff that they are covered by this policy. The ER staff or someone acting on the individual's behalf should notify VA right away by calling 844-724-7842 (TTY: 711) or by using [VA's Emergency Care Reporting \(ECR\) portal](#).

If an eligible individual receives a bill for community care after receiving emergency care during or after a suicidal crisis that they believe should be covered by VA, they should contact VA's customer service center as soon as possible at 877-881-7618.

If you or someone you know is having thoughts of suicide, contact the Veterans Crisis Line to receive free, confidential support and crisis intervention available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Dial 988 then Press 1, chat online at VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat, or text 838255.

TRICARE Specialty Medication Update- Starting March 1, 2024, TRICARE beneficiaries who take specialty medications will gain access to expanded specialty pharmacy services at no additional cost beyond the TRICARE cost-share. This expanded specialty pharmacy service will be through Accredo and will offer a host of new benefits that are currently unavailable to those who need specialty medication.

Some of these changes are:

- 24/7 beneficiary access to pharmacists, nurses, and clinicians who are trained to provide personalized clinical care to patients.
- Individualized support from Accredo's Therapeutic Resource Centers (TRCs), comprised of dedicated staff who specialize in different health conditions.
- Lower mail order copayments and up to 90-day refills for TRICARE-defined specialty drugs when beneficiaries choose TRICARE Home Delivery.
- Access to social workers, patient care advocates, and dieticians who can provide holistic support to patients navigating specialty conditions.
- Convenient new digital tools and apps that allow beneficiaries to customize their care when and how they need it, including order tracking and online payments, selecting specific delivery dates, refills by text, and dose reminders.
- It is also important to note that TRICARE beneficiaries who currently receive their specialty medication through TRICARE Home Delivery will automatically transition to the enhanced series with no action required, starting March 1, 2024. Most importantly, those who do not want to use Accredo will not be required to do so and will still be able to fill their specialty medications at in-network retail pharmacies or military pharmacies.

VHA aligns with leading health care organizations to ensure trustworthy use of AI- Recently VA announced that it has aligned its artificial intelligence (AI) efforts for health care with over 28 private health care providers and payers to adhere to voluntary commitments to ensure the delivery of only the most trustworthy use of AI. VA is the largest integrated health care provider in the country, a leader in AI, and the first government health care provider to align with these new principles. In December 2023, the Biden-Harris Administration announced Executive Order (EO) 14110, [Safe, Secure, and Trustworthy Development and Use of Artificial Intelligence](#), which outlines specific actions required by federal agencies, including VA, to ensure the use of trustworthy AI government wide. EO 14110 contains many elements that specifically apply to health and patient safety in the federal government. VHA has already taken several proactive steps to facilitate the use of trustworthy AI across medical centers and facilities, including the following actions and initiatives:

- **VA established its first Trustworthy AI Framework in summer of 2023.** The [VA Trustworthy AI Framework](#) is the first federal agency framework of its kind to integrate all AI guidance from the Biden-Harris Administration, up to that point, and provide guidance tailored to VA's mission.
- **VA launched a new iteration of the AI Tech Sprint** to counter health care worker burnout in response to the new EO 14110 AI Tech Sprints are iterative competitions to create AI solutions for narrowly scoped challenges, with trustworthy AI integrated from inception through implementation. The AI Tech Sprints address two focus areas: **speech-to-text solutions** for use in medical appointments, and **document processing** to reduce the time needed to integrate non-VA medical records into VHA's electronic health record.
- **VA is committed to using FDA-approved health care AI technology.** Approved technology, such as AI-assisted colorectal cancer screening products have offered a transformative solution to addressing the challenges of preventing colorectal cancer among Veterans. Future efforts to utilize FDA-approved health care AI technology to support Veteran health care needs are under consideration.
- **The AI Oversight Committee (AIOC) Workflow Pilot** empowers medical center directors to establish processes and systems of governance that support compliance with this Medical Center Policy and ensures that the enforceable requirements for trustworthy AI are met.
- **The AI Institutional Review Board (IRB) Pilot** allows comprehensive vetting of AI use cases to determine if an AI model follows the principles of trustworthy AI per relevant executive orders and other federal regulations that protect human subjects.
- **For More Information:** Please visit <https://department.va.gov/ai/>

VA Life Insurance (VALife)- VALife is the VA's first new insurance program in nearly 50 years and since January 1, 2023, the VA's Insurance Service has received over 42,000 applications and has issued over \$1 Billion in coverage. VALife is on track to be one of the VA's most inclusive benefits, providing life insurance to more service-connected Veterans than ever before. P.L. 116-315 authorized Veterans Affairs Life Insurance (VALife) as

- **Guaranteed Acceptance Whole Life Insurance** coverage available to **all service-connected Veterans aged 80 and under** at all disability ratings: **0 to 100%.**
- Veterans who apply for a new disability rating before age 81 and get that rating for a new condition after turning 81, can apply for VALife within two years of rating notification.

Important things to know about VALife:

- Fully automated online application and approval process.
- No medical underwriting.
- Builds cash value after 2 years.
- Death within first 2 years pays out premiums plus interest.
- No waiver of premiums.

Veterans can apply and manage their VALife policy online and the Veteran's accredited fiduciary may also apply via DocuSign.

Check eligibility and enroll in VALife at <https://www.va.gov/life-insurance/>.

Reminder about **Camp Lejeune Contaminated Water Claims.** If anyone wants to file a Camp Lejeune Justice Act Claim/Lawsuit (Under the PACT Act), **it must be submitted before August 10, 2024.** These are the claims submitted through an attorney to the Department of the Navy/Department of Justice and completely separate from filing a claim for presumptive service connection with the VA. **There is NO Deadline to file a Presumptive Service Connection Claim to the VA.**

**** Changes in IDVS Service Officer Locations:** Within the next 30-45 days, our two Veteran Service Officers who are currently located in the **Caldwell's Idaho Department of Labor Office** will be relocating. Abel Silva will be moving into the **Caldwell Veterans Memorial Building**, located at 1101 Cleveland Blvd and will be in the same location as Kelly McCartney. Our Service Officer Team that is currently located in the **Pocatello Idaho Department of Labor Building** will be moving back into the **Idaho State Veterans Home in Pocatello**.

If there are any questions, please feel free to contact our offices and enjoy the Great Spring Weather and associated activities.

Semper Fidelis,

Bill Heyob

Bill Heyob
SgtMajor/USMC (Retired)
Bureau Chief/State Veteran Service Officer
Office of Veterans Advocacy
Idaho Division of Veterans Services
Boise VA Regional Office



VETERAN RESOURCE GUIDE

QUICKLY FIND VETERAN RESOURCES NEAR YOU

Benefits Education Social Work Legal Housing & more

Where Idaho Veterans Can:

- Find trusted organizations in your area
- Search anonymously from anywhere
- Customize search options to find all local available resources



www.idahoveteransguide.org



DON'T FEED THE SHARKS



DontFeedTheSharks.org

What is a "Claim Shark"?

- A Claim Shark is an individual or company that charges hefty fees to "assist" or "consult" veterans with filing their VA benefit claims – this practice is illegal!
- Claim Sharks are not VA accredited, meaning they aren't required to adhere to the well-established professional and ethical standards of VA accreditation, so their advice can often be misleading or even fraudulent.
- Like a "Loan Shark," once you're in, you can't get out, and may be subject to new and hidden fees whenever you get a new rating, no matter who does the work.

Some of their predatory practices are:

- Promising or guaranteeing an increased disability rating or percentage increase.
- Advertising expedited VA claims decisions.
- Requesting login credentials to access a veteran's personal information through secure VA websites like eBenefits or VA.gov.
- Using confusing tactics or ambiguous language to mislead claimants or coerce them into signing a contract.
- Telling veterans to forego VA exams and offering health consultations within their own network of doctors.

Who are the Claim Sharks?

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| • Trajector Medical | • Patriot Angels |
| • Vet Benefits Guide | • Veteran Care Services |
| • Veterans Guardian | • VetComm |
| • VA Claims Insider | • VA Claims Academy |
| • Telemedica | • Vet Assist |

Veterans can protect themselves by:

- Always working with VA accredited representatives.
- Attending all exams ordered by VA.
- Not signing contracts.
- Not agreeing to fees or payments from future benefits.
- Not agreeing to pay for medical consultations or opinions.
- Not providing access to Protected Health Information or Personal Identifiable Information.

Who is NOT a Claim Shark?

- VA accredited veterans service organization representatives, like the VFW
- VA accredited claims agents
- VA accredited attorneys
- Attorneys assisting with Camp LeJeune lawsuits who do not charge excessive fees





FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 8, 2024

CONTACTS:

[Marissa Morrison](#) (Crapo)

Idaho Congressional Delegation to Host Passport Fairs

Boise, ID--U.S. Senators Mike Crapo and Jim Risch and U.S. Representatives Mike Simpson and Russ Fulcher (all R-Idaho), in coordination with the U.S. Department of State, announced seven "Passport Fairs" to be held throughout the state from May 29 to June 1, 2024. The fairs held in Sandpoint, Idaho Falls, Coeur d'Alene, Moscow, Pocatello, Twin Falls and Meridian will assist Idahoans with passport needs closer to home.

Idahoans in need of a passport, or those whose passports have expired or will expire in the next year, may register for an appointment. Appointments should be made in advance, online.

"We recognize the high-demand for passport services within Idaho's fast-growing population," **Idaho's Congressional Delegation said.** "Without a permanent passport office in-state, events like these will help Idahoans obtain expedited passport services closer to home. Our staff continue to work diligently to meet the needs of Idahoans seeking assistance with passport-related issues and applications."

For more information or to make an appointment click [HERE](#).

DFAS - What to Do When a Military Retiree Dies - Checklist

What You Need to Do: Claim a Retiree's Final Pay

When the death of a retiree is reported, we mail a condolence letter to the person/people listed in the retiree's account as the Arrears of Pay (AOP) beneficiary. If there is no beneficiary listed in the retiree's account, we will send the letter to the retiree's legal representative, if known, or to the retiree's last known address. The condolence letter is generally sent within a week of the report of death.

The mailing will include the **Arrears of Pay (AOP) claim form—SF 1174 Claim for Unpaid Compensation of Deceased Member of the Uniformed Service**.

- Complete and submit** the SF 1174 form, along with the retiree's death certificate indicating the cause and/or manner of death. This death certificate is required for us to calculate and pay the retiree's final pay. Please note that the SF 1174 must be signed by two witnesses in addition to the claimant.
- Include a completed **Direct Deposit Authorization (DFAS-CL Form 1059)** with your SF 1174 to have an AOP payment direct deposited to your bank account. Please avoid using a joint account that was shared with a deceased retiree for this deposit. Banks return those payments to DFAS.
- Upload** a PDF of your completed/signed/witnessed SF 1174 form and supporting documents via the convenient askDFAS **online upload tool** on DFAS.mil: <https://www.dfas.mil/askdfas>. Please make sure the retiree's name and Social Security Number are on each document you upload.

OR **Mail** AOP claims to: Defense Finance and Accounting Service, U.S. Military Retired Pay, 8899 E 56th Street, Indianapolis IN 46249-1200 OR **Fax** to: 1-800-469-6559

*You can download forms from our **Forms Library webpage** at <https://www.dfas.mil/raforms> and submit them without waiting for the mail.*

*Please see the **How to Claim a Retiree's Arrears of Pay (AOP) Using the SF 1174 webpage** at <https://www.dfas.mil/retireeaop> for how-to information and helpful tools for filling out and submitting these documents, including our helpful Form Wizard, which guides you through completing the form correctly and easily.*

What You Need to Do: The Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP)

- If the retiree was enrolled in the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) or the Retired Serviceman's Family Protection Plan (RSFPP), **promptly complete and submit** the DD 2656-7 Verification for Survivor Annuity and supporting documents.
- Upload** a PDF of your completed/signed DD 2656-7 form and supporting documents via the convenient askDFAS **online upload tool** on DFAS.mil: <https://www.dfas.mil/askdfas>. Please make sure the retiree's name and Social Security Number are on each document you upload.

OR **Mail** SBP claims to: Defense Finance and Accounting Service, U.S. Military Annuity Pay, 8899 E 56th Street, Indianapolis IN 46249-1300 OR **Fax** to: 1-800-982-8459

*You can download forms from our **Forms Library webpage** at <https://www.dfas.mil/raforms> and submit them without waiting for the mail.*

*Please see the **Start an SBP Annuity webpage** at <https://www.dfas.mil/startsbp> for how-to information and helpful tools for filling out and submitting these documents, including our helpful Form Wizard, which guides you through completing the form correctly and easily.*

The Retiree's Final Tax Document (1099-R)

The retiree's **final tax document (IRS 1099-R)** is typically issued at the same time as the Arrears of Pay payment to the AOP beneficiary.

If a retiree's legal representative who is not the AOP beneficiary needs a copy of the 1099-R, they should send a signed and dated letter that includes the retiree's full name, Social Security Number, the 1099-R request, and the full name and relationship of the requestor, **along with a copy of the retiree's Certificate of Death** (if not already on file). The Certificate of Death is required in order for the 1099-R to be issued.

Oct2023

DFAS - What to Do When a Military Retiree Dies - Checklist

What You Need to Know

We are sorry for your loss, and we are here to help you. Although it's a difficult time, it's important to report the death of a military retiree promptly. Please use one of the options below to report the death of a retiree.

Information about **claiming a retiree's final pay** and **claiming Survivor Benefit Plan payments** (if the retiree was enrolled) is also included in this checklist.

Additional information is available on the DFAS Report a Retiree's Death webpage:

<https://www.dfas.mil/retdeath>

Please note: The Arrears of Pay (AOP) beneficiary and Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) beneficiary are designated by the retiree. They can be the same, but are not always the same. Separate claims must be made for AOP and SBP.

How to Report a Retiree's Death

Prompt reporting of a death is important to avoid overpayment. Retired pay ends on the date of death of the retiree.

You can report a retiree's death using our online form or by calling our Customer Care Center, or via fax or mail. Filling out the online askDFAS Notification of Death form is the quickest and most convenient option. It's available 24/7.

- To use the **online askDFAS Notification of Death form**, visit our Quick Tools webpage: <https://www.dfas.mil/raqicktools>, then click on "To Report the Death of a Retiree."
- To contact our **Customer Care Center**, call toll-free: 1-800-321-1080 or 1-317-212-0551 (during business hours M-F, Eastern Time).
- Fax** to: 1-800-469-6559 OR **Mail** to: Defense Finance and Accounting Service, U.S. Military Retired Pay, 8899 E 56th Street, Indianapolis IN 46249-1200

What Happens When DFAS Receives Notification of Death

Upon notification of death, we will send a condolence letter with instructions for claiming the retiree's final pay. If the retiree was enrolled in the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) we will also send the forms to claim SBP annuity payments.

*DFAS will **stop monthly payments upon notification of death** to prevent overpayment. Because retired pay ends on the date of death, **if a payment was made after the date of the retiree's death**, we are required to notify the bank to **reclaim the entire payment**. Once we receive the paperwork to claim a retiree's pay, we can calculate and pay the retiree's final pro-rated payment to the entitled Arrears of Pay (AOP) ben-*

Supporting Documents Required

- ◆ We are required to have a copy of the **retiree's Certificate of Death** that **states the cause or manner of death** prior to making payments. If you have not yet provided this specific type of death certificate, please include a copy of it with your documents.
- ◆ The supporting documents to claim SBP depends on your individual situation. Please check our webpage for specific information: <https://www.dfas.mil/startsbp>

Reminders

- Is your form **signed and dated** by you (and by witnesses for the AOP SF 1174)?
- Did you include supporting documents? Is the retiree's name and Social Security Number on each document?

Survivor Benefit Plan Annuitant Eligibility Verification Quick Reference

What Changed in 2023

Please see our webpage for FAQs: <https://www.dfas.mil/managesbp>

DFAS simplified the eligibility verification process for SBP annuitants as of August 2023.

Now, SBP annuitants who need to verify their continued eligibility for SBP annuity payments will only need to provide **ONE annual verification each year**.

Annual Verification Types (as of August 2023)

Survivor Benefit Plan-Marital Status Update (SBP-MSU)



The **Survivor Benefit Plan-Marital Status Update (SBP-MSU)** is required annually to confirm marital status and continued eligibility for the Survivor Benefit Plan. The SBP-MSU replaces the COE.



Due the first day of the month of annuitant's birthday.

Foreign Address Update for Mailed Check (FAUMC)



The **Foreign Address Update for Mailed Check (FAUMC)** is required **annually from annuitant's** receiving a check in the mail outside the United States if they don't need to submit a School Certification or a Survivor Benefit Plan-Marriage Status Update. The FAUMC replaces the ROE.



Due the first day of the month of annuitant's birthday.

School Certification



The DD Form 2788 Child Annuitant's **School Certification** and the Child Annuitant's Certification for **Previous Attendance Letter** are required annually to confirm full-time school attendance and marital status for continued eligibility for the Survivor Benefit Plan. *(Note: School Certification requirements did not change.)*



Due the first day of the month annuitant's school year ends.

Summary of New, Simpler Annual Verification Requirements

If you are:

Spouse/former spouse annuitant under the age of 55, the



Survivor Benefit Plan-Marital Status Update is your only required annual verification.

Caring for Incapacitated child annuitant age 14 or over,



the Survivor Benefit Plan-Marital Status Update is the only required annual verification.

Child annuitant age 18-22 (and not documented as incapacitated), the School Certification/Previous Attendance Letter is your only required annual verification.



Receiving a check in the mail outside the U.S.A. and do not need to submit a School Certification or a Survivor Benefit Plan-Marriage Status Update, the Foreign Address Update for Mailed Check is your only required annual verification.



Child annuitant age 14-17 (and not documented as incapacitated), the Survivor Benefit Plan-Marital Status Update is your only required annual verification.



⇒ **See Page 2 for details**

Survivor Benefit Plan Annuitant Eligibility Verification Quick Reference

New, Simpler Requirements

New Requirements:

Spouse and Former Spouse SBP Annuitants

(Includes spouse/former spouse annuitants documented as incapacitated)



Spouse and former spouse annuitants **under the age of 55 = Survivor Benefit Plan-Marital Status Update (SBP-MSU) due annually** the first day of the month of their birthday.



Spouse and former spouse annuitants age 55 and **over receiving a check in the mail outside the U.S. = Foreign Address Update for Mailed Checks (FAUMC) letter due annually** the first day of the month of their birthday.

New Requirements:

Child SBP Annuitants Under Age 18



Child SBP Annuitants age 14 and over = **Survivor Benefit Plan-Marital Status Update (SBP-MSU) due annually** the first of the month of their birthday.



Child SBP Annuitants under 14 receiving a paycheck in the mail to a foreign address = **Foreign Address Update for Mailed Checks (FAUMC) letter due annually** the first day of the month of their birthday.

New Requirements:

Child SBP Annuitants Documented as Incapacitated



Child SBP Annuitants Documented as Incapacitated **age 14 and over = Survivor Benefit Plan-Marital Status Update (SBP-MSU) due annually** the first day of the month of their birthday.



Child SBP Annuitants Documented as Incapacitated **under age 14 and receiving a paycheck in the mail to a foreign address = Foreign Address Update for Mailed Checks (FAUMC) letter due annually** the first day of the month of their birthday.

Requirements:

Child SBP Annuitants Ages 18-22

(School Certification Requirements Did Not Change)



Student Child SBP Annuitants **turning 18 = School Certification and Direct Deposit forms due once** (the first day of the month of their 18th birthday).



Student Child SBP Annuitants ages **18-22 = School Certification/Previous Attendance Letter due annually** the first day of the last month of their school year.

Notes:

- Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) annuitants need to verify their continued eligibility regularly to continue to receive SBP annuity payments. There are several types of verification. The requirements depend on the SBP annuitant's age and relationship to the military service member.
- As of August of 2023, SBP annuitants who owe an annual eligibility verification will only owe **one annual eligibility verification each year**. Prior to this change, some SBP annuitants needed to complete multiple forms each year.
- The names of the verification documents (except for School Certifications) changed starting August 2023.
- DFAS will accept the old version of verification documents through 2024.
- "Child" SBP annuitant refers to the annuitant's relationship to the service member, not the child's age.
- If the annuitant is documented as incapacitated or is a minor child, the legal representative must sign and submit the verification.

Helpful DFAS Webpages for SBP Annuitants

Manage Your SBP Annuity

<https://www.dfas.mil/managesbp>

School Certifications

<https://www.dfas.mil/schoolcerts>

Quick Tools

<https://www.dfas.mil/raquicktools>

DFAS Facebook

www.facebook.com/DFASOfficial

myPay

<https://mypay.dfas.mil>



BURIAL EQUITY ACT

The Burial Equity Act has been passed by the Idaho State Legislature and signed by Governor Little. Former National Guard and Reservists are now eligible for burial/inurnment at the Idaho State Veterans Cemetery effective immediately.

There will be fees associated with these interments as the VA does not provide any funding for a prior service member without qualifying active-duty service.



Interment Fees for FY2024 Idaho State Veterans Cemetery

\$0 – Veteran interment at any location within the Veterans Cemetery. VA Plot Allowance will be billed by the Idaho State Veterans Cemetery to the VBAPMC. This includes a committal service, interment, and grave marker.

\$948 – Veteran's Spouse (non-veteran) at any location within the Veterans Cemetery, at current VA cost (subject to change each fiscal year, Oct 1st). This includes a committal service, interment, and grave marker.

\$948 – Guardsman, Reservist, Spouse at any location within the Veterans Cemetery, at current VA cost (subject to change each fiscal year, Oct 1st). This includes a committal service, and interment.

\$700 – Veteran, Guardsman, Reservist or Spouse casket burial UPPER TIER section.

Required per IDAPA code 21.01.04, as this area was not included in the original NCA Cemetery Grant.

This fee of \$700 is a private pay for each person (Veteran, Guardsman, Reservist & Spouse) due at the time of service and is not covered by the VBAPMC.

\$400 – Upright Marker cost for Guardsman, Reservist, and their spouse.

\$250 – Urn Niche & Flat Marker cost for Guardsman, Reservist, and their spouse.

\$250 – Memorial Markers are provided for eligible deceased active-duty service members, veterans, and spouses, whose remains were not recovered or identified, were buried at sea, donated to science or whose cremated remains were scattered, and who **have not** already received a VA-provided marker in any other location.

\$500 – Memorial Markers for Guardsman, Reservist, and their spouses, whose remains were not recovered or identified, were buried at sea, donated to science or whose cremated remains were scattered.

Only casketed (non-cremated) remains may be placed in the casket sections, only urns may be placed in the urn sections. Any special requests must be approved by the cemetery director and require a written statement from the surviving next-of-kin.

Federal Fiscal Year: Oct 1 – Sep 30

National VA Plot Allowance could change each fiscal year; Guardsman, Reservist, and spouse interment fees are equivalent to the current VA Plot Allowance for Veterans. Guardsman, Reservist, and spouse fee will change accordingly and is due at the time of service. However, the **Veterans reimbursement is based on Date of Death** (Please see below the Date of Death VA Plot Allowance amounts for Veterans).

VA PLOT ALLOWANCES based on Date of Death of Veterans:

FY2024 (Oct 2023 – Sep 2024) = \$948

FY 2023 (Oct 2022 – Sep 2023) = \$893.00	FY 2016 (Oct 2015 – Sep 2016) = \$747.00
FY 2022 (Oct 2021 – Sep 2022) = \$828.00	FY 2015 (Oct 2014 – Sep 2015) = \$745.00
FY 2021 (Oct 2020 – Sep 2021) = \$807.00	FY 2014 (Oct 2013 – Sep 2014) = \$734.00
FY 2020 (Oct 2019 – Sep 2020) = \$796.00	FY 2013 (Oct 2012 – Sep 2013) = \$722.00
FY 2019 (Oct 2018 – Sep 2019) = \$780.00	FY 2012 (Oct 2011 – Sep 2012) = \$700.00
FY 2018 (Oct 2017 – Sep 2018) = \$762.00	Dec 1, 2001 – Sep 30, 2011 = \$300.00
FY 2017 (Oct 2016 – Sep 2017) = \$749.00	Before December 1, 2001 = \$150.00

Spouse Fee is current Federal Fiscal Year amount.

ISVC DATE RECEIVED STAMP
(DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE)

ISVC ELIGIBILITY STAMP
(DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE)

PRE-REGISTRATION APPLICATION

IDAHO STATE VETERANS CEMETERY - BOISE

10100 Horseshoe Bend Rd. Boise, ID 83714 <https://veterans.idaho.gov/cemetery>
Phone: (208) 780-1340 Fax: (208) 780-1341 BoiseCemetery@veterans.idaho.gov

FY 2024

PLEASE SEE PAGE 2 FOR ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Application is for: (Check all that apply) Veteran National Guard/Reserve
 Spouse Disabled Dependent

My spouse and I are both veterans: Yes No (Each veteran must submit an application, DD-214, & marriage certificate.)

VETERAN'S INFORMATION (A copy of most recent discharge document (DD-214, NGB 22, etc.) must be included.)

NAME: _____
(Legal Name) First Middle Last

SSN: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Gender: M F Marital Status: Married Widowed Divorced Never Married

Service Branch: _____ Rank: _____ Retired Military? Yes No

Active-Duty Entry Date: _____ Exit/Retirement Date: _____

SPOUSE'S (OR DEPENDENT'S) INFORMATION (For Spouse, a copy of marriage certificate must be included.) (For disabled dependent eligibility requirements, contact the cemetery office. Use additional application if needed.)

NAME: _____
(Legal Name) First Middle Last

SSN: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Gender: M F Marital Status: Married Widowed Divorced Never Married

APPLICANT'S CONTACT INFORMATION

MAILING ADDRESS: _____
(Required) Street City State Zip Code

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____
(Required) (Required)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT By signing below I certify that all information on this form is true, correct, and complete to the best of my knowledge. I also certify, to the best of my knowledge, that the applicant has never committed or been convicted of any of the following: a) a capital crime, such as murder or other offense that could have resulted in imprisonment for life; b) a Tier III sexual offense that could have resulted in imprisonment for life; or c) committed suicide to avoid prosecution.

I further understand that pre-registration is INTENDED ONLY TO VERIFY ELIGIBILITY IN ADVANCE AND DOES NOT CONSTITUTE A CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENT regarding interment arrangements.

Please allow 4 – 6 weeks for processing

Signature of Applicant or Authorized Representative:	Printed Name:	Date:
If signed by an authorized representative, indicate your relationship to applicant:		

FOR DETAILS & FAQs, PLEASE REFER TO THE CEMETERY INFORMATION SHEET OR WEBSITE

Page 1

[HTTPS://VETERANS.IDAHO.GOV/CEMETERY](https://veterans.idaho.gov/cemetery)

PRE-REGISTRATION is a means to **verify eligibility in advance** for those veterans, guardsmen, reservists, and their spouse/ dependents who are interested in interment in the Idaho State Veterans Cemetery. With the proof of eligibility on file, a family no longer has the burden of acquiring these records at the time of death. There is no cost for pre-registration, and it does not obligate you to be placed at the Idaho State Veterans Cemetery, **nor does it reserve a specific plot**. Pre-Registration is not transferrable.

Pre-Registration does NOT constitute a "pre-needs arrangement contract" with the cemetery.

If you have specific wishes, you would like your family to follow, we recommend that you create a will or burial plan.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Eligibility for interment in the Idaho State Veterans Cemetery follows National Cemetery Administration eligibility requirements and Idaho law. Those terms include a prohibition of interment for an individual who has been convicted of or, in certain cases, committed a State or Federal Capital Crime or sexual offense, as defined in 38 U.S.C. § 2411. There is no requirement to be a resident of Idaho.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

Veteran, Guardsmen or Reservist Discharge Papers and Spouse's Marriage Certificate (if applicable) are required.

The DD-214, or equivalent separation documents, must include **all the following information:**

- 1) **Active Duty Service, Retirement Status or Enlistment Term Completion**
- 2) **Character of Service**
- 3) **Dates of Entry into and Exit from Service**
- 4) **Highest Rank Achieved**

A Veteran's, Guardsmen or Reservists minor child or disabled dependent, under certain conditions, may also be interred. Contact cemetery office for details.

There is **no** interment fee for eligible veterans. There is an interment fee for eligible veteran spouses, and dependent children, which is **due at time of interment**.

There is an interment fee for eligible Guardsman, Reservist, their spouses, and dependent children, which is **due at time of interment**.

Please submit COPIES of records (NOT originals) as documents will not be returned.

As a state agency, ISVC does not have access to VA databases, veteran's military service records, etc.

It is the responsibility of the Veteran or Next-of-Kin to acquire all necessary documentation. Any missing information, such as the veteran's highest rank, retirement status, awards received, etc. will not be included for interment purposes until proof is provided.

Obtaining Military Service Records (National Archives)

<https://www.archives.gov/veterans>

Information on Eligibility Requirements

<https://www.va.gov/burials-memorials/eligibility/>

Find a VA Regional Office near you

1-800-827-1000 or <https://www.va.gov/find-locations/>

Office of Veterans Advocacy

208-780-1380 or <http://veterans.idaho.gov/advocacy>

Submit completed applications and required documentation (via mail, fax, or email) to:

Please allow 4 – 6 weeks for processing

Idaho State Veterans Cemetery - Boise
10100 Horseshoe Bend Road
Boise, ID 83714

BoiseCemetery@veterans.idaho.gov
Fax: (208) 780-1341
Phone: (208) 780-1340

"REQUIRED INFORMATION" is automatically formatted according to regulations & space available.

- All grave markers, for Service Member's and spouses alike, will **include**: Name of Deceased, DOB/DOD and Service Member's name/rank/service branch. All other information is **optional** and subject to space available.
- The name line can only contain the name and suffix (Jr, Sr, III). Diminutives (i.e. Bill for William) or Maiden Names are allowed.

"TERMS OF ENDEARMENT" is placed below the required information, and is subject to space available.

- Use this space for nicknames, professional titles, specific battles, words, phrases or other info not already indicated above.
- Number of lines available vary by plot type. Please write what you would like & the office will arrange & notify of any exclusions.
- This can be updated when the second person is laid to rest and a new marker is ordered.

FOR ASSISTANCE, CONTACT THE CEMETERY OFFICE

 01 Christian	 02 Buddhist	 03 Judaism	 04 Presbyterian	 05 Russian Orthodox	 06 Lutheran	 07 Episcopal	 08 Unitarian	 09 Methodist	 10 Aaronic Order
 11 Mormon	 12 Native American	 13 Serbian Orthodox	 14 Greek	 15 Bahai	 16 Atheist	 17 Muslim	 18 Hindu	 19 Konko-Kyo	 20 Commun. of Christ
 21 Sufism Reoriented	 22 Tenrikyo	 23 Seicho-No-Ie	 24 World Messiahity	 25 Religious Science	 26 Christian Reformed	 27 United Moravian	 28 Eckankar	 29 Christian Church	 30 Christian & Missionary
 31 United Ch. of Christ	 32 Humanist	 33 Presbyterian	 34 Izumo Taishakyo	 35 Soka Gakkai Int'l	 36 Sikh (Khanda)	 37 Wicca	 38 Lutheran MO Synod	 39 New Apostolic	 40 7th Day Adventist
 41 Celtic	 42 Armenian	 43 Farohar	 44 Messianic Jewish	 45 Kohen Hands	 46 Catholic Celtic	 47 Christian Scientist	 48 Medicine Wheel	 49 Infinity	 51 Luther Rose
 52 Landing Eagle	 53 Four Directions	 54 Nazarene	 55 Hammer of Thor	 56 Unification	 57 Sandhill Crane	 58 Church of God	 59 Pomegranate	 60 Messianic	 61 Shinto
 62 Sacred Heart	 63 African Ancestral	 64 Maltese	 65 Druid	 66 Lutheran WI Synod	 67 Polish Nat'l Catholic	 68 Guardian Angel	 69 Heart	 70 Shepherd & Flag	 71 African Methodist Episcopal
 72 Evang. Lutheran	 73 Universalist	 74 Faith & Prayer	 75 Ichthys	 76 Nichiren Shoshu Temple	 77 Dove of Peace	 78 Kingian Faith	 79 Star		

GUARD / RESERVE REQUEST FOR BURIAL / INURNMENT

IDAHO STATE VETERANS CEMETERY - BOISE

10100 Horseshoe Bend Rd. Boise, ID 83714 www.veterans.idaho.gov/ceemetery
Phone: (208) 780-1340 Fax: (208) 780-1341 Email: BoiseCemetery@veterans.idaho.gov

PLEASE READ INSTRUCTIONS ON NEXT PAGE.

THIS FORM MUST BE SUBMITTED AND ELIGIBILITY MUST BE VERIFIED BEFORE AN INTERMENT CAN BE SCHEDULED.

FY 2024

REQUESTS SUBMITTED AFTER 4:00 PM WILL BE PROCESSED THE FOLLOWING BUSINESS DAY.

REQUEST IS FOR: National Guard/ Reservist Spouse Minor/ Disabled Dependent

NAME OF DECEASED: _____
(Full Legal Name) First Middle Last

SSN: _____ Date of Birth: _____ Date of Death: _____

Gender: M F Marital Status: Married Widowed Divorced Never Married

City of Residence: _____
City State Zip Code

Was the Deceased pre-registered? Yes No Unknown

NGB22 (or equivalent) and Marriage Certificate (if applicable) must be INCLUDED if the Deceased was NOT pre-registered.

PLOT TYPE: URN: Columbarium Wall Niche In-Ground Cremation Scatter Garden

CASKET: Lower Burial Section Upper Burial Section (\$700 *per person* fee applies)

SERVICE TYPE: Shelter Use & Military Honors Shelter Use Only
 Simple Placement (Columbarium or Scatter Garden) Direct Interment (No One Attending Placement)

Add to an Existing Gravesite? No Yes (If yes, name): _____

MILITARY SERVICE DATA *(Complete as much as possible)*

SERVICE MEMBERS'S NAME: _____
(Required) First Middle Last

SSN: _____ Service # _____
(Required) *(Optional)*

Service Branch: _____ Rank: _____

Entry Date: _____ Exit Date: _____

CONTACT INFORMATION *(Required)*

NEXT-OF-KIN: _____ Relation: _____

ADDRESS: _____
Street or Mail City State Zip Code

Phone: _____ Email: _____
(Required)

EMAIL CONFIRMATION PACKET TO: Next-Of-Kin Funeral Director

FUNERAL DIRECTOR: _____ Will they be present at cemetery? Yes No

Funeral Home: _____ City & State: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT: By signing below I certify that all information on this form is true, correct, and complete to the best of my knowledge. I also certify, to the best of my knowledge, that the deceased has never committed or been convicted of any of the following: a) a capital crime, such as murder or other offense that could have resulted in imprisonment for life; b) a Tier III sexual offense that could have resulted in imprisonment for life; or c) committed suicide to avoid prosecution.

Signature of Next-of-Kin or Authorized Representative:	Relationship:	Date:
--	---------------	-------

PERSONS AUTHORIZED TO REQUEST BURIAL / INURNMENT

The "Next-of-Kin" is, in this order: A) the family's representative, appointed in writing, B) Surviving Spouse, C) Surviving Children, D) Surviving Parent, Sibling or other relative. Written authorization may be required. Or the Funeral Director may represent the family.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Eligibility for interment in the Idaho State Veterans Cemetery follows National Cemetery Administration eligibility requirements and Idaho law. Those terms include a prohibition of interment for an individual who has been convicted of or, in certain cases, committed a State or Federal Capital Crime or sexual offense, as defined in 38 U.S.C. § 2411.

There is no requirement to be a resident of Idaho.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

The **Guardsmen or Reservist discharge orders and Spouse's Marriage Certificate (if applicable)** are required. A minor child or disabled dependent, under certain conditions, may also be interred. Contact cemetery office for details.

The NGB22, or equivalent service record(s), must include **all the following information:**

- 1) Satisfactory completeness of enlistment
- 2) Character of Service
- 3) Dates of Entry into and Exit from Service
- 4) Highest Rank Achieved

Please submit COPIES of records (not originals) as documents will not be returned.

As a state agency, ISVC does not have access to VA databases, service member's military records, etc.

It is the responsibility of the Service Member or Next-of-Kin to acquire all necessary documentation. Any missing information, such as the veteran's highest rank, retirement status, awards received, etc. will not be included for interment purposes until proof is provided.

Obtaining Military Service Records (National Archives)
Find a VA Regional Office near you
Office of Veterans Advocacy

<https://www.archives.gov/veterans>
1-800-827-1000 or <https://www.va.gov/find-locations/>
208-780-1380 or <http://veterans.idaho.gov/advocacy>

SCHEDULING A SERVICE

A service can consist of: **Shelter Use & Military Honors, Shelter Use, Simple Placement** (immediate family meets staff at the Columbarium Wall or Scatter Garden to lay their loved one to rest without any services on-site), or **Direct Interment** (the urn or casket is delivered to the cemetery office for placement without family present).

1. **Contact a Funeral Director** to make funeral arrangements. They can coordinate with the Veterans Cemetery on your behalf, or you can meet with Cemetery Staff in person to make arrangements (after your initial meeting with the Funeral Director).
 - a. If the Deceased was not pre-registered, you will need to bring the required eligibility documents with you to this meeting.
2. **Submit the "Guard / Reserve Request for Burial/ Inurnment"** and any required documentation needed if not pre-registered.
3. **Schedule a Committal Service and/or Interment** with cemetery staff once *eligibility is verified & request received*.
 - a. Please have two preferences for date/time in mind when scheduling, as the cemetery calendar fills quickly.
4. **A confirmation & details will be emailed to the Primary Contact.** (*Primary Contact must provide an email address.*)
Please ensure that you bring all necessary paperwork & items on the day of the interment or bring in beforehand.

CEMETERY HOURS

Office Hours:	MON – FRI	8 am – 5 pm	(Closed weekends & holidays)
Cemetery Gates open to Visitors:	DAILY	8 am – Sunset	(Open weekends & holidays)

BURIAL FEES

Interment fees **do not include** the following:

- **Funeral Home expenses/** preparation costs (must be arranged through a funeral home of your choice)
- **Upper Casket Burial Fee (\$700 per person;** available for non-cremated remains)
- **Grave Marker:** \$400 casket & \$250 Urn / Scatter

All cemetery fees are due on the day of interment. The cemetery is **unable** to accept pre-payments.

Current Interment Fee: \$948* (Fiscal Year 2024)

Check, Cash or Money Order accepted made payable to Idaho State Veterans Cemetery.

*prices subject to change each October 1st.

CAMP LEJEUNE WATER CONTAMINATION KNOW YOUR OPTIONS

VA



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs



I'm a Veteran who believes I was exposed to contaminated water at Camp Lejeune, what can VA do for me?

Since 2012, Veterans who served on active duty in the Armed Forces at Camp Lejeune for 30 days or more between August 1, 1953, and December 31, 1987, have been eligible for hospital care and medical services for any of 15 illnesses or conditions identified in the Honoring America's Veterans and Caring for Camp Lejeune Families Act of 2012, as amended (codified at 38 U.S.C. § 1710(e)(1)(F)). Veterans are also eligible to enroll in VA health care for other services they may require.

Veterans, Reservists, and National Guard members who served at least 30 days at Camp Lejeune between August 1, 1953, and December 31, 1987, and later developed one of the following eight diseases: Adult leukemia, aplastic anemia and other myelodysplastic syndromes, bladder cancer, kidney cancer, liver cancer, multiple myeloma, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, and Parkinson's disease, are eligible for disability compensation benefits.

For more specifics about VA benefits related to Camp Lejeune contaminated water, to include how to file a claim, visit www.VA.gov/CampLejeune or call 1-800-MyVA411.

LEARN MORE

www.VA.gov/CampLejeune

LET'S TALK



Speak to a VA benefits specialist by calling
1-800-MyVA411
(1-800-698-2411)

LET'S MEET



Schedule a virtual or in-person appointment
vets.force.com/VAVERA



What impact does the PACT Act have on Veterans and families who were exposed to contaminated water at Camp Lejeune?

On August 10, 2022, the President signed into law the Honoring our PACT Act (Public Law 117-168). Section 804 of this law is the Camp Lejeune Justice Act of 2022 ("CLJA"), which allows new lawsuits for individuals exposed to contaminated water at Camp Lejeune.

Whether Veterans and family members decide to seek relief under the CLJA is entirely their decision and will not influence VA's decision to provide them benefits or health care based upon their exposure; it also will not affect the amount of benefits or health care VA can provide them.

It is important to know, however, that if a Veteran or family member is awarded relief by the court in a lawsuit brought under the CLJA, the award must be offset by the amount of any disability award, payment, or benefit VA provided to the Veteran, family member, or their legal representative relating to exposure to water at Camp Lejeune. This would reduce the amount of the award Veterans or family members receive from the court, but it would not affect their VA benefits.



I'm seeing a lot of commercials about benefits I may be entitled to based on my time at Camp Lejeune. Are these ads connected to VA?

Lawyers, firms, and others have engaged in extensive advertising offering to represent Veterans in CLJA actions. These entities are not connected with VA benefits or services. Be aware that these entities may charge you a fee for legal representation.



Will seeking relief under the CLJA impact my VA benefits or health care?

Your VA compensation benefits or health care services will not be impacted if you file a lawsuit. If you are awarded relief from a CLJA lawsuit, your VA benefits will not be reduced, and your eligibility for other VA benefits or services will not be affected.



Will my court awarded relief (from filing a lawsuit) be impacted by VA benefits and services I already receive?

Yes, potentially. If you already receive VA benefits or services (disability pay or health care services) for conditions related to the contaminated water at Camp Lejeune, the court awarded relief will be offset by the amount of any disability award, payment, or other benefit VA provided to you related to your exposure at Camp Lejeune.



What if I file for VA disability AFTER I receive an award from my lawsuit brought under CLJA, will VA reduce my benefits as a result?

No. Any action you take or award you receive under the CLJA will not influence VA's decision to provide you benefits or health care based upon your exposure or the amount of compensation you receive from VA.

CAMP LEJEUNE WATER CONTAMINATION KNOW YOUR OPTIONS



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs



How can I find the status of my CLJA case?

The Department of Justice established a phone number and email address for anyone with questions regarding the status of cases filed in Federal court under the CLJA. The phone number is (202) 353-4426, and the email is campjeune.pactact@usdoj.gov.



I've heard scammers are taking advantage of CLJA to commit fraud. How can I avoid these fraudsters?

Lawsuits under the CLJA are not related to VA benefits claims, and a lawsuit is not required to receive VA compensation benefits related to Camp Lejeune presumptive conditions. Veterans should be cautious of companies that advertise that VA benefits cannot be obtained without their help. VA and Veterans Service Organizations do not charge fees for assisting claimants in filing disability compensation claims. Check out organizations that provide free assistance with claims for VA benefits at www.VA.gov/ogc/apps/accreditation/index.asp. To report suspected fraudulent activity involving VA benefit claims, please contact vaighotline@va.gov or call (800) 488-8244.



My spouse served in the U.S. Marine Corps, and we lived on Camp Lejeune during the impacted times. He has since passed away. What are my options under the CLJA?

Under the CLJA, anyone who resided, worked, or was otherwise exposed (including in utero exposure) to water at Camp Lejeune for at least 30 days between August 1, 1953, and December 31, 1987, may bring an action in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of North Carolina to obtain appropriate relief for harm that was caused by exposure to the water at Camp Lejeune.

Claims under the CLJA must be filed initially with the Department of the Navy. Information on filing CLJA claims for personal injury or wrongful death can be found at: www.jag.navy.mil/organization/code_15_Camp_Lejeune_Claims.htm



I am a family member of a Veteran, and I believe I was exposed to contaminated water at Camp Lejeune – what are my options?

In addition to filing a claim under the CLJA, VA may be able to provide you with benefits and health care for certain conditions. VA will provide payment or reimbursement for hospital care and medical services provided to a Camp Lejeune family member by a non-VA provider in certain situations. Contact VA to discuss your options.



Will VA treat my Camp Lejeune contaminated water related health care conditions without a lawsuit or disability claim?

Yes, you do not need court awarded relief or a VA compensation benefits decision for VA to provide health care services needed to treat related illnesses if you meet eligibility requirements established in law. Contact VA immediately to understand the resources available to you.



LEARN MORE www.VA.gov/CampLejeune



LET'S MEET

Schedule a virtual or in-person appointment

vets.force.com/VAVERA



LET'S TALK

Speak to a VA benefits specialist by calling

1-800-MyVA411 (1-800-698-2411)

The background of the slide is a close-up, slightly blurred image of the American flag, showing the blue field with white stars and the red and white stripes. The text is overlaid on this background.

Veterans Comprehensive Prevention to Care & Treatment (COMPACT) Act

Information for Providers



VA

Boise VA
Medical Center

What is COMPACT Act:

Under the COMPACT Act Veterans with acute suicidal crisis can go immediately to any VA or non-VA healthcare facility for emergency health care at no cost to the Veteran.

VA will provide, pay, or reimburse treatment for emergency suicidal care, and transportation costs for Veterans eligible for transportation reimbursement.

What is an Acute Suicidal Crisis?

An individual determined to be at imminent risk of self harm.

What is Emergent Suicidal Care?

Care that ensures immediate safety and reduces the severity of distress, or requires the need for urgent/emergent care and intervention.

What Services Are Available?

COMPACT Act covers the following care at no cost to the Veteran:

- Up to 30 days of inpatient or crisis residential care
- Up to 90 days of outpatient (including medical and mental health care) **local VA Medical Centers can extend coverage up to 30 days for inpatient and outpatient care.*
- Prescription medications
- Emergent suicidal care and emergency transportation

What Does the VA Do Next?

- VA will make appropriate referrals for care following the period of emergent suicidal care.
- VA will determine eligibility for other VA services.
- VA will refer eligible Veterans for appropriate VA programs and benefits following the period of emergent suicide care.

Suicide Prevention is Everyone's Business.



**Veterans
Crisis Line**

DIAL 988 then PRESS 1

Who is Eligible?

Veterans are eligible for emergent suicide care if they are in an acute suicidal crisis and are:

- A Veteran who was discharged from active duty under honorable, or conditions other than dishonorable after a period of 24 months of active service.
- A Veteran who served more than 100 days under a combat exclusion or in support of a contingency operation, either directly or by operating an unmanned aerial vehicle from another location, who were discharged under conditions other than dishonorable.
- Veterans who were the victim of a physical assault of a sexual nature, a battery of sexual nature, or sexual harassment while serving in the armed forces.

VA Notification

Community providers have up to 180 days to submit COMPACT Act related care claims to the VA. Providers should report claims to the VA's Emergency Care Centralized Notification Center using:

- VA's Emergency Care Reporting Portal:
<https://EmergencyCareReporting.CommunityCare.va.gov>
- Or by calling 1-844-72HRVHA (1-844-724-7842)

Notification Requirements:

- Name
- Gender
- Social Security Number
 - Date of Birth
 - Address
- Date presenting and date of discharge
 - Admission (yes/no)
- Chief complaint/admission diagnosis and/or discharge diagnosis
 - Originating address (where event occurred)
 - Mode of arrival
 - Other health insurance
- Facility NPI, name, address, point of contact information

Frequently Asked Questions:

Q: What happens if an eligible Veteran has an additional suicidal crisis?

A: A new and separate 30/90 day period for providing medical and mental health care begins with each new suicidal crisis.

Q: What happens if an eligible Veteran continues to require care beyond the 30/90 days?

A: Either period of care can be extended for one period of 30 days by the local VA medical center.

Q: Can a Veteran appeal decisions made regarding COMPACT Act Care?

A: Clinical administrative appeals by the Veteran will follow the policy outlined in Directive 1041 (Appeal of Veterans Health Administration Clinical Decisions). Please refer Veterans to the local VA medical center patient advocate to file an appeal related to COMPACT Act.

Q: How long does a community provider have to submit COMPACT Act claims to the VA?

A: Community providers have 180 days to submit Veteran claims under the COMPACT Act. It is recommended to notify the VA upon the Veteran's ED admission to 1-844-724-7842



BOISE VA MEDICAL CENTER

500 W. Fort St. Boise, ID 83702
(208) 422-1000



Behavioral Health Acute Clinic

Open Mon-Fri 8AM to 4PM
(208) 422-1163



Suicide Prevention Team

Mon-Fri 7AM to 5:30PM
(208) 422-1000 ext. 7504



ER Mental Health Services Available 24/7



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

VA Suicide Prevention Resources for Clinicians, Health Care Professionals, and Educators



Resources for Clinicians, Health Care Professionals, and Educators



VA Mental Health Care

VA's repository of mental health resources, information, and data, including materials specifically for women Veterans, LGBTQ+ Veterans, Veterans transitioning from service, and older Veterans.



Veterans Crisis Line

Available 24/7 to Veterans in crisis and their loved ones. For free, confidential support, Dial 988 then **Press 1**, chat at VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat, or text 838255.



Emergency Medical Care for Veterans

Veterans having a suicidal crisis can go to any health care facility—at a VA location or in their community—for free emergency health care, including transportation costs, inpatient or crisis residential care for up to 30 days, and outpatient care and social work for up to 90 days.



Lethal Means Safety Education and Counseling for Providers

This one-hour online course for health care providers serving Veterans in their community offers ACCME, ACCME-NP, ANCC, APA, ASWB, NBCC, and NYSED SWB accreditation.



VA Suicide Risk Management Consultation Program

Provides free, one-on-one consultations for any community or VA provider who works with Veterans at risk for suicide. The consultation is confidential and can take place by phone or email.



Older Veteran Behavioral Health Resource Inventory

This inventory provides information on resources to help health and social service professionals support older Veterans who have or are at risk for behavioral health conditions.



Community Provider Toolkit

This toolkit supports the behavioral health and wellness of Veterans receiving services outside the VA health care system.



Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) Consultation Program

A free, national consultation program for any (non-VA or VA) provider working with a Veteran with signs or a diagnosis of PTSD.



Toolkit for Therapeutic Risk Management of the Suicidal Patient

This toolkit uses clinical, medical, and legal best practices to inform a model for the assessment and management of suicide risk.



Toolkit for Providers of Clients with Co-occurring Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) and Mental Health Symptoms

This toolkit provides mental health clinicians necessary information to address the needs of military personnel and Veterans with a history of TBI and co-occurring mental health conditions.



Self-Directed Violence Classification System and Clinical Toolkit

This toolkit uses the classification system to track individual risk in patient care settings, implement system-wide suicide prevention strategies, and design clinical research to inform evidence-based practices.



Provider Self-Care Toolkit

Working with trauma survivors is rewarding, yet such work can create challenges. This toolkit is for providers who work with those exposed to traumatic events, to help reduce the effects of job-related stress, burnout, and secondary traumatic stress.



Veteran Cultural Competency Training

Transitioning from military to civilian life is a high-risk period for suicide. Bridging the gap between civilians and Veterans is an important step that can assist Veterans as they assimilate into civilian life.



VA Suicide Prevention Resources for Clinicians, Health Care Professionals, and Educators



Talking with a Veteran in Crisis

You don't have to be an expert to ask if someone is going through a difficult time or having thoughts of suicide. If you notice changes in a Veteran's behavior or moods and you think they might be in crisis, it's time to respond.



American Indian (AI) and Alaska Native (AN) Veterans–Community Provider Toolkit

Some understanding of AI/AN cultures helps health care providers provide higher quality care when working with Veteran clients who identify with these cultures. The resources in this toolkit can help professionals ask questions about family, upbringing, languages, and spiritual beliefs to assess the extent to which Veterans identify with AI/AN cultures.



Clergy Toolkit

Clergy and spiritual communities play an important role in supporting service members and Veterans in their personal well-being and spiritual health. Clergy members often serve as frontline mental health responders.



Veterans Employment Toolkit

This toolkit helps employers, managers and supervisors, human resources professionals, and employee assistance program (EAP) providers relate to and support their employees who are Veterans and members of the Reserve and National Guard.



Means Safety Messaging for Clinical Staff

This pocket card provides medical professionals with digestible information on ways to talk with Veteran patients about safe firearm storage.

Resources for Veterans



VA S.A.V.E. Training

This online training course, designed in collaboration with PsychArmor, teaches anyone who interacts with Veterans how to recognize warning signs of crisis and what to do to help a Veteran who may be at risk.



VA Resource Locator

Find VA facilities, Vet Centers, suicide prevention coordinators, and other VA resources.



Keep It Secure

Promotes awareness about the simple steps Veterans can take to protect themselves and their family, including information about secure gun and medication storage, the warning signs of suicide, and how to find support.



Don't wait. Reach out.

Use this site to find support and resources designed specifically for Veterans. Family members and friends can also find resources for the Veteran in their life.



Make the Connection

VA's premier mental health literacy and anti-stigma website highlights Veterans' real, inspiring stories of recovery and connects Veterans and their family members and friends with local resources.



VA Homeless Programs

If you are or know of a Veteran who is homeless or at imminent risk of homelessness, contact the National Call Center for Homeless Veterans at (877) 4AID-VET (877-424-3838) for assistance.



Together With Veterans (TWV)

TWV is a community-based suicide prevention program for rural Veterans. TWV involves partnering with rural Veterans and their communities to implement community-based suicide prevention.



Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders–Behavioral Health Equity

This website provides national survey reports, agency and federal initiatives, related behavioral health resources, and in-language resources on Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander populations.



Uniting for Suicide Postvention

This website provides resources and support for everyone touched by suicide loss.



Suicide Prevention Resource Center

This website identifies evidence-based programs and best practices for suicide prevention.

06/2023



2024 VETERANS LEGAL CLINICS



**FREE TO ATTEND
FOR VETS & SPOUSES**

Legal Clinics are held from 2PM to 4PM in Bldg. 54 at the Boise VA Medical Center 500 W. Fort St. Boise, ID 83702.

Assistance with Estate Planning & Wills are not included at these Legal Clinics.

Please contact Amanda Pentland, LCSW at (208) 422-1064 for additional information.

- January 18, 2024**
- February 15, 2024**
- March 21, 2024**
- April 18, 2024**
- May 16, 2024**
- June 20, 2024**

Pocatello Legal Assistance

Legal Providers	Type of Providers	Types of Case	Walk in or Appointment?	Hours of Operation	VA Contact
Richard A. Deihl Jr. Deputy City Attorney City of Pocatello Legal Dept	Idaho Lawyers Association Volunteer Lawyers Public Defenders Office	Any type	Walk-ins	3 rd Weds. Of each month	Jodi Shelton VJO, LCSW (208) 242-9245 jodi.shelton@va.gov



TOXIC EXPOSURE SCREENING INFORMATION

VA is committed to providing screening, health care, and resources to Veterans with toxic exposure concerns from military service.

TOXIC EXPOSURES

While toxic exposure is defined by law, generally there are several types of possible exposures or hazards Veterans may have experienced during their military service. Some common examples appear below.

- » **Open Burn Pits/Airborne Hazards:** Contaminants or substances in the air including smoke and fumes from open burn pits and fine particulate matter.
- » **Gulf War related exposures:** Veterans may have been exposed to a variety of environmental hazards including pesticides and oil well fires.
- » **Agent Orange:** An herbicide used to thin-out thick foliage commonly found in jungles and fields.
- » **Radiation:** Exposure from sources such as nuclear weapons.
- » **Camp Lejeune contaminated water exposure:** Between August 1, 1953, and December 31, 1987, Veterans and their families may have been exposed to contaminated drinking water.
- » **Other exposures:** There are other potential toxic exposures that may occur during military service.

MANAGE YOUR HEALTH

Proactively developing a long-term health care plan with your care team can help detect conditions early and treat or lessen the effect of complications resulting from exposure(s).

TALK WITH A VA PROVIDER:

- » Call **1-800-MyVA411 then press 8**, or a local VA clinical care team
- » **Send a secure message** to your clinical care team through your patient portal:
My HealtheVet at: www.myhealth.va.gov or My VA Health at: patientportal.myhealth.va.gov
- » Discuss exposure concerns at your next VA appointment

ENROLL IN VA CARE:

- » Online www.va.gov/health-care/apply/application/introduction
- » Call 877-222-VETS (8387)
- » Visit your nearest VA medical center and enroll in person: www.va.gov/find-locations



Scan with your mobile device
to access this document



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

Updated: September 22, 2022

REGISTRY HEALTH EXAMS

Registry health exams are no-cost voluntary environmental exposure medical exams. VA has several health registries – these include: Agent Orange, Airborne Hazard and Open Burn Pit, Gulf War (includes Operations Iraqi Freedom and New Dawn), Ionizing Radiation, Depleted Uranium Follow-Up Program, Embedded Fragment Surveillance Center.

- » You may be eligible to participate in one or more of these health registries. *Note: The registry evaluation is not a compensation exam or required for other VA benefits.*
- » Registries can alert you to possible health problems related to your military service and help VA better understand and respond to these health problems more effectively.

SCHEDULE A REGISTRY EXAM WITH YOUR LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH COORDINATOR

- » Online www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/coordinators.asp
- » Call 1-800-MyVA411, then press 8
- » Visit your local VA Medical Center

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- » Visit www.va.gov/PACT or call 1-800-MyVA411, then press 8
- » Information on military environmental exposures: www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/index.asp
- » Exposure benefits information: www.va.gov/disability/eligibility
- » Download the free VA Exposure Ed mobile app: mobile.va.gov/app/exposure-ed

VA PRESUMPTIVE CONDITIONS

Veterans may be eligible for disability benefits and/or compensation if they have a health condition that results in disability and was connected to their military service. For many health conditions, you need to prove that your service caused your condition. For some conditions, we automatically assume (or “presume”) that your service caused your condition. We call these “presumptive conditions.” We consider a condition presumptive when it’s established by law or regulation. If you have a presumptive condition, you do not need to prove that your service caused the condition. You only need to meet the service requirements for the presumption.

BENEFITS

- » Veterans with presumptive diseases may be eligible for benefits such as disability compensation
- » Surviving spouses, dependent children and/or parents of deceased Veterans may be eligible for benefits such as dependency and indemnity compensation and accrued benefits
- » Veterans who had claims that were previously denied can file supplemental claims
- » **To File a Claim for Benefits**
 - Submit online: www.va.gov/disability/how-to-file-claim
 - Access VA benefits: www.ebenefits.va.gov
 - Call VA Benefits hotline: 800-827-1000 for help filing a claim
 - Locate a local Veteran Service Officer www.va.gov/ogc/apps/accreditation/index.asp



Scan with your mobile device
to access this document



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

How to get a Toxic Exposure Screening (TES)	
ASK: Are you currently enrolled in VA health care?	<i>If yes, move to the next ASK.</i>
	<p>If no: The Toxic Exposure Screening is available to all Veterans currently enrolled in VA health care.</p> <p>You can enroll:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In person at Boise VAMC: 500 W. Fort St., Boise, ID 83702 • Online at www.va.gov/health-care/apply/application/introduction • Call 877-222-VETS (8387) • Mail a signed VA Form 10-10EZ to: Health Eligibility Center 2957 Clairmont Rd., Suite 200 Atlanta, GA 30329
ASK: Do you have an upcoming Primary Care Provider appointment scheduled?	If yes: The screening can be done at your next appointment.
	<p>If no: If you don't have an upcoming appointment/are unable to be screened at your care provider appointment and would like to be screened soon, reach out to our facility TES Navigators.</p> <p>TES Navigator: 208-422-1000 x4202</p>
<p>We encourage you to discuss any symptoms you think may be related to an exposure. The screening is a basic set of questions to inform your providers about your exposure. It is not a full exam. All follow up will be guided by your providers as it normally would.</p>	

How to get a Toxic Exposure Screening (TES)	
ASK: Are you currently enrolled in VA health care?	<i>If yes, move to the next ASK.</i>
	<p>If no: The Toxic Exposure Screening is available to all Veterans currently enrolled in VA health care.</p> <p>You can enroll:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In person at 500 W. Fort St., Boise, ID 83702 • Online at www.va.gov/health-care/apply/application/introduction • Call 877-222-VETS (8387) • Mail a signed VA Form 10-10EZ to: Health Eligibility Center 2957 Clairmont Rd., Suite 200 Atlanta, GA 30329
ASK: Do you have an upcoming Primary Care Provider appointment scheduled?	If yes: The screening can be done at your next appointment.
	<p>If no: If you don't have an upcoming appointment/are unable to be screened at your specialty care provider appointment and would like to be screened sooner, I can connect you with one of our facility TES Navigators.</p> <p>TES Navigator: 208-422-1000 x4202</p>
<p>We encourage you to discuss any symptoms you think may be related to an exposure. The screening is a basic set of questions to inform your providers about your exposure. It is not a full exam. All follow up will be guided by your providers as it normally would.</p>	

HISTORY OF MEMORIAL DAY



Memorial Day, originally called Decoration Day, is a day to remember those who have died in our nation's service. After the Civil war many people in the North and South decorated graves of fallen soldiers with flowers. In the Spring of 1866, Henry C. Welles, a druggist in the village of Waterloo, NY, suggested that the patriots who had died in the Civil War should be honored by decorating their graves. General John B. Murray, Seneca County Clerk, embraced the idea and a committee was formed to plan a day devoted to honoring the dead. Townspeople made wreaths, crosses, and bouquets for each veteran's grave. The village was decorated with flags at half-mast. On May 5 of that year, a processional was held to the town's cemeteries, led by veterans. The town observed this day of remembrance on May 5 of the following year as well.

Decoration Day was officially proclaimed on May 5, 1868, by General John Logan in his General Order No. 11, and was first observed officially on May 30, 1868. The South did not observe Decoration Day, preferring to honor their dead on separate days until after World War I. In 1882, the name was changed to Memorial Day, and soldiers who had died in other wars were also honored.

In 1971, Memorial Day was declared a national holiday to be held on the last Monday in May. Today, Memorial Day marks the unofficial beginning of the summer season in the United States. It is still a time to remember those who have passed on, whether in war or otherwise. It also is a time for families to get together for picnics, ball games, and other early summer activities.



MEMORIAL DAY
CEREMONY
IDAHO STATE VETERANS CEMETERY

Monday, May 27th 2024, 10:00 am
10100 N. Horseshoe Bend Rd Boise, ID 83714

Public Parking & Bus Services will be at
Optimist Park 8:30am-11:45am

Visit www.veterans.idaho.gov/cemeteries for more information




The poster features a top border of a waving American flag. Below the flag are three blue stars. The text is centered in a serif font. At the bottom, there are two circular seals: the left one for Idaho State Veterans Cemetery with the motto 'HONOR • VALOR • COMMITMENT' and the right one for the Idaho Division of Veterans Services with the motto 'ESTO PERPETUA'. In the center, there is a silhouette of a man in a military uniform standing next to a kneeling man, possibly a soldier and a family member.

IDAHO Women Veterans CONFERENCE



COMMUNITY, CAMARADERIE AND CONNECTION

Join us for a day of connection and inspiration.
Registration is free and Lunch is included!

-  June 8th, 2024
-  9:00AM - 3:30PM
-  Warhawk Air Museum
Nampa Idaho

with Keynote Speaker:

Chief of Staff-
ID Army National Guard

Col. Nicole Washington



To Register,
scan the QR code



or visit

www.eventbrite.com/e/2024-idaho-women-veterans-conference-tickets-851907547407

Questions, Contact:



Marisa.McCarter@
veterans.idaho.gov



GO GREEN AND GET THE BULLETIN VIA EMAIL



In our continual effort to reduce costs and lessen our “ecological footprint,” the Office of Veterans Advocacy is again asking for your help. In order to reduce printing and mailing costs, as well as the amount of paper used, we are asking you to volunteer to receive the bulletin via email.

The bulletin will arrive in your in-box every quarter as a Word document, which will allow to you forward or print and disseminate as many copies as you like. In addition to receiving the quarterly bulletin, you will also receive our annual Veterans Resource Directory via email.

If you can help us with our goal of reducing costs and the saving paper, please email Tiffany Barrett at tiffany.barrett@veterans.idaho.gov. Thanks for your help with this most worthwhile endeavor! And don’t forget you can always view and print the Bulletin and Resource Directory by visiting our website at www.veterans.idaho.gov.

DATES TO REMEMBER



American Legion

StateJuly 10-14, 2024, Mountain Home, ID
National.....August 23-29, 2024, New Orleans, LA

AMVETS

National.....August 5-10, 2024, Springfield, IL

Disabled American Veterans

National.....August 3-6, 2024, Phoenix, AZ

Marine Corps League

National.....August 12-16, 2024, Rancho Mirage, CA

Military Order of the Purple Heart

National.....July 15-18, 2024, Orlando, FL

Veterans of Foreign Wars

StateJune 5-8, 2024, Pocatello, ID
National.....July 27-August 1, 2024, Louisville, KY

Vietnam Veterans of America

National..... August 5-9, 2025, New Orleans, LA (not being held in 2024)



DAV VAN CONTACTS TO AND FROM VA MEDICAL CENTERS

BOISE & SURROUNDING AREA TO BOISE VAMC

All appointments for rides must be made 72 hours in advance.

For the schedule or an appointment, call Tami McMurtry or Phil Johnson at (208) 422-1177

LEWISTON & SURROUNDING AREA TO SPOKANE VAMC

All appointments for rides must be made 72 hours in advance.

For the schedule or an appointment, call the DAV Transportation Office at the Spokane VA Medical Center (800) 325-7940.

LIBBY & SURROUNDING AREA TO SPOKANE VAMC

All appointments for rides must be made 72 hours in advance.

For the schedule or an appointment, Call the DAV Transportation Office at the Spokane VA Medical Center (800) 325-7940.

COEUR D'ALENE & SURROUNDING AREA TO SPOKANE VAMC

All appointments for rides must be made 72 hours in advance.

For the schedule or an appointment, Call the DAV Transportation Office at the Spokane VA Medical Center (800) 325-7940.

SANDPOINT & SURROUNDING AREA TO SPOKANE VAMC

All appointments for rides must be made 72 hours in advance.

For the schedule or an appointment, call the DAV Transportation Office at the Spokane VA Medical Center (800) 325-7940.

LEWISTON TO WALLA WALLA VAMC

Thursdays: Walla Walla VA Medical Center Van. 8:00 a.m. departure from the CBOC at 1630 23rd Avenue, Building 2. Arrives at Walla Walla at 10:00 a.m. Departs Walla Walla at 1:30 p.m. Arrives Lewiston at 3:30 p.m.

If your appointment runs past the departure time of 1:30, there is no alternative for returning to Lewiston.

POCATELLO, IDAHO FALLS, & SURROUNDING ARE TO SALT LAKE CITY VAMC

All appointments for rides should be made 72 hours in advance.

For the schedule or an appointment, call the VTS/DAV Transportation Office at (800) 613-4012 ext. 2003 or 1027.

