OVERVIEW OF MILITARY SERVICE & VETERANS BENEFITS



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KEY MILITARY CONCEPTS



- 1. Service Branches
- Army
- Navy
- Marine Corps
- Air Force
- Space Force
- Coast Guard
- (Other uniformed services)
- 2. Unit Status
- Regular
- Reserve or National Guard

- 3. Service Status
- Active duty
- Active duty for training
- Active reserve
- Inactive duty, retired reserve, IRR, other
- 4. Rank/Rate
 - Officer
 - Warrant Officer
 - Enlisted member
- 5. Wartime v. Peacetime

EXPERIENCES OF A SERVICEMEMBER





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SERVICEMEMBER TO VETERAN TRANSITION



Pathways to separate from the military

- Administrative separation
- Punitive separation
- Retirement
- Medical discharge or retirement
- Resignation (officer)

Challenges with transition are common

Every servicemember receives a Department of Defense Form 214 or National Guard Bureau Form 22 upon final separation

SERVICEMEMBER TO VETERAN TRANSITION



CHARACTER OF DISCHARGE

Honorable

General (Under Honorable Conditions)

Other Than Honorable (formerly Undesirable)

Bad Conduct

Dishonorable or Dismissal

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Uncharacterized/Entry Level Separation

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OVERVIEW OF VETERANS BENEFITS FOR MASSACHUSETTS VETERANS

Federal Department of Veterans Affairs

- Veterans Benefits Administration
- Veterans Health Administration
- National Cemetery Administration

Other Federal Agencies

Massachusetts Department of Veterans Services

Other State Agencies

WORKING WITH VETERANS



Each veteran has a unique experience of military service (and of life afterward)

- Sometimes shared characteristics, knowledge, and perspective—but don't assume
- Figure out the veteran's orientation to their own service

Communicating with veterans

- Terminology and acronyms
- Style preferences
- Displaying interest and respect

Not all servicemembers are "soldiers"

Soldier, Sailor, Marine, Airman, Coast Guardsman, Guardian—or "servicemember"



Uniformed Services University Center for Deployment Psychology: https://deploymentpsych.org/content/military-culture-resources

RESOURCES

Atuel & Castro, Military Cultural Competence, Clinical Social Work Journal (2018):

https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10615-018-0651-z

U.S. Military Rank Insignia:

https://www.defense.gov/Resources/Insignia/