**1ST DISTRICT SERVICE OFFICER VA & R REPORT FOR JANUARY 2023  By Richard Strehlow 262-641-0977**

Did you know a [VRR](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001oT6iS_DFyIZFSiz6wjgrnnPzn7RgqXrduPtb9KCCBsAR1BD4Hn3E0-BExVEonYRbRFDcuHWgft36bvXELUKZN6GfLWornjB41408MrTxcUijKuBztuZuT6BNnZFVqt42hLMCFXB3Ip2_SOKoucjPuIvesL8AN5ZFnE-Ur3TDD8iFX_xMit16qUp5bi06aG3J&c=AsT9VP462xAl3VYeHUOzHu0gt7_S7Cww9oOz-8Iw2dQlczeLNjE_zw==&ch=PUoOxF_E4c-2idWulFYVnA3q2mF8TS7-vaTAt6RQBls0TO01GFEdtQ==) is a [VA](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001oT6iS_DFyIZFSiz6wjgrnnPzn7RgqXrduPtb9KCCBsAR1BD4Hn3E08fRAh09TbbxZ-K1lt-hmPGHfUHEp0kHyDMqtKFaq6_1mHi1jwTAX1Hk_uBgyLSI5KTdzbgD30z1J_VMExs_hJ5ikQhW_F13vt6fBRMxTd-Q&c=AsT9VP462xAl3VYeHUOzHu0gt7_S7Cww9oOz-8Iw2dQlczeLNjE_zw==&ch=PUoOxF_E4c-2idWulFYVnA3q2mF8TS7-vaTAt6RQBls0TO01GFEdtQ==) employee who evaluates [disability](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001oT6iS_DFyIZFSiz6wjgrnnPzn7RgqXrduPtb9KCCBsAR1BD4Hn3E00M-sPJf36l1C6NO1dqx74NCTgIjriYmC8vtv7JR_LWTQAaIKRo5oSgMKf_0tz1FUA7nMRaWYvHmcH_5Zmsrh9or_8-YJFnQA-dnlnsm4sYLj5ANSL53jiMmrY-DtKBxhA==&c=AsT9VP462xAl3VYeHUOzHu0gt7_S7Cww9oOz-8Iw2dQlczeLNjE_zw==&ch=PUoOxF_E4c-2idWulFYVnA3q2mF8TS7-vaTAt6RQBls0TO01GFEdtQ==) claims.? After you file a [VA](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001oT6iS_DFyIZFSiz6wjgrnnPzn7RgqXrduPtb9KCCBsAR1BD4Hn3E08fRAh09TbbxZ-K1lt-hmPGHfUHEp0kHyDMqtKFaq6_1mHi1jwTAX1Hk_uBgyLSI5KTdzbgD30z1J_VMExs_hJ5ikQhW_F13vt6fBRMxTd-Q&c=AsT9VP462xAl3VYeHUOzHu0gt7_S7Cww9oOz-8Iw2dQlczeLNjE_zw==&ch=PUoOxF_E4c-2idWulFYVnA3q2mF8TS7-vaTAt6RQBls0TO01GFEdtQ==) [disability](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001oT6iS_DFyIZFSiz6wjgrnnPzn7RgqXrduPtb9KCCBsAR1BD4Hn3E00M-sPJf36l1C6NO1dqx74NCTgIjriYmC8vtv7JR_LWTQAaIKRo5oSgMKf_0tz1FUA7nMRaWYvHmcH_5Zmsrh9or_8-YJFnQA-dnlnsm4sYLj5ANSL53jiMmrY-DtKBxhA==&c=AsT9VP462xAl3VYeHUOzHu0gt7_S7Cww9oOz-8Iw2dQlczeLNjE_zw==&ch=PUoOxF_E4c-2idWulFYVnA3q2mF8TS7-vaTAt6RQBls0TO01GFEdtQ==) claim, they will examine your [service records](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001oT6iS_DFyIZFSiz6wjgrnnPzn7RgqXrduPtb9KCCBsAR1BD4Hn3E0-BExVEonYRbu7f16XIaMC3cxz8x9qzowCqWUNtVV8U4FKw1E19rMIfZ7Bh_W9va4VWIia0hSwtFouQlmJ3RcL-kQ-j6hzfpm_hW_j5vimQK8mvWyx-IcggQT5iEg9Z5GCJ0AlALydwf&c=AsT9VP462xAl3VYeHUOzHu0gt7_S7Cww9oOz-8Iw2dQlczeLNjE_zw==&ch=PUoOxF_E4c-2idWulFYVnA3q2mF8TS7-vaTAt6RQBls0TO01GFEdtQ==) and decide whether you are eligible for [benefits](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001oT6iS_DFyIZFSiz6wjgrnnPzn7RgqXrduPtb9KCCBsAR1BD4Hn3E00M-sPJf36l1Ad2pNcJ2Uy4XBAnxt2UMd2mii2CnqopFCJjIEA69XPggWLnHjDiHvFr9onrSNKSpHuT_Lr2s-vrTJjOhXc0ILBjOI3yWGtY5ICjY-e8N-AhcDkJeS3R3nA==&c=AsT9VP462xAl3VYeHUOzHu0gt7_S7Cww9oOz-8Iw2dQlczeLNjE_zw==&ch=PUoOxF_E4c-2idWulFYVnA3q2mF8TS7-vaTAt6RQBls0TO01GFEdtQ==). Their decision can take anywhere from two weeks to six months, although it is common for the process to take longer.

Did you know there are other significant differences with Post/11 [veterans](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001e3h0AD3qfZTcWZuJOnknW1epPfb6lv6XhMBc_dWtBajfsIXVEVfpIclcSKAZkB9V79I0JRsxDuEIIFjdFyn-yIGhgXCU7T-0C3eEDZhctO31x7UaTmIu6pik5aN27n-ekjrZOD2cjbKlOPMpRNCknmbRhKMFHrSk&c=zGpnPafcHcI5BI7Ba2SXeAqeHGv4kZom-O0OatGSArjRx-I5-eyj-w==&ch=7SFp4JiKSAIPgUFQLpvtRpX6xGON47xpp5OBW2wwG0RX_cI_rSzoew==) compared to their predecessors? Compared to their predecessors, post-9/11 [veterans](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001e3h0AD3qfZTcWZuJOnknW1epPfb6lv6XhMBc_dWtBajfsIXVEVfpIclcSKAZkB9V79I0JRsxDuEIIFjdFyn-yIGhgXCU7T-0C3eEDZhctO31x7UaTmIu6pik5aN27n-ekjrZOD2cjbKlOPMpRNCknmbRhKMFHrSk&c=zGpnPafcHcI5BI7Ba2SXeAqeHGv4kZom-O0OatGSArjRx-I5-eyj-w==&ch=7SFp4JiKSAIPgUFQLpvtRpX6xGON47xpp5OBW2wwG0RX_cI_rSzoew==) are twice as likely to have served in a combat zone. A comprehensive 2017 study by the Pew Research Institute found that more than one-third report symptoms of [post-traumatic stress disorder](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001e3h0AD3qfZTcWZuJOnknW1epPfb6lv6XhMBc_dWtBajfsIXVEVfpIYdFWyRMvRKsZxbCqERPY9_d0JvPcpQvDsdts35q9xnW8CsBcRryfIloOZkwULoqILUq2sxwN9630-DGzxQVdS1dwy4H4TOmWC7ATzQhDRH4P5Hq0okNxiA=&c=zGpnPafcHcI5BI7Ba2SXeAqeHGv4kZom-O0OatGSArjRx-I5-eyj-w==&ch=7SFp4JiKSAIPgUFQLpvtRpX6xGON47xpp5OBW2wwG0RX_cI_rSzoew==)..

Did you know [veterans](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001e3h0AD3qfZTcWZuJOnknW1epPfb6lv6XhMBc_dWtBajfsIXVEVfpIclcSKAZkB9V79I0JRsxDuEIIFjdFyn-yIGhgXCU7T-0C3eEDZhctO31x7UaTmIu6pik5aN27n-ekjrZOD2cjbKlOPMpRNCknmbRhKMFHrSk&c=zGpnPafcHcI5BI7Ba2SXeAqeHGv4kZom-O0OatGSArjRx-I5-eyj-w==&ch=7SFp4JiKSAIPgUFQLpvtRpX6xGON47xpp5OBW2wwG0RX_cI_rSzoew==) are choosing video appointments more than ever, especially since the start of the pandemic? Physical therapists have adapted by providing more video appointments. If you need advice about exercise or had surgery recently, virtual physical therapy could be right for you.

[Veterans](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001chEGZGMM6fuGSkT4Lrcj4fUFuNsnPa5z9IfanyF614-2N1T41DiURbPWC-PGGSl0D_ExoPbVbDdineEw0UlzNmc7qzfLp4q2GyzQKrBYjx8TkqjMCQ5CJ8V_O8psrW4MowUYYu3bnZTBdwW1ZzUlnEb6QeXTBzSH&c=SmY1uIiM3GSzmnaRbsR-ja5IL0UlgaJd5TSb2dKORqDPgJ-6nEeWCA==&ch=F2KB1xwVrvDzvHSAoiZeQVRULXqf7b2B7ZCyavl7CnVNEEFzlCnwSw==) and some [VSO’s](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001chEGZGMM6fuGSkT4Lrcj4fUFuNsnPa5z9IfanyF614-2N1T41DiURSMwUcmeL8D0neMLEYkBFGU2vIrgvZG8CN3J_xs0baw7OvEPUYVtCeV0tZeVkt05Bjwm95OJ_tU1KSIyFG0J-l0k7nNEJw7iwMCWmDRzlI_yL5b0sHf4-ZNJG7qrY1P8nA==&c=SmY1uIiM3GSzmnaRbsR-ja5IL0UlgaJd5TSb2dKORqDPgJ-6nEeWCA==&ch=F2KB1xwVrvDzvHSAoiZeQVRULXqf7b2B7ZCyavl7CnVNEEFzlCnwSw==) become angry or disappointed after learning that the [VA](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001chEGZGMM6fuGSkT4Lrcj4fUFuNsnPa5z9IfanyF614-2N1T41DiURbPWC-PGGSl0D_ExoPbVbDdineEw0UlzNmc7qzfLp4q2GyzQKrBYjx8TkqjMCQ5CJ8V_O8psrW4MowUYYu3bnZTBdwW1ZzUlnEb6QeXTBzSH&c=SmY1uIiM3GSzmnaRbsR-ja5IL0UlgaJd5TSb2dKORqDPgJ-6nEeWCA==&ch=F2KB1xwVrvDzvHSAoiZeQVRULXqf7b2B7ZCyavl7CnVNEEFzlCnwSw==) applies certain rules that marginalize some [disabilities](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001chEGZGMM6fuGSkT4Lrcj4fUFuNsnPa5z9IfanyF614-2N1T41DiURX2lxMhK-yhaild0qvVYdAzmv61wAHYOemXiCg7t1cwE3OsuuusA0bIlbVzplr51SDMzH-osJ6KcJ8cEVS-8E7b390CTWUStxhLI-UXjn3DiOGNwXhWern2XGNd5RlGmRg==&c=SmY1uIiM3GSzmnaRbsR-ja5IL0UlgaJd5TSb2dKORqDPgJ-6nEeWCA==&ch=F2KB1xwVrvDzvHSAoiZeQVRULXqf7b2B7ZCyavl7CnVNEEFzlCnwSw==), while at the same time, bolstering a [veteran's](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001chEGZGMM6fuGSkT4Lrcj4fUFuNsnPa5z9IfanyF614-2N1T41DiURbPWC-PGGSl0D_ExoPbVbDdineEw0UlzNmc7qzfLp4q2GyzQKrBYjx8TkqjMCQ5CJ8V_O8psrW4MowUYYu3bnZTBdwW1ZzUlnEb6QeXTBzSH&c=SmY1uIiM3GSzmnaRbsR-ja5IL0UlgaJd5TSb2dKORqDPgJ-6nEeWCA==&ch=F2KB1xwVrvDzvHSAoiZeQVRULXqf7b2B7ZCyavl7CnVNEEFzlCnwSw==) [disability rating](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001chEGZGMM6fuGSkT4Lrcj4fUFuNsnPa5z9IfanyF614-2N1T41DiURSMwUcmeL8D0fTu_ufO6hjvnf46PNHYYQPfyewCY8nv75IaUBQ4TAGJaBwWiGlf-RqHFDM7GpgxliSe37iCUkfBaaiDfAiPo23N49CMDt_9zvC94m9VBjnoRYIV-M8yWNyC5qUFfW03k&c=SmY1uIiM3GSzmnaRbsR-ja5IL0UlgaJd5TSb2dKORqDPgJ-6nEeWCA==&ch=F2KB1xwVrvDzvHSAoiZeQVRULXqf7b2B7ZCyavl7CnVNEEFzlCnwSw==) with the same [disability](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001chEGZGMM6fuGSkT4Lrcj4fUFuNsnPa5z9IfanyF614-2N1T41DiURX2lxMhK-yhaild0qvVYdAzmv61wAHYOemXiCg7t1cwE3OsuuusA0bIlbVzplr51SDMzH-osJ6KcJ8cEVS-8E7b390CTWUStxhLI-UXjn3DiOGNwXhWern2XGNd5RlGmRg==&c=SmY1uIiM3GSzmnaRbsR-ja5IL0UlgaJd5TSb2dKORqDPgJ-6nEeWCA==&ch=F2KB1xwVrvDzvHSAoiZeQVRULXqf7b2B7ZCyavl7CnVNEEFzlCnwSw==). Confusing as it may appear, the [VA](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001chEGZGMM6fuGSkT4Lrcj4fUFuNsnPa5z9IfanyF614-2N1T41DiURbPWC-PGGSl0D_ExoPbVbDdineEw0UlzNmc7qzfLp4q2GyzQKrBYjx8TkqjMCQ5CJ8V_O8psrW4MowUYYu3bnZTBdwW1ZzUlnEb6QeXTBzSH&c=SmY1uIiM3GSzmnaRbsR-ja5IL0UlgaJd5TSb2dKORqDPgJ-6nEeWCA==&ch=F2KB1xwVrvDzvHSAoiZeQVRULXqf7b2B7ZCyavl7CnVNEEFzlCnwSw==) is clear, about “[pyramiding](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001chEGZGMM6fuGSkT4Lrcj4fUFuNsnPa5z9IfanyF614-2N1T41DiURUuuHYYMXe8h1_MAFvIpsnzAQp46goBYWQ4AwU-Pmy5B5MPCg2Tbp1v-dFoWIKO9IhRU9zJy4HMTDCvXL97dKR5OG0D3rglm8zmDUR1uWd1uJ5XosMQoSM6qaXqwPQcD2g==&c=SmY1uIiM3GSzmnaRbsR-ja5IL0UlgaJd5TSb2dKORqDPgJ-6nEeWCA==&ch=F2KB1xwVrvDzvHSAoiZeQVRULXqf7b2B7ZCyavl7CnVNEEFzlCnwSw==).”

Did you know [type 2 diabetes](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001chEGZGMM6fuGSkT4Lrcj4fUFuNsnPa5z9IfanyF614-2N1T41DiURbkQpqfp5y7fP5o1dSlKL3BwU9e8sxIGad6PAt3TAHLitccdRH0RISaORLuuOsZBgcGhk1xBmalX_I8PQatkoFMhU5bQwAVAF7rBo3Xx1OvEjSfYQ6fksur4rZ0rz4f00g==&c=SmY1uIiM3GSzmnaRbsR-ja5IL0UlgaJd5TSb2dKORqDPgJ-6nEeWCA==&ch=F2KB1xwVrvDzvHSAoiZeQVRULXqf7b2B7ZCyavl7CnVNEEFzlCnwSw==) is the leading cause of amputations among America's [veterans](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001chEGZGMM6fuGSkT4Lrcj4fUFuNsnPa5z9IfanyF614-2N1T41DiURbPWC-PGGSl0D_ExoPbVbDdineEw0UlzNmc7qzfLp4q2GyzQKrBYjx8TkqjMCQ5CJ8V_O8psrW4MowUYYu3bnZTBdwW1ZzUlnEb6QeXTBzSH&c=SmY1uIiM3GSzmnaRbsR-ja5IL0UlgaJd5TSb2dKORqDPgJ-6nEeWCA==&ch=F2KB1xwVrvDzvHSAoiZeQVRULXqf7b2B7ZCyavl7CnVNEEFzlCnwSw==), with more than 15,000 receiving lower limb amputations annually? That's more amputations each year than from all U.S. wars combined.

An [American Legion service representative](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001rY8HCxaBEJ3GeClrHidWsWiQ_s4ZCp8MxPWD7kazROnVGycqfpPgoM1fJhdmmq_mr0Q6tGSXLdpo1IIkkBBG8atemis8vljWjY4KgECLiI5TDyUuFqoIRxbAHCsescWiZe1i7RPiXcI4j53aSApDKalXY970vNuHKj--bwljtexjbWzcTQWTVQ==&c=03lpB5KA95-2VO8f-JK4rQLt1hsidbDXd0GS-F2addIZtO9gSAVxuw==&ch=NbF5873oOGAoQS-7MDaMEcRQsNDXoEodR9sSrRu2WXgQaoNoKUrxkA==) will be on deck to meet your [benefits](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001rY8HCxaBEJ3GeClrHidWsWiQ_s4ZCp8MxPWD7kazROnVGycqfpPgoKqmL2yeB8Itkp58jtTruY91sY-EUzdoF6e1F-WZOYBjy6olbXGy1Kgo0FIFDFcDwfLsvzgOUMhYMJzabSsa7L22LXnlN7L9kPY6xwZDfFF_8nhCIgPIPkWkkXQ4hkod6Q==&c=03lpB5KA95-2VO8f-JK4rQLt1hsidbDXd0GS-F2addIZtO9gSAVxuw==&ch=NbF5873oOGAoQS-7MDaMEcRQsNDXoEodR9sSrRu2WXgQaoNoKUrxkA==) needs.

The [representative](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001rY8HCxaBEJ3GeClrHidWsWiQ_s4ZCp8MxPWD7kazROnVGycqfpPgoM1fJhdmmq_mr0Q6tGSXLdpo1IIkkBBG8atemis8vljWjY4KgECLiI5TDyUuFqoIRxbAHCsescWiZe1i7RPiXcI4j53aSApDKalXY970vNuHKj--bwljtexjbWzcTQWTVQ==&c=03lpB5KA95-2VO8f-JK4rQLt1hsidbDXd0GS-F2addIZtO9gSAVxuw==&ch=NbF5873oOGAoQS-7MDaMEcRQsNDXoEodR9sSrRu2WXgQaoNoKUrxkA==) is available to assist all [veterans](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001rY8HCxaBEJ3GeClrHidWsWiQ_s4ZCp8MxPWD7kazROnVGycqfpPgoD_WZBO_V_3Z4OSG_YKT9X6ipBFgOZlNwM4jStNnGO9J8p5SEUVNfqW_hcf56AthD6i6Q40eeodelxlZZuy8QJugMJ7wtHoK89akDTti3R53&c=03lpB5KA95-2VO8f-JK4rQLt1hsidbDXd0GS-F2addIZtO9gSAVxuw==&ch=NbF5873oOGAoQS-7MDaMEcRQsNDXoEodR9sSrRu2WXgQaoNoKUrxkA==); membership in the [American Legion](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001rY8HCxaBEJ3GeClrHidWsWiQ_s4ZCp8MxPWD7kazROnVGycqfpPgoD_WZBO_V_3Z4OSG_YKT9X6ipBFgOZlNwM4jStNnGO9J8p5SEUVNfqW_hcf56AthD6i6Q40eeodelxlZZuy8QJugMJ7wtHoK89akDTti3R53&c=03lpB5KA95-2VO8f-JK4rQLt1hsidbDXd0GS-F2addIZtO9gSAVxuw==&ch=NbF5873oOGAoQS-7MDaMEcRQsNDXoEodR9sSrRu2WXgQaoNoKUrxkA==) is not required, and no appointment is necessary.

[Accredited American Legion service officers](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001rY8HCxaBEJ3GeClrHidWsWiQ_s4ZCp8MxPWD7kazROnVGycqfpPgoM1fJhdmmq_mr0Q6tGSXLdpo1IIkkBBG8atemis8vljWjY4KgECLiI5TDyUuFqoIRxbAHCsescWiZe1i7RPiXcI4j53aSApDKalXY970vNuHKj--bwljtexjbWzcTQWTVQ==&c=03lpB5KA95-2VO8f-JK4rQLt1hsidbDXd0GS-F2addIZtO9gSAVxuw==&ch=NbF5873oOGAoQS-7MDaMEcRQsNDXoEodR9sSrRu2WXgQaoNoKUrxkA==) are specially trained to provide expert assistance, free of charge, to [veterans](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001rY8HCxaBEJ3GeClrHidWsWiQ_s4ZCp8MxPWD7kazROnVGycqfpPgoD_WZBO_V_3Z4OSG_YKT9X6ipBFgOZlNwM4jStNnGO9J8p5SEUVNfqW_hcf56AthD6i6Q40eeodelxlZZuy8QJugMJ7wtHoK89akDTti3R53&c=03lpB5KA95-2VO8f-JK4rQLt1hsidbDXd0GS-F2addIZtO9gSAVxuw==&ch=NbF5873oOGAoQS-7MDaMEcRQsNDXoEodR9sSrRu2WXgQaoNoKUrxkA==) and their families.

Did you know Project Warm provides [veterans](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001FeOx8q_7qKF6ezGBctf2SDnd9MunyNQu23bayNtvZJQs6qjnG1zzmmc8EIl7TnUtdRO6pDDQAhuuxn6NYBpTU3RlgYOTzs10Y9RzgLr60QZx1LireHp6i2yQzb5n0m19EwlL65Xf7DuqPmDLNTnAmaFsLRMVpEsj&c=HUREc8zkwoxxOQX474UlB6XKdMBcsCHS0Zne7xou2SXBbs_C4hwPSA==&ch=2LPMpJDDd-5frP6csTzA9ASRi2MmXZ7_g1yfDIpNN38hqi42BaHgYw==) facing housing insecurity with items to stay warm during the winter months? The goal of Project Warm is to ensure [veterans](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001FeOx8q_7qKF6ezGBctf2SDnd9MunyNQu23bayNtvZJQs6qjnG1zzmmc8EIl7TnUtdRO6pDDQAhuuxn6NYBpTU3RlgYOTzs10Y9RzgLr60QZx1LireHp6i2yQzb5n0m19EwlL65Xf7DuqPmDLNTnAmaFsLRMVpEsj&c=HUREc8zkwoxxOQX474UlB6XKdMBcsCHS0Zne7xou2SXBbs_C4hwPSA==&ch=2LPMpJDDd-5frP6csTzA9ASRi2MmXZ7_g1yfDIpNN38hqi42BaHgYw==) have [resources](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001FeOx8q_7qKF6ezGBctf2SDnd9MunyNQu23bayNtvZJQs6qjnG1zzmsMkexJG1QfgkBgrqZQKemUALkAavx6ibobPpsbR7O7e19_jKG0_ChQg9V46BWAuEEHoQKg0S0OtAlgN0KKsN2jM3Lo_0_d7PbHVQkHe5w6RaEGNN9pNIRZq_ROXmqFssw==&c=HUREc8zkwoxxOQX474UlB6XKdMBcsCHS0Zne7xou2SXBbs_C4hwPSA==&ch=2LPMpJDDd-5frP6csTzA9ASRi2MmXZ7_g1yfDIpNN38hqi42BaHgYw==) such as hand warmers, scarves, hats, gloves, jackets, blankets, flashlights, batteries, travel mugs, packets of hot chocolate/tea, and other winter necessities.

Did you know [veterans](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001b9lRnCGD4zpVwzw1nukA3npQyw-wSgdCkRra7rE1HSBfNO1_X8lmv1zjZRR2lDU6ZFWyjoHI84lRYQWJGaWE5PfQsvCMUg2ayQH2JfMWiOwk1OC2J3rChoROlK5uTzKDhJD4Sr2NgPe7lL45_2wVmlvQPFGOpupI&c=bwlchwHWeQWYx3LLjjI6mXGO-aQorMquOrrOfyAhEIncle4aauvhlA==&ch=nlH5des3aQVHy1bLMmYO9aSrLeVDDA_Hb5DKWGjKt8OK0GvoEswzPw==) don’t have to drive 50+ miles to a [VA](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001b9lRnCGD4zpVwzw1nukA3npQyw-wSgdCkRra7rE1HSBfNO1_X8lmv1zjZRR2lDU6ZFWyjoHI84lRYQWJGaWE5PfQsvCMUg2ayQH2JfMWiOwk1OC2J3rChoROlK5uTzKDhJD4Sr2NgPe7lL45_2wVmlvQPFGOpupI&c=bwlchwHWeQWYx3LLjjI6mXGO-aQorMquOrrOfyAhEIncle4aauvhlA==&ch=nlH5des3aQVHy1bLMmYO9aSrLeVDDA_Hb5DKWGjKt8OK0GvoEswzPw==) appointment to see a dermatologist or any other medical specialist if they can find a local civilian specialist on the Mission Act list who is closer to them? Currently, there are more than 30,000 certified medical specialists on the Mission Act list of providers.

Did you know basic eligibility for [VA](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001efYVJMHogNV8F-jYv59pKuPBS2tWeCBacmNRDgAR8qS4W0o0ZaW7mu2GHJDVDsQv6M-JpRMVRPipukT23bPGY1cWp3DbTYPEsh2J66SMRPapcOHQhRyP3-AK1s4B1qtElb0tANLiGF-g1J4ZPC5vh7ZP4_OEWbgM&c=FCirV31jGpWvKmjGcYJN2QoytbIJCr5_-SQzHlfdZMxrW8fjTHXG5A==&ch=6WDRtz8F-og5s6vIb_x4bCHZ5VkkxhOy7lRZ8X53yOmUgJcm4Myg5w==) health care includes a [veteran](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001efYVJMHogNV8F-jYv59pKuPBS2tWeCBacmNRDgAR8qS4W0o0ZaW7mu2GHJDVDsQv6M-JpRMVRPipukT23bPGY1cWp3DbTYPEsh2J66SMRPapcOHQhRyP3-AK1s4B1qtElb0tANLiGF-g1J4ZPC5vh7ZP4_OEWbgM&c=FCirV31jGpWvKmjGcYJN2QoytbIJCr5_-SQzHlfdZMxrW8fjTHXG5A==&ch=6WDRtz8F-og5s6vIb_x4bCHZ5VkkxhOy7lRZ8X53yOmUgJcm4Myg5w==) who served in the active military, naval or air service and who was discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable? A [veteran](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001efYVJMHogNV8F-jYv59pKuPBS2tWeCBacmNRDgAR8qS4W0o0ZaW7mu2GHJDVDsQv6M-JpRMVRPipukT23bPGY1cWp3DbTYPEsh2J66SMRPapcOHQhRyP3-AK1s4B1qtElb0tANLiGF-g1J4ZPC5vh7ZP4_OEWbgM&c=FCirV31jGpWvKmjGcYJN2QoytbIJCr5_-SQzHlfdZMxrW8fjTHXG5A==&ch=6WDRtz8F-og5s6vIb_x4bCHZ5VkkxhOy7lRZ8X53yOmUgJcm4Myg5w==) meeting those guidelines may qualify for [VA health care benefits](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001efYVJMHogNV8F-jYv59pKuPBS2tWeCBacmNRDgAR8qS4W0o0ZaW7msU2DNvjzK-DbBnQ-NrxdHrWvjN7GAiLG-I6vAuXvI6sDyjX9dic2FpmPLPe7tE7UDhyOHavaIZLTSsHKYsLK-7SUHWO16tJm0Cy_BKFWXdfFbMCwK42UBbrMkFwkBER_g==&c=FCirV31jGpWvKmjGcYJN2QoytbIJCr5_-SQzHlfdZMxrW8fjTHXG5A==&ch=6WDRtz8F-og5s6vIb_x4bCHZ5VkkxhOy7lRZ8X53yOmUgJcm4Myg5w==), including qualifying [Reserve and National Guard members](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001efYVJMHogNV8F-jYv59pKuPBS2tWeCBacmNRDgAR8qS4W0o0ZaW7mu2GHJDVDsQv6M-JpRMVRPipukT23bPGY1cWp3DbTYPEsh2J66SMRPapcOHQhRyP3-AK1s4B1qtElb0tANLiGF-g1J4ZPC5vh7ZP4_OEWbgM&c=FCirV31jGpWvKmjGcYJN2QoytbIJCr5_-SQzHlfdZMxrW8fjTHXG5A==&ch=6WDRtz8F-og5s6vIb_x4bCHZ5VkkxhOy7lRZ8X53yOmUgJcm4Myg5w==). Additionally, [veterans](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001efYVJMHogNV8F-jYv59pKuPBS2tWeCBacmNRDgAR8qS4W0o0ZaW7mu2GHJDVDsQv6M-JpRMVRPipukT23bPGY1cWp3DbTYPEsh2J66SMRPapcOHQhRyP3-AK1s4B1qtElb0tANLiGF-g1J4ZPC5vh7ZP4_OEWbgM&c=FCirV31jGpWvKmjGcYJN2QoytbIJCr5_-SQzHlfdZMxrW8fjTHXG5A==&ch=6WDRtz8F-og5s6vIb_x4bCHZ5VkkxhOy7lRZ8X53yOmUgJcm4Myg5w==) who enlisted after September 7, 1980, or who entered active duty after October 16, 1981, must have served 24 continuous months or the full period for which they were called to active duty in order to be eligible. This minimum duty requirement may not apply to [veterans](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001efYVJMHogNV8F-jYv59pKuPBS2tWeCBacmNRDgAR8qS4W0o0ZaW7mu2GHJDVDsQv6M-JpRMVRPipukT23bPGY1cWp3DbTYPEsh2J66SMRPapcOHQhRyP3-AK1s4B1qtElb0tANLiGF-g1J4ZPC5vh7ZP4_OEWbgM&c=FCirV31jGpWvKmjGcYJN2QoytbIJCr5_-SQzHlfdZMxrW8fjTHXG5A==&ch=6WDRtz8F-og5s6vIb_x4bCHZ5VkkxhOy7lRZ8X53yOmUgJcm4Myg5w==) discharged for hardship, early out or a [disability](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001efYVJMHogNV8F-jYv59pKuPBS2tWeCBacmNRDgAR8qS4W0o0ZaW7msU2DNvjzK-DuZHfQx7pdMPqZwE3VWwSQb3PJQUOSaDqcTsAt7e2ADWYqLT2WPuEKJJeSBSZYKwT4h2zs-QSSzkXM7ZgY1EWU2HF3vyHN3Vw3_RLZD22wJeuBjljLVP_pQ==&c=FCirV31jGpWvKmjGcYJN2QoytbIJCr5_-SQzHlfdZMxrW8fjTHXG5A==&ch=6WDRtz8F-og5s6vIb_x4bCHZ5VkkxhOy7lRZ8X53yOmUgJcm4Myg5w==) incurred or aggravated in the line of duty. To apply for [VA](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001efYVJMHogNV8F-jYv59pKuPBS2tWeCBacmNRDgAR8qS4W0o0ZaW7mu2GHJDVDsQv6M-JpRMVRPipukT23bPGY1cWp3DbTYPEsh2J66SMRPapcOHQhRyP3-AK1s4B1qtElb0tANLiGF-g1J4ZPC5vh7ZP4_OEWbgM&c=FCirV31jGpWvKmjGcYJN2QoytbIJCr5_-SQzHlfdZMxrW8fjTHXG5A==&ch=6WDRtz8F-og5s6vIb_x4bCHZ5VkkxhOy7lRZ8X53yOmUgJcm4Myg5w==) health care, complete [VA Form 10 10 EZ Application](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001efYVJMHogNV8F-jYv59pKuPBS2tWeCBacmNRDgAR8qS4W0o0ZaW7mrqqkehevtM9SADOATzgs_2nRAZriymg9LWC-HioJ10R1zoBRZ-P3VqKMXPinENWHhEqTkSIvIg_p-Or9HqBB5m1unFn9s1W-8bUoSzc496vezO8hQI5UjA=&c=FCirV31jGpWvKmjGcYJN2QoytbIJCr5_-SQzHlfdZMxrW8fjTHXG5A==&ch=6WDRtz8F-og5s6vIb_x4bCHZ5VkkxhOy7lRZ8X53yOmUgJcm4Myg5w==) for health care [benefits](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001efYVJMHogNV8F-jYv59pKuPBS2tWeCBacmNRDgAR8qS4W0o0ZaW7msU2DNvjzK-DbBnQ-NrxdHrWvjN7GAiLG-I6vAuXvI6sDyjX9dic2FpmPLPe7tE7UDhyOHavaIZLTSsHKYsLK-7SUHWO16tJm0Cy_BKFWXdfFbMCwK42UBbrMkFwkBER_g==&c=FCirV31jGpWvKmjGcYJN2QoytbIJCr5_-SQzHlfdZMxrW8fjTHXG5A==&ch=6WDRtz8F-og5s6vIb_x4bCHZ5VkkxhOy7lRZ8X53yOmUgJcm4Myg5w==), and get a copy of your [DD Form 214](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001efYVJMHogNV8F-jYv59pKuPBS2tWeCBacmNRDgAR8qS4W0o0ZaW7ml9L84nkyYJsGtYZxejHLChP1HcgIdYaLlZ9UmvjUc0cQd4rVcmUjGTEGVbdd8DmpMeePe-gqQ3hLaY3sZfsn9cW1trT4tHvkv80ub9J3bVC1Hk4z-8MHRuWZCoEmVeCvy9AhQ1pl2yI&c=FCirV31jGpWvKmjGcYJN2QoytbIJCr5_-SQzHlfdZMxrW8fjTHXG5A==&ch=6WDRtz8F-og5s6vIb_x4bCHZ5VkkxhOy7lRZ8X53yOmUgJcm4Myg5w==) certificate of release or [discharge certificate](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001efYVJMHogNV8F-jYv59pKuPBS2tWeCBacmNRDgAR8qS4W0o0ZaW7mqJcV7xwManjLDRkpcFPJ07jz-oa8YYU8eeOqAPLe_SajQwvXV3trsa2BLveNg6VbZLuMhf9QLR1WcqhwaHwCMLG3syrwGg0X8lxbWBZemjouV3bxLlM18zMQNPLLcDgRattm3f2g-5f&c=FCirV31jGpWvKmjGcYJN2QoytbIJCr5_-SQzHlfdZMxrW8fjTHXG5A==&ch=6WDRtz8F-og5s6vIb_x4bCHZ5VkkxhOy7lRZ8X53yOmUgJcm4Myg5w==) from active duty. Contact the nearest [VA clinic or medical center](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001efYVJMHogNV8F-jYv59pKuPBS2tWeCBacmNRDgAR8qS4W0o0ZaW7mu2GHJDVDsQv6M-JpRMVRPipukT23bPGY1cWp3DbTYPEsh2J66SMRPapcOHQhRyP3-AK1s4B1qtElb0tANLiGF-g1J4ZPC5vh7ZP4_OEWbgM&c=FCirV31jGpWvKmjGcYJN2QoytbIJCr5_-SQzHlfdZMxrW8fjTHXG5A==&ch=6WDRtz8F-og5s6vIb_x4bCHZ5VkkxhOy7lRZ8X53yOmUgJcm4Myg5w==) to get started.

Did you know traveling [veterans](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001efYVJMHogNV8F-jYv59pKuPBS2tWeCBacmNRDgAR8qS4W0o0ZaW7mu2GHJDVDsQv6M-JpRMVRPipukT23bPGY1cWp3DbTYPEsh2J66SMRPapcOHQhRyP3-AK1s4B1qtElb0tANLiGF-g1J4ZPC5vh7ZP4_OEWbgM&c=FCirV31jGpWvKmjGcYJN2QoytbIJCr5_-SQzHlfdZMxrW8fjTHXG5A==&ch=6WDRtz8F-og5s6vIb_x4bCHZ5VkkxhOy7lRZ8X53yOmUgJcm4Myg5w==) enrolled in [VA](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001efYVJMHogNV8F-jYv59pKuPBS2tWeCBacmNRDgAR8qS4W0o0ZaW7mu2GHJDVDsQv6M-JpRMVRPipukT23bPGY1cWp3DbTYPEsh2J66SMRPapcOHQhRyP3-AK1s4B1qtElb0tANLiGF-g1J4ZPC5vh7ZP4_OEWbgM&c=FCirV31jGpWvKmjGcYJN2QoytbIJCr5_-SQzHlfdZMxrW8fjTHXG5A==&ch=6WDRtz8F-og5s6vIb_x4bCHZ5VkkxhOy7lRZ8X53yOmUgJcm4Myg5w==) health care will receive the same consistent care whether at their local [VA](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001efYVJMHogNV8F-jYv59pKuPBS2tWeCBacmNRDgAR8qS4W0o0ZaW7mu2GHJDVDsQv6M-JpRMVRPipukT23bPGY1cWp3DbTYPEsh2J66SMRPapcOHQhRyP3-AK1s4B1qtElb0tANLiGF-g1J4ZPC5vh7ZP4_OEWbgM&c=FCirV31jGpWvKmjGcYJN2QoytbIJCr5_-SQzHlfdZMxrW8fjTHXG5A==&ch=6WDRtz8F-og5s6vIb_x4bCHZ5VkkxhOy7lRZ8X53yOmUgJcm4Myg5w==) treatment site or an alternate [VA](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001efYVJMHogNV8F-jYv59pKuPBS2tWeCBacmNRDgAR8qS4W0o0ZaW7mu2GHJDVDsQv6M-JpRMVRPipukT23bPGY1cWp3DbTYPEsh2J66SMRPapcOHQhRyP3-AK1s4B1qtElb0tANLiGF-g1J4ZPC5vh7ZP4_OEWbgM&c=FCirV31jGpWvKmjGcYJN2QoytbIJCr5_-SQzHlfdZMxrW8fjTHXG5A==&ch=6WDRtz8F-og5s6vIb_x4bCHZ5VkkxhOy7lRZ8X53yOmUgJcm4Myg5w==) care site? Winter is a time when [veterans](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001efYVJMHogNV8F-jYv59pKuPBS2tWeCBacmNRDgAR8qS4W0o0ZaW7mu2GHJDVDsQv6M-JpRMVRPipukT23bPGY1cWp3DbTYPEsh2J66SMRPapcOHQhRyP3-AK1s4B1qtElb0tANLiGF-g1J4ZPC5vh7ZP4_OEWbgM&c=FCirV31jGpWvKmjGcYJN2QoytbIJCr5_-SQzHlfdZMxrW8fjTHXG5A==&ch=6WDRtz8F-og5s6vIb_x4bCHZ5VkkxhOy7lRZ8X53yOmUgJcm4Myg5w==) who live in locations where cold weather and snow are regular parts of their life often travel to warmer locations. “Snowbirds” who are enrolled with [VA](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001efYVJMHogNV8F-jYv59pKuPBS2tWeCBacmNRDgAR8qS4W0o0ZaW7mu2GHJDVDsQv6M-JpRMVRPipukT23bPGY1cWp3DbTYPEsh2J66SMRPapcOHQhRyP3-AK1s4B1qtElb0tANLiGF-g1J4ZPC5vh7ZP4_OEWbgM&c=FCirV31jGpWvKmjGcYJN2QoytbIJCr5_-SQzHlfdZMxrW8fjTHXG5A==&ch=6WDRtz8F-og5s6vIb_x4bCHZ5VkkxhOy7lRZ8X53yOmUgJcm4Myg5w==) health care may need [VA](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001efYVJMHogNV8F-jYv59pKuPBS2tWeCBacmNRDgAR8qS4W0o0ZaW7mu2GHJDVDsQv6M-JpRMVRPipukT23bPGY1cWp3DbTYPEsh2J66SMRPapcOHQhRyP3-AK1s4B1qtElb0tANLiGF-g1J4ZPC5vh7ZP4_OEWbgM&c=FCirV31jGpWvKmjGcYJN2QoytbIJCr5_-SQzHlfdZMxrW8fjTHXG5A==&ch=6WDRtz8F-og5s6vIb_x4bCHZ5VkkxhOy7lRZ8X53yOmUgJcm4Myg5w==) health care services while they are traveling or wintering. To ensure that such [veterans](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001efYVJMHogNV8F-jYv59pKuPBS2tWeCBacmNRDgAR8qS4W0o0ZaW7mu2GHJDVDsQv6M-JpRMVRPipukT23bPGY1cWp3DbTYPEsh2J66SMRPapcOHQhRyP3-AK1s4B1qtElb0tANLiGF-g1J4ZPC5vh7ZP4_OEWbgM&c=FCirV31jGpWvKmjGcYJN2QoytbIJCr5_-SQzHlfdZMxrW8fjTHXG5A==&ch=6WDRtz8F-og5s6vIb_x4bCHZ5VkkxhOy7lRZ8X53yOmUgJcm4Myg5w==) maintain their [VA](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001efYVJMHogNV8F-jYv59pKuPBS2tWeCBacmNRDgAR8qS4W0o0ZaW7mu2GHJDVDsQv6M-JpRMVRPipukT23bPGY1cWp3DbTYPEsh2J66SMRPapcOHQhRyP3-AK1s4B1qtElb0tANLiGF-g1J4ZPC5vh7ZP4_OEWbgM&c=FCirV31jGpWvKmjGcYJN2QoytbIJCr5_-SQzHlfdZMxrW8fjTHXG5A==&ch=6WDRtz8F-og5s6vIb_x4bCHZ5VkkxhOy7lRZ8X53yOmUgJcm4Myg5w==) health care undiminished, when the [veteran](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001efYVJMHogNV8F-jYv59pKuPBS2tWeCBacmNRDgAR8qS4W0o0ZaW7mu2GHJDVDsQv6M-JpRMVRPipukT23bPGY1cWp3DbTYPEsh2J66SMRPapcOHQhRyP3-AK1s4B1qtElb0tANLiGF-g1J4ZPC5vh7ZP4_OEWbgM&c=FCirV31jGpWvKmjGcYJN2QoytbIJCr5_-SQzHlfdZMxrW8fjTHXG5A==&ch=6WDRtz8F-og5s6vIb_x4bCHZ5VkkxhOy7lRZ8X53yOmUgJcm4Myg5w==) leaves the local [VA](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001efYVJMHogNV8F-jYv59pKuPBS2tWeCBacmNRDgAR8qS4W0o0ZaW7mu2GHJDVDsQv6M-JpRMVRPipukT23bPGY1cWp3DbTYPEsh2J66SMRPapcOHQhRyP3-AK1s4B1qtElb0tANLiGF-g1J4ZPC5vh7ZP4_OEWbgM&c=FCirV31jGpWvKmjGcYJN2QoytbIJCr5_-SQzHlfdZMxrW8fjTHXG5A==&ch=6WDRtz8F-og5s6vIb_x4bCHZ5VkkxhOy7lRZ8X53yOmUgJcm4Myg5w==) health care area, the [VA](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001efYVJMHogNV8F-jYv59pKuPBS2tWeCBacmNRDgAR8qS4W0o0ZaW7mu2GHJDVDsQv6M-JpRMVRPipukT23bPGY1cWp3DbTYPEsh2J66SMRPapcOHQhRyP3-AK1s4B1qtElb0tANLiGF-g1J4ZPC5vh7ZP4_OEWbgM&c=FCirV31jGpWvKmjGcYJN2QoytbIJCr5_-SQzHlfdZMxrW8fjTHXG5A==&ch=6WDRtz8F-og5s6vIb_x4bCHZ5VkkxhOy7lRZ8X53yOmUgJcm4Myg5w==) requests that the [veteran](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001efYVJMHogNV8F-jYv59pKuPBS2tWeCBacmNRDgAR8qS4W0o0ZaW7mu2GHJDVDsQv6M-JpRMVRPipukT23bPGY1cWp3DbTYPEsh2J66SMRPapcOHQhRyP3-AK1s4B1qtElb0tANLiGF-g1J4ZPC5vh7ZP4_OEWbgM&c=FCirV31jGpWvKmjGcYJN2QoytbIJCr5_-SQzHlfdZMxrW8fjTHXG5A==&ch=6WDRtz8F-og5s6vIb_x4bCHZ5VkkxhOy7lRZ8X53yOmUgJcm4Myg5w==) contact their local [VA](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001efYVJMHogNV8F-jYv59pKuPBS2tWeCBacmNRDgAR8qS4W0o0ZaW7mu2GHJDVDsQv6M-JpRMVRPipukT23bPGY1cWp3DbTYPEsh2J66SMRPapcOHQhRyP3-AK1s4B1qtElb0tANLiGF-g1J4ZPC5vh7ZP4_OEWbgM&c=FCirV31jGpWvKmjGcYJN2QoytbIJCr5_-SQzHlfdZMxrW8fjTHXG5A==&ch=6WDRtz8F-og5s6vIb_x4bCHZ5VkkxhOy7lRZ8X53yOmUgJcm4Myg5w==) PACT (Patient Aligned Care Team), and the team will coordinate the [veteran's](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001efYVJMHogNV8F-jYv59pKuPBS2tWeCBacmNRDgAR8qS4W0o0ZaW7mu2GHJDVDsQv6M-JpRMVRPipukT23bPGY1cWp3DbTYPEsh2J66SMRPapcOHQhRyP3-AK1s4B1qtElb0tANLiGF-g1J4ZPC5vh7ZP4_OEWbgM&c=FCirV31jGpWvKmjGcYJN2QoytbIJCr5_-SQzHlfdZMxrW8fjTHXG5A==&ch=6WDRtz8F-og5s6vIb_x4bCHZ5VkkxhOy7lRZ8X53yOmUgJcm4Myg5w==) health care at an alternative location where the [veteran](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001efYVJMHogNV8F-jYv59pKuPBS2tWeCBacmNRDgAR8qS4W0o0ZaW7mu2GHJDVDsQv6M-JpRMVRPipukT23bPGY1cWp3DbTYPEsh2J66SMRPapcOHQhRyP3-AK1s4B1qtElb0tANLiGF-g1J4ZPC5vh7ZP4_OEWbgM&c=FCirV31jGpWvKmjGcYJN2QoytbIJCr5_-SQzHlfdZMxrW8fjTHXG5A==&ch=6WDRtz8F-og5s6vIb_x4bCHZ5VkkxhOy7lRZ8X53yOmUgJcm4Myg5w==) will be traveling. The notification should be made six to eight weeks ahead of the travel date and should include travel destinations(s) and temporary address; a valid telephone number; arrival and departure dates; and specific care concerns. The PACT team will contact the national traveling [veteran](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001efYVJMHogNV8F-jYv59pKuPBS2tWeCBacmNRDgAR8qS4W0o0ZaW7mu2GHJDVDsQv6M-JpRMVRPipukT23bPGY1cWp3DbTYPEsh2J66SMRPapcOHQhRyP3-AK1s4B1qtElb0tANLiGF-g1J4ZPC5vh7ZP4_OEWbgM&c=FCirV31jGpWvKmjGcYJN2QoytbIJCr5_-SQzHlfdZMxrW8fjTHXG5A==&ch=6WDRtz8F-og5s6vIb_x4bCHZ5VkkxhOy7lRZ8X53yOmUgJcm4Myg5w==) coordinator, who will assist in coordinating care. Contact you PACT team at your local [VA clinic or medical center](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001efYVJMHogNV8F-jYv59pKuPBS2tWeCBacmNRDgAR8qS4W0o0ZaW7mu2GHJDVDsQv6M-JpRMVRPipukT23bPGY1cWp3DbTYPEsh2J66SMRPapcOHQhRyP3-AK1s4B1qtElb0tANLiGF-g1J4ZPC5vh7ZP4_OEWbgM&c=FCirV31jGpWvKmjGcYJN2QoytbIJCr5_-SQzHlfdZMxrW8fjTHXG5A==&ch=6WDRtz8F-og5s6vIb_x4bCHZ5VkkxhOy7lRZ8X53yOmUgJcm4Myg5w==) or a traveling [veteran](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001efYVJMHogNV8F-jYv59pKuPBS2tWeCBacmNRDgAR8qS4W0o0ZaW7mu2GHJDVDsQv6M-JpRMVRPipukT23bPGY1cWp3DbTYPEsh2J66SMRPapcOHQhRyP3-AK1s4B1qtElb0tANLiGF-g1J4ZPC5vh7ZP4_OEWbgM&c=FCirV31jGpWvKmjGcYJN2QoytbIJCr5_-SQzHlfdZMxrW8fjTHXG5A==&ch=6WDRtz8F-og5s6vIb_x4bCHZ5VkkxhOy7lRZ8X53yOmUgJcm4Myg5w==) coordinator at the local [VA facility](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001efYVJMHogNV8F-jYv59pKuPBS2tWeCBacmNRDgAR8qS4W0o0ZaW7mu2GHJDVDsQv6M-JpRMVRPipukT23bPGY1cWp3DbTYPEsh2J66SMRPapcOHQhRyP3-AK1s4B1qtElb0tANLiGF-g1J4ZPC5vh7ZP4_OEWbgM&c=FCirV31jGpWvKmjGcYJN2QoytbIJCr5_-SQzHlfdZMxrW8fjTHXG5A==&ch=6WDRtz8F-og5s6vIb_x4bCHZ5VkkxhOy7lRZ8X53yOmUgJcm4Myg5w==).

Did you know the [Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) medical centers and community based outpatient clinics (CBOC)](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001HmayrHGC6qsn8hons6ecZtgdnKE3VA_7H5qHeOBaIKGf8Q_OvX4gVuH3hjwpVC-YZbmjnLWidtZ77odFKPu_narfNFYBPH-VRMtxtSNq1sT5jOGZhyBX2Y2SrPjIJjGW_UAXMNavSPNBIa9a6Omn3xoLVVpKUK76&c=KZJfs9sqbMpvBv7_0RExfcNwRwuME0tuJ0nvdqh1P395vHdv118YEQ==&ch=lW_E6TZ0z6rXVyFpnpvRamv6Edq0CJ3OAcq93aiytP7i9SIw0PR4mg==) across the country are now offering enrolled [veterans](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001HmayrHGC6qsn8hons6ecZtgdnKE3VA_7H5qHeOBaIKGf8Q_OvX4gVuH3hjwpVC-YZbmjnLWidtZ77odFKPu_narfNFYBPH-VRMtxtSNq1sT5jOGZhyBX2Y2SrPjIJjGW_UAXMNavSPNBIa9a6Omn3xoLVVpKUK76&c=KZJfs9sqbMpvBv7_0RExfcNwRwuME0tuJ0nvdqh1P395vHdv118YEQ==&ch=lW_E6TZ0z6rXVyFpnpvRamv6Edq0CJ3OAcq93aiytP7i9SIw0PR4mg==) toxic exposure screenings? The five- to 10-minute screening starts by asking [veterans](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001HmayrHGC6qsn8hons6ecZtgdnKE3VA_7H5qHeOBaIKGf8Q_OvX4gVuH3hjwpVC-YZbmjnLWidtZ77odFKPu_narfNFYBPH-VRMtxtSNq1sT5jOGZhyBX2Y2SrPjIJjGW_UAXMNavSPNBIa9a6Omn3xoLVVpKUK76&c=KZJfs9sqbMpvBv7_0RExfcNwRwuME0tuJ0nvdqh1P395vHdv118YEQ==&ch=lW_E6TZ0z6rXVyFpnpvRamv6Edq0CJ3OAcq93aiytP7i9SIw0PR4mg==) if they believe they’ve experienced toxic exposures during their service. [Veterans](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001HmayrHGC6qsn8hons6ecZtgdnKE3VA_7H5qHeOBaIKGf8Q_OvX4gVuH3hjwpVC-YZbmjnLWidtZ77odFKPu_narfNFYBPH-VRMtxtSNq1sT5jOGZhyBX2Y2SrPjIJjGW_UAXMNavSPNBIa9a6Omn3xoLVVpKUK76&c=KZJfs9sqbMpvBv7_0RExfcNwRwuME0tuJ0nvdqh1P395vHdv118YEQ==&ch=lW_E6TZ0z6rXVyFpnpvRamv6Edq0CJ3OAcq93aiytP7i9SIw0PR4mg==) who answer “yes” are then asked about specific exposures. These include open burn pits, [Agent Orange](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001HmayrHGC6qsn8hons6ecZtgdnKE3VA_7H5qHeOBaIKGf8Q_OvX4gVoT3yY-3c0QWHd2c0Drt7RKSrk81MuFfXtcLIrkxjo9gDTKjnr5Tr5_hMeNkk3rI7RoEOTvWsXnmUrKc13aiAW0m1zz_j_UOmPE_pDajfMNTuOPqgeoadbSA9eIV7x3EzzhBplSacDcF&c=KZJfs9sqbMpvBv7_0RExfcNwRwuME0tuJ0nvdqh1P395vHdv118YEQ==&ch=lW_E6TZ0z6rXVyFpnpvRamv6Edq0CJ3OAcq93aiytP7i9SIw0PR4mg==), radiation, [contaminated water](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001HmayrHGC6qsn8hons6ecZtgdnKE3VA_7H5qHeOBaIKGf8Q_OvX4gVjGPBD3UPYDcGvtbmJ08SbbU7YVLF45L0pJ3MuAGiAYs381Ruj11C7BXfOtHA92uSY-qRzaTBiHjvT2xysH844mUBqQdp5lyzCn4lzkrZmz9i9AR75cLSg0yMYkhJmCZPihU-r2Jt-pV&c=KZJfs9sqbMpvBv7_0RExfcNwRwuME0tuJ0nvdqh1P395vHdv118YEQ==&ch=lW_E6TZ0z6rXVyFpnpvRamv6Edq0CJ3OAcq93aiytP7i9SIw0PR4mg==) and other exposures. [Veterans](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001HmayrHGC6qsn8hons6ecZtgdnKE3VA_7H5qHeOBaIKGf8Q_OvX4gVuH3hjwpVC-YZbmjnLWidtZ77odFKPu_narfNFYBPH-VRMtxtSNq1sT5jOGZhyBX2Y2SrPjIJjGW_UAXMNavSPNBIa9a6Omn3xoLVVpKUK76&c=KZJfs9sqbMpvBv7_0RExfcNwRwuME0tuJ0nvdqh1P395vHdv118YEQ==&ch=lW_E6TZ0z6rXVyFpnpvRamv6Edq0CJ3OAcq93aiytP7i9SIw0PR4mg==) will receive follow-up screenings at least every five years

Did you know [VA](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001sSkRuYb0f75KdA3VhJA_Z6kqiss3JWE4x3C8klAlyWGzvieRpRCMqBseMcHWXBf-MVg0MIs5ZYBA05DQdmpwGFWuZ1YmxSgS_aCG_W_6-ghCo0MAo7ce887-owyHfA1Y7A11aSg5hABJKNTu4UtfVhthlsi3aFglO9qUvRewsvpL5rFHoGGLSgbRIvePpgj-_5FliUc8gqYBw-QBt4OfKnC5Z0uKKAWgAoXzlVuj540YnUPGis1faFy8UT7_ZFAD&c=lHqfEApyNOICUfr1vmbNiW-wxxlseU6MNWg9F4HJ23eCsYsJ8pWXZQ==&ch=m6O3La5eC_Yz46wJlyKyyhKRlj-0esGTeB1CK1qdkk90ftX6HTDjSA==) will provide hearing aids and eyeglasses to [veterans](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001sSkRuYb0f75KdA3VhJA_Z6kqiss3JWE4x3C8klAlyWGzvieRpRCMqBseMcHWXBf-MVg0MIs5ZYBA05DQdmpwGFWuZ1YmxSgS_aCG_W_6-ghCo0MAo7ce887-owyHfA1Y7A11aSg5hABJKNTu4UtfVhthlsi3aFglO9qUvRewsvpL5rFHoGGLSgbRIvePpgj-_5FliUc8gqYBw-QBt4OfKnC5Z0uKKAWgAoXzlVuj540YnUPGis1faFy8UT7_ZFAD&c=lHqfEApyNOICUfr1vmbNiW-wxxlseU6MNWg9F4HJ23eCsYsJ8pWXZQ==&ch=m6O3La5eC_Yz46wJlyKyyhKRlj-0esGTeB1CK1qdkk90ftX6HTDjSA==) who receive increased [pension](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001sSkRuYb0f75KdA3VhJA_Z6kqiss3JWE4x3C8klAlyWGzvieRpRCMqPE9vCR1jhhKhIn2z5bJ4e3rSf7ZHLmEhD2TUWPHy-a86FHhofkHMo7dHBs_pgchpG4OWu_OGw_XsYaIJW4Nf5l42qUKcrDOSsbmDEyJ3swM&c=lHqfEApyNOICUfr1vmbNiW-wxxlseU6MNWg9F4HJ23eCsYsJ8pWXZQ==&ch=m6O3La5eC_Yz46wJlyKyyhKRlj-0esGTeB1CK1qdkk90ftX6HTDjSA==)

based on the need for regular aid and attendance or being permanently housebound, receive [compensation](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001sSkRuYb0f75KdA3VhJA_Z6kqiss3JWE4x3C8klAlyWGzvieRpRCMqLOpFSpCT1hHbOdEhzJWXuJUWUlqwpAwgM-eretndswNj-FRgI7CDiGbq3yLroqurMadImGsH6UrU59ubvv7dpqNLVSzNvi1MFDVSxAdzqioAeEwZEx5J_-zmM3zUX-auFw1vyEgvDf6&c=lHqfEApyNOICUfr1vmbNiW-wxxlseU6MNWg9F4HJ23eCsYsJ8pWXZQ==&ch=m6O3La5eC_Yz46wJlyKyyhKRlj-0esGTeB1CK1qdkk90ftX6HTDjSA==)

for [service-connected disability](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001sSkRuYb0f75KdA3VhJA_Z6kqiss3JWE4x3C8klAlyWGzvieRpRCMqPE9vCR1jhhKhIn2z5bJ4e3rSf7ZHLmEhD2TUWPHy-a86FHhofkHMo7dHBs_pgchpG4OWu_OGw_XsYaIJW4Nf5l42qUKcrDOSsbmDEyJ3swM&c=lHqfEApyNOICUfr1vmbNiW-wxxlseU6MNWg9F4HJ23eCsYsJ8pWXZQ==&ch=m6O3La5eC_Yz46wJlyKyyhKRlj-0esGTeB1CK1qdkk90ftX6HTDjSA==), or are former [POWs or Purple Heart award recipients](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001sSkRuYb0f75KdA3VhJA_Z6kqiss3JWE4x3C8klAlyWGzvieRpRCMqPE9vCR1jhhKhIn2z5bJ4e3rSf7ZHLmEhD2TUWPHy-a86FHhofkHMo7dHBs_pgchpG4OWu_OGw_XsYaIJW4Nf5l42qUKcrDOSsbmDEyJ3swM&c=lHqfEApyNOICUfr1vmbNiW-wxxlseU6MNWg9F4HJ23eCsYsJ8pWXZQ==&ch=m6O3La5eC_Yz46wJlyKyyhKRlj-0esGTeB1CK1qdkk90ftX6HTDjSA==)? Otherwise, hearing aids and eyeglasses are provided only in special circumstances, and not normally occurring hearing or vision loss.

Did you know [The VA National Suicide Prevention Hotline Veterans Chat](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001sSkRuYb0f75KdA3VhJA_Z6kqiss3JWE4x3C8klAlyWGzvieRpRCMqHY7iN8xP8RiBKErg-4E8u1YGTzKR-0eCMcwZzfWmmCL4GVyd0IUvZGOscHBFhlEe8hPza27CV8P7QgZV3kDpUweUTeiC7SlLk1Z5rtoCbm1uXYjzDL70dZvwbz5NIos7A==&c=lHqfEApyNOICUfr1vmbNiW-wxxlseU6MNWg9F4HJ23eCsYsJ8pWXZQ==&ch=m6O3La5eC_Yz46wJlyKyyhKRlj-0esGTeB1CK1qdkk90ftX6HTDjSA==) enables [veterans, their families](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001sSkRuYb0f75KdA3VhJA_Z6kqiss3JWE4x3C8klAlyWGzvieRpRCMqBseMcHWXBf-MVg0MIs5ZYBA05DQdmpwGFWuZ1YmxSgS_aCG_W_6-ghCo0MAo7ce887-owyHfA1Y7A11aSg5hABJKNTu4UtfVhthlsi3aFglO9qUvRewsvpL5rFHoGGLSgbRIvePpgj-_5FliUc8gqYBw-QBt4OfKnC5Z0uKKAWgAoXzlVuj540YnUPGis1faFy8UT7_ZFAD&c=lHqfEApyNOICUfr1vmbNiW-wxxlseU6MNWg9F4HJ23eCsYsJ8pWXZQ==&ch=m6O3La5eC_Yz46wJlyKyyhKRlj-0esGTeB1CK1qdkk90ftX6HTDjSA==) and friends to go online where they can anonymously chat with a trained [VA](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001sSkRuYb0f75KdA3VhJA_Z6kqiss3JWE4x3C8klAlyWGzvieRpRCMqBseMcHWXBf-MVg0MIs5ZYBA05DQdmpwGFWuZ1YmxSgS_aCG_W_6-ghCo0MAo7ce887-owyHfA1Y7A11aSg5hABJKNTu4UtfVhthlsi3aFglO9qUvRewsvpL5rFHoGGLSgbRIvePpgj-_5FliUc8gqYBw-QBt4OfKnC5Z0uKKAWgAoXzlVuj540YnUPGis1faFy8UT7_ZFAD&c=lHqfEApyNOICUfr1vmbNiW-wxxlseU6MNWg9F4HJ23eCsYsJ8pWXZQ==&ch=m6O3La5eC_Yz46wJlyKyyhKRlj-0esGTeB1CK1qdkk90ftX6HTDjSA==) counselor?

[Veterans](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001sSkRuYb0f75KdA3VhJA_Z6kqiss3JWE4x3C8klAlyWGzvieRpRCMqLflYSlkeoInnAijGnL0AWb10pb7WWb1a6ddc_UHaEOKbyYCn477D9QJXl1HiTc73eCgEzW4fphCLEJWFaZpDxS3WOihn1a1JuhL5AM_twSF&c=lHqfEApyNOICUfr1vmbNiW-wxxlseU6MNWg9F4HJ23eCsYsJ8pWXZQ==&ch=m6O3La5eC_Yz46wJlyKyyhKRlj-0esGTeB1CK1qdkk90ftX6HTDjSA==) Chat can be accessed through the suicide prevention website. You may also call 800-273-8255 24/7.

It is estimated that one in three Veterans had toxic exposures during their active duty. From burn pits and Agent Orange to nuclear waste and contaminated groundwater, these environmental hazard exposures can adversely impact Veterans’ health long after their service.

Did you know the [Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001FJ2mtKg1F-FrkjEOG06PoIatnLm-wrtzkPMlk5Zdivc9Rhq6WN0oDIZDPhKYpEGRu3_j4u13gMQEN17LSArELr1ae9-MkHrP0UBQo-RzXvG7-LuW6iRz1DVgL7S7qDBdwfltRlSUBPW-M45WYaKv47ilR644WxHm&c=ldMj3APwfmkHZyyG2fet6NdQkkrEgp7CaAI2Ui8v5pv6v29YiMvnVA==&ch=ucaowIhaDKViIYWXy7adGgVPUTGXt7xW6GBm9DSjv42Gx3KWbbvvIA==) will start processing [PACT Act benefits](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001FJ2mtKg1F-FrkjEOG06PoIatnLm-wrtzkPMlk5Zdivc9Rhq6WN0oDEQ8U4XElIbfGAL79xnepYuOjCTi9CjwZ1e553WJna-tbhgtbZFOQQlPDDCgbz-4_BwHVXmuUctMJi8o_z4jFoVMuYq2OGBEDb0mY6UYz3eJj7oTQtpmWXExxiXKnro4kw==&c=ldMj3APwfmkHZyyG2fet6NdQkkrEgp7CaAI2Ui8v5pv6v29YiMvnVA==&ch=ucaowIhaDKViIYWXy7adGgVPUTGXt7xW6GBm9DSjv42Gx3KWbbvvIA==) claims for eligible terminally ill [veterans](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001FJ2mtKg1F-FrkjEOG06PoIatnLm-wrtzkPMlk5Zdivc9Rhq6WN0oDIZDPhKYpEGRu3_j4u13gMQEN17LSArELr1ae9-MkHrP0UBQo-RzXvG7-LuW6iRz1DVgL7S7qDBdwfltRlSUBPW-M45WYaKv47ilR644WxHm&c=ldMj3APwfmkHZyyG2fet6NdQkkrEgp7CaAI2Ui8v5pv6v29YiMvnVA==&ch=ucaowIhaDKViIYWXy7adGgVPUTGXt7xW6GBm9DSjv42Gx3KWbbvvIA==) immediately? While the [VA](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001FJ2mtKg1F-FrkjEOG06PoIatnLm-wrtzkPMlk5Zdivc9Rhq6WN0oDIZDPhKYpEGRu3_j4u13gMQEN17LSArELr1ae9-MkHrP0UBQo-RzXvG7-LuW6iRz1DVgL7S7qDBdwfltRlSUBPW-M45WYaKv47ilR644WxHm&c=ldMj3APwfmkHZyyG2fet6NdQkkrEgp7CaAI2Ui8v5pv6v29YiMvnVA==&ch=ucaowIhaDKViIYWXy7adGgVPUTGXt7xW6GBm9DSjv42Gx3KWbbvvIA==) said it cannot fully process PACT Act claims for all other [veterans](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001FJ2mtKg1F-FrkjEOG06PoIatnLm-wrtzkPMlk5Zdivc9Rhq6WN0oDIZDPhKYpEGRu3_j4u13gMQEN17LSArELr1ae9-MkHrP0UBQo-RzXvG7-LuW6iRz1DVgL7S7qDBdwfltRlSUBPW-M45WYaKv47ilR644WxHm&c=ldMj3APwfmkHZyyG2fet6NdQkkrEgp7CaAI2Ui8v5pv6v29YiMvnVA==&ch=ucaowIhaDKViIYWXy7adGgVPUTGXt7xW6GBm9DSjv42Gx3KWbbvvIA==) until January 1, 2023, the department said it will “expedite processing for terminally ill [veterans](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001FJ2mtKg1F-FrkjEOG06PoIatnLm-wrtzkPMlk5Zdivc9Rhq6WN0oDIZDPhKYpEGRu3_j4u13gMQEN17LSArELr1ae9-MkHrP0UBQo-RzXvG7-LuW6iRz1DVgL7S7qDBdwfltRlSUBPW-M45WYaKv47ilR644WxHm&c=ldMj3APwfmkHZyyG2fet6NdQkkrEgp7CaAI2Ui8v5pv6v29YiMvnVA==&ch=ucaowIhaDKViIYWXy7adGgVPUTGXt7xW6GBm9DSjv42Gx3KWbbvvIA==) right away.” The [VA](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001FJ2mtKg1F-FrkjEOG06PoIatnLm-wrtzkPMlk5Zdivc9Rhq6WN0oDIZDPhKYpEGRu3_j4u13gMQEN17LSArELr1ae9-MkHrP0UBQo-RzXvG7-LuW6iRz1DVgL7S7qDBdwfltRlSUBPW-M45WYaKv47ilR644WxHm&c=ldMj3APwfmkHZyyG2fet6NdQkkrEgp7CaAI2Ui8v5pv6v29YiMvnVA==&ch=ucaowIhaDKViIYWXy7adGgVPUTGXt7xW6GBm9DSjv42Gx3KWbbvvIA==) said it will also prioritize PACT Act claims filed by [veterans](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001FJ2mtKg1F-FrkjEOG06PoIatnLm-wrtzkPMlk5Zdivc9Rhq6WN0oDIZDPhKYpEGRu3_j4u13gMQEN17LSArELr1ae9-MkHrP0UBQo-RzXvG7-LuW6iRz1DVgL7S7qDBdwfltRlSUBPW-M45WYaKv47ilR644WxHm&c=ldMj3APwfmkHZyyG2fet6NdQkkrEgp7CaAI2Ui8v5pv6v29YiMvnVA==&ch=ucaowIhaDKViIYWXy7adGgVPUTGXt7xW6GBm9DSjv42Gx3KWbbvvIA==) with [cancer](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001FJ2mtKg1F-FrkjEOG06PoIatnLm-wrtzkPMlk5Zdivc9Rhq6WN0oDEQ8U4XElIbfP9J5KEuuvUtkGPUihI1Lo3PPfgrwmWI7jAPkpYlD6kPj8FGidNY6v6j9f7-OJ2m5y_FiPfKpjW-s13_Opq17A7cWF6eOVQ1ClmpsyZxJRE2oF-28V3tqtA==&c=ldMj3APwfmkHZyyG2fet6NdQkkrEgp7CaAI2Ui8v5pv6v29YiMvnVA==&ch=ucaowIhaDKViIYWXy7adGgVPUTGXt7xW6GBm9DSjv42Gx3KWbbvvIA==), veterans experiencing homelessness, [veterans](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001FJ2mtKg1F-FrkjEOG06PoIatnLm-wrtzkPMlk5Zdivc9Rhq6WN0oDIZDPhKYpEGRu3_j4u13gMQEN17LSArELr1ae9-MkHrP0UBQo-RzXvG7-LuW6iRz1DVgL7S7qDBdwfltRlSUBPW-M45WYaKv47ilR644WxHm&c=ldMj3APwfmkHZyyG2fet6NdQkkrEgp7CaAI2Ui8v5pv6v29YiMvnVA==&ch=ucaowIhaDKViIYWXy7adGgVPUTGXt7xW6GBm9DSjv42Gx3KWbbvvIA==) older than 85 years old, [veterans](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001FJ2mtKg1F-FrkjEOG06PoIatnLm-wrtzkPMlk5Zdivc9Rhq6WN0oDIZDPhKYpEGRu3_j4u13gMQEN17LSArELr1ae9-MkHrP0UBQo-RzXvG7-LuW6iRz1DVgL7S7qDBdwfltRlSUBPW-M45WYaKv47ilR644WxHm&c=ldMj3APwfmkHZyyG2fet6NdQkkrEgp7CaAI2Ui8v5pv6v29YiMvnVA==&ch=ucaowIhaDKViIYWXy7adGgVPUTGXt7xW6GBm9DSjv42Gx3KWbbvvIA==) experiencing financial hardship and Medal of Honor and Purple Heart recipients.

Did you know that some predatory companies target [veterans](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001FJ2mtKg1F-FrkjEOG06PoIatnLm-wrtzkPMlk5Zdivc9Rhq6WN0oDIZDPhKYpEGRu3_j4u13gMQEN17LSArELr1ae9-MkHrP0UBQo-RzXvG7-LuW6iRz1DVgL7S7qDBdwfltRlSUBPW-M45WYaKv47ilR644WxHm&c=ldMj3APwfmkHZyyG2fet6NdQkkrEgp7CaAI2Ui8v5pv6v29YiMvnVA==&ch=ucaowIhaDKViIYWXy7adGgVPUTGXt7xW6GBm9DSjv42Gx3KWbbvvIA==) in exchange for [compensation](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001FJ2mtKg1F-FrkjEOG06PoIatnLm-wrtzkPMlk5Zdivc9Rhq6WN0oDMgnPAcvXBZQQNsTvlV5f5SlYC45WBRUCzZ7AsK9CyxR9C64xWPItXlVdLQlrwRn5gEX-rBVCY0Fvq8EqqQeNXFuMcQsZiUvZ3bQl51Zlzubp_cuPPt1Y7Db7itIc5pZbWUvtzqqHiL-&c=ldMj3APwfmkHZyyG2fet6NdQkkrEgp7CaAI2Ui8v5pv6v29YiMvnVA==&ch=ucaowIhaDKViIYWXy7adGgVPUTGXt7xW6GBm9DSjv42Gx3KWbbvvIA==) or a portion of future [benefits](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001FJ2mtKg1F-FrkjEOG06PoIatnLm-wrtzkPMlk5Zdivc9Rhq6WN0oDEVatCdyvMY1YEaWTKuGs9LBrHAvcxfzqzfUT4y0_gor-U-HsaHO_uJdiqjIHJkkL7D8mCjKPtDSB4Rjm1fxfpIWj4T1QyyMOSQSd0ocTP4skDcZ96aKLawQqAybjEQyTA==&c=ldMj3APwfmkHZyyG2fet6NdQkkrEgp7CaAI2Ui8v5pv6v29YiMvnVA==&ch=ucaowIhaDKViIYWXy7adGgVPUTGXt7xW6GBm9DSjv42Gx3KWbbvvIA==)? While any [veteran](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001FJ2mtKg1F-FrkjEOG06PoIatnLm-wrtzkPMlk5Zdivc9Rhq6WN0oDIZDPhKYpEGRu3_j4u13gMQEN17LSArELr1ae9-MkHrP0UBQo-RzXvG7-LuW6iRz1DVgL7S7qDBdwfltRlSUBPW-M45WYaKv47ilR644WxHm&c=ldMj3APwfmkHZyyG2fet6NdQkkrEgp7CaAI2Ui8v5pv6v29YiMvnVA==&ch=ucaowIhaDKViIYWXy7adGgVPUTGXt7xW6GBm9DSjv42Gx3KWbbvvIA==) or survivor can retain a [lawyer](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001FJ2mtKg1F-FrkjEOG06PoIatnLm-wrtzkPMlk5Zdivc9Rhq6WN0oDIZDPhKYpEGRu3_j4u13gMQEN17LSArELr1ae9-MkHrP0UBQo-RzXvG7-LuW6iRz1DVgL7S7qDBdwfltRlSUBPW-M45WYaKv47ilR644WxHm&c=ldMj3APwfmkHZyyG2fet6NdQkkrEgp7CaAI2Ui8v5pv6v29YiMvnVA==&ch=ucaowIhaDKViIYWXy7adGgVPUTGXt7xW6GBm9DSjv42Gx3KWbbvvIA==) to help file claims, the [VA](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001FJ2mtKg1F-FrkjEOG06PoIatnLm-wrtzkPMlk5Zdivc9Rhq6WN0oDIZDPhKYpEGRu3_j4u13gMQEN17LSArELr1ae9-MkHrP0UBQo-RzXvG7-LuW6iRz1DVgL7S7qDBdwfltRlSUBPW-M45WYaKv47ilR644WxHm&c=ldMj3APwfmkHZyyG2fet6NdQkkrEgp7CaAI2Ui8v5pv6v29YiMvnVA==&ch=ucaowIhaDKViIYWXy7adGgVPUTGXt7xW6GBm9DSjv42Gx3KWbbvvIA==) never requires it. If [veterans](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001FJ2mtKg1F-FrkjEOG06PoIatnLm-wrtzkPMlk5Zdivc9Rhq6WN0oDIZDPhKYpEGRu3_j4u13gMQEN17LSArELr1ae9-MkHrP0UBQo-RzXvG7-LuW6iRz1DVgL7S7qDBdwfltRlSUBPW-M45WYaKv47ilR644WxHm&c=ldMj3APwfmkHZyyG2fet6NdQkkrEgp7CaAI2Ui8v5pv6v29YiMvnVA==&ch=ucaowIhaDKViIYWXy7adGgVPUTGXt7xW6GBm9DSjv42Gx3KWbbvvIA==) or survivors are interested in working with an [agent or an accredited attorney](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001FJ2mtKg1F-FrkjEOG06PoIatnLm-wrtzkPMlk5Zdivc9Rhq6WN0oDIZDPhKYpEGRu3_j4u13gMQEN17LSArELr1ae9-MkHrP0UBQo-RzXvG7-LuW6iRz1DVgL7S7qDBdwfltRlSUBPW-M45WYaKv47ilR644WxHm&c=ldMj3APwfmkHZyyG2fet6NdQkkrEgp7CaAI2Ui8v5pv6v29YiMvnVA==&ch=ucaowIhaDKViIYWXy7adGgVPUTGXt7xW6GBm9DSjv42Gx3KWbbvvIA==), check with [VA’s](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001FJ2mtKg1F-FrkjEOG06PoIatnLm-wrtzkPMlk5Zdivc9Rhq6WN0oDIZDPhKYpEGRu3_j4u13gMQEN17LSArELr1ae9-MkHrP0UBQo-RzXvG7-LuW6iRz1DVgL7S7qDBdwfltRlSUBPW-M45WYaKv47ilR644WxHm&c=ldMj3APwfmkHZyyG2fet6NdQkkrEgp7CaAI2Ui8v5pv6v29YiMvnVA==&ch=ucaowIhaDKViIYWXy7adGgVPUTGXt7xW6GBm9DSjv42Gx3KWbbvvIA==) Office of General Counsel to confirm their legal credentials or [Armed Forces Locator to find veteran-friendly lawyers](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001FJ2mtKg1F-FrkjEOG06PoIatnLm-wrtzkPMlk5Zdivc9Rhq6WN0oDIZDPhKYpEGRu3_j4u13gMQEN17LSArELr1ae9-MkHrP0UBQo-RzXvG7-LuW6iRz1DVgL7S7qDBdwfltRlSUBPW-M45WYaKv47ilR644WxHm&c=ldMj3APwfmkHZyyG2fet6NdQkkrEgp7CaAI2Ui8v5pv6v29YiMvnVA==&ch=ucaowIhaDKViIYWXy7adGgVPUTGXt7xW6GBm9DSjv42Gx3KWbbvvIA==).

Did you know one of the unique features of the military's Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) is the ability to assign [benefits](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001FJ2mtKg1F-FrkjEOG06PoIatnLm-wrtzkPMlk5Zdivc9Rhq6WN0oDN0GFXoUinxjooBGCO2v_keffVM4B-35mH9Z0hKP0HkqxzxYOGBXBiIhppaKYmzIGnxstgzB9KuDe_WxTzGm1q9XLUN7KKPbB1TG-G6KAkQjkYuywyN2ZamW8TbdZ8N5kg==&c=ldMj3APwfmkHZyyG2fet6NdQkkrEgp7CaAI2Ui8v5pv6v29YiMvnVA==&ch=ucaowIhaDKViIYWXy7adGgVPUTGXt7xW6GBm9DSjv42Gx3KWbbvvIA==) to a child, including an incapacitated adult child who has been designated a Secondary Dependent via your branch's process? Electing SBP to cover your incapacitated child can provide income to that child after the death of the [service member](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001FJ2mtKg1F-FrkjEOG06PoIatnLm-wrtzkPMlk5Zdivc9Rhq6WN0oDIZDPhKYpEGRu3_j4u13gMQEN17LSArELr1ae9-MkHrP0UBQo-RzXvG7-LuW6iRz1DVgL7S7qDBdwfltRlSUBPW-M45WYaKv47ilR644WxHm&c=ldMj3APwfmkHZyyG2fet6NdQkkrEgp7CaAI2Ui8v5pv6v29YiMvnVA==&ch=ucaowIhaDKViIYWXy7adGgVPUTGXt7xW6GBm9DSjv42Gx3KWbbvvIA==). But that income could make them ineligible for certain income and asset-based government programs. A special needs trust can shield the SBP [benefit](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001FJ2mtKg1F-FrkjEOG06PoIatnLm-wrtzkPMlk5Zdivc9Rhq6WN0oDPNkMsN_gEcSLW5RX-uIGFDvrNXj3ITlfxSfd9a-fzy8zE7XWRDY5UPZvcKHT406eegAnPMLrBgO12ZbKlPdnGCTvRibeYsZfLkEDfEBKXh4NFC5kgEomrQa-1eXLOGPWQ==&c=ldMj3APwfmkHZyyG2fet6NdQkkrEgp7CaAI2Ui8v5pv6v29YiMvnVA==&ch=ucaowIhaDKViIYWXy7adGgVPUTGXt7xW6GBm9DSjv42Gx3KWbbvvIA==) from being counted as income or an asset.

***Please Remember………. That all gave some, but many gave all!*** 