

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



CAUTION: NOT TO BE USED FOR IDENTIFICATION PURPOSES THIS IS AN IMPORTANT RECORD. SAFEGUARD IT ANY ALTERATIONS IN SHADED AREAS RENDER FORM VOID

CERTIFICATE OF RELEASE OR DISCHARGE FROM ACTIVE DUTY

This Report Contains Information Subject to the Privacy Act of 1974, As Amended.

1. NAME (Last, First, Middle)		2. DEPARTMENT, COMPONENT AND BRANCH		3. SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER	
4a. GRADE, RATE OR RANK	b. PAY GRADE	5. DATE OF BIRTH (YYYYMMDD)	6. RESERVE OBLIGATION TERMINATION DATE (YYYYMMDD)		
7a. PLACE OF ENTRY INTO ACTIVE DUTY S		b. HOME OF RECORD AT TIME OF ENTRY (City and state, or complete address if known)			
8a. LAST DUTY ASSIGNMENT AND MAJOR COMMAND			b. STATION WHERE SEPARATED		
9. COMMAND TO WHICH TRANSFERRED			10. SGLI COVERAGE AMOUNT: \$ <input type="checkbox"/> NONE		
11. PRIMARY SPECIALTY (List number, title and years and months in specialty. List additional specialty numbers and titles involving periods of one or more years.) A		12. RECORD OF SERVICE			
		a. DATE ENTERED AD THIS PERIOD	YEAR(S)	MONTH(S)	DAY(S)
		b. SEPARATION DATE THIS PERIOD			
		c. NET ACTIVE SERVICE THIS PERIOD			
		d. TOTAL PRIOR ACTIVE SERVICE			
		e. TOTAL PRIOR INACTIVE SERVICE			
		f. FOREIGN SERVICE			
		g. SEA SERVICE			
		h. INITIAL ENTRY TRAINING			
		i. EFFECTIVE DATE OF PAY GRADE			
13. DECORATIONS, MEDALS, BADGES, CITATIONS AND CAMPAIGN RIBBONS AWARDED OR AUTHORIZED (All periods of service) M		14. MILITARY EDUCATION (Course title, number of weeks, and month and year completed)			
15a. COMMISSIONED THROUGH SERVICE ACADEMY		YES	NO		
b. COMMISSIONED THROUGH ROTC SCHOLARSHIP (10 USC Sec. 2107b)		YES	NO		
c. ENLISTED UNDER LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM (10 USC Chap. 109) (If Yes, specify amount of commitment:)		YES	NO		
16. DAYS ACCRUED LEAVE PAID	17. MEMBER WAS PROVIDED COMPLETE DENTAL EXAMINATION AND ALL APPROPRIATE DENTAL SERVICES AND TREATMENT WITHIN 90 DAYS PRIOR TO SEPARATION		YES	NO	
18. REMARKS L The information contained herein is subject to computer matching within the Department of Defense or with any other affected Federal or non-Federal agency for verification purposes and to determine eligibility for, and/or continued compliance with, the requirements of a Federal benefit program.					
19a. MAILING ADDRESS AFTER SEPARATION (Include ZIP Code)			b. NEAREST RELATIVE (Name and address - include ZIP Code)		
20. MEMBER REQUESTS COPY 6 BE SENT TO (Specify state/locality)		OFFICE OF VETERANS AFFAIRS	YES	NO	
a. MEMBER REQUESTS COPY 3 BE SENT TO THE CENTRAL OFFICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS (WASHINGTON, DC)			YES	NO	
21.a. MEMBER SIGNATURE	b. DATE (YYYYMMDD)	22.a. OFFICIAL AUTHORIZED TO SIGN (Typed name, grade, title, signature)		b. DATE (YYYYMMDD)	
		E			

SPECIAL ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (For use by authorized agencies only)					
23. TYPE OF SEPARATION		24. CHARACTER OF SERVICE (Include upgrades)			
25. SEPARATION AUTHORITY		26. SEPARATION CODE	27. REENTRY CODE		
28. NARRATIVE REASON FOR SEPARATION					
29. DATES OF TIME LOST DURING THIS PERIOD (YYYYMMDD)				30. MEMBER REQUESTS COPY 4 (Initials)	



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

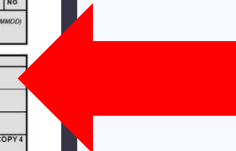
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Uncharacterized/Entry Level Separation

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8a. LAST DUTY ASSIGNMENT AND MAJOR COMMAND	b. STATION WHERE SEPARATED		
9. COMMAND TO WHICH TRANSFERRED	10. SGLI COVERAGE	NONE AMOUNT: \$	
11. PRIMARY SPECIALTY (List number, title and years and months in specialty. List additional specialty numbers and titles involving periods of one or more years.)	12. RECORD OF SERVICE		
A	a. DATE ENTERED AD THIS PERIOD		
	b. SEPARATION DATE THIS PERIOD		
	c. NET ACTIVE SERVICE THIS PERIOD		
	d. TOTAL FROM ACTIVE SERVICE		
	e. TOTAL FROM INACTIVE SERVICE		
	f. FOREIGN SERVICE		
	g. SEA SERVICE		
h. INITIAL ENTRY TRAINING			
i. EFFECTIVE DATE OF PAY GRADE			
13. DECORATIONS, MEDALS, BADGES, CITATIONS AND CAMPAIGN RIBBONS AWARDED OR AUTHORIZED (List pertinent awards)	14. MILITARY EDUCATION (Course title, number of weeks, and month and year completed)		
15a. COMMISSIONED THROUGH SERVICE ACADEMY	YES	NO	
b. COMMISSIONED THROUGH ROTC SCHOLARSHIP (10 USC Sec. 2107)	YES	NO	
c. ENLISTED UNDER LEAN REPAIRMENT PROGRAM (10 USC Chap. 109 (f) Yes)	YES	NO	
16. DAYS ACCRUED LEAVE PAID	17. MEMBER WAS PROVIDED COMPLETE DENTAL EXAMINATION AND ALL APPROPRIATE DENTAL SERVICES AND TREATMENT WITHIN 90 DAYS PRIOR TO SEPARATION	YES	NO
18. REMARKS			
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21a. MEMBER SIGNATURE	b. DATE (YYYYMMDD)	22a. OFFICIAL AUTHORIZED TO SIGN (Typed name, grade and signature)	b. DATE (YYYYMMDD)
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DD FORM 214, AUG 2009 PREVIOUS EDITION IS OBSOLETE. MEMBER - 4			



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"

RESOURCES



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