



National Headquarters
3725 Alexandria Pike
Cold Spring, KY 41076
Phone 859-441-7300
Fax 859-441-1416
Toll Free 877-426-2838
www.dav.org

TO: DAV Department Commanders
FROM: J. Marc Burgess
CC: Joy J. Illem
DATE: July 30, 2015
RE: Department: Women Veterans Advisory Committee

DAV continues our determined advocacy for all veterans, and is the leading organization in promoting the needs of women veterans at the national, department and chapter levels.

The number of women serving in the military and their evolving role in our national defense continues to rise. Over 280,000 have served post 9/11 in Afghanistan and Iraq—many have been severely injured and 160 have made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of our nation.

On September 24, 2014, DAV released a landmark study; Women Veterans: The Long Journey Home. The report provides a comprehensive assessment of existing federal services available for women veterans. The report found gaps in health care, specialized mental health and homeless services, transition assistance programs, housing options, community support services, employment and efforts to eradicate sexual assault. The report reveals that while the number of women who volunteer to defend our nation is increasing dramatically—they currently do not have the same opportunities for a successful transition in a system with policies and programs that have focused on and were designed primarily for men.

DAV is helping foster greater awareness of the needs of women veterans following military service to ensure women's contributions and sacrifices in serving our nation in uniform are properly recognized, and that gaps in federal programs are appropriately modified to ensure the unique needs of women veterans are met. To this end, I encourage you to establish a women veterans advisory committee in your Department if you have not already done so.

Establishing an active committee is a great way to engage women veterans in your state and local communities. Members elected to serve on these committees should be provided the enclosed Toolkit and asked to keep the Department informed about women veteran's issues and activities recommended by the committee. As a veterans service organization dedicated to assisting wounded, injured and ill veterans we need to stand united in support of meeting the needs of all veterans—male and female to ensure each receives the benefits and health services they have earned.

J. Marc Burgess
National Adjutant



Toolkit for Department Women Veterans Advisory Committee Chairs

Congratulations on being elected to serve on the Department Women Veterans Advisory Committee! This is an excellent opportunity to familiarize local women veterans with the services DAV provides as well as the benefits they have earned. Here is a list of recommended duties for you as Chair/Committee Member of the Department's Women Veterans Advisory Committee:

- Conduct outreach to women in your Department and associated Chapters, and act as a resource for pertinent information regarding services, benefits and programs.
- Create a network of people in your state or local area who are interested in assisting women veterans.
- Ask your Department for space in the monthly newsletter or on the website (as applicable). This can be used to publicize upcoming events, for outreach, and to provide information.
- Reach out to your local VA Women Veterans Coordinator (VBA), Women Veterans Program Manager (WVPM), and Military Sexual Trauma (MST) Coordinator. Visit in person and ask about any brochures or resource materials they may have. Ask the WVPM if there is an established Women Veterans Committee at their facility.
- Ask your Department about holding a Women Veterans Seminar at your Department Convention and Mid-Winter Conference. This opportunity would allow you to bring in a speaker from VA, to share information, and to draw in your state's women veterans.
- Hold a specific outreach event, or connect with another veteran service organization or the VA to represent DAV at a scheduled outreach event. Host a women veterans' information booth at as many veteran related events as possible.
- If you are unable to assist a woman veteran that needs help, refer her to the nearest NSO office or provide them the Helpful Website Links resource page from this toolkit. You may also wish to direct them to VA's Women Veterans Hotline at 1-855-VA-WOMEN, the VA's Crisis Line at 1-800-273-8255, or the Veterans Health Administrations Handbook, which references all care available to women at VA.
- Direct women veterans on what to do if they have a complaint about their health care:
 - Contact the WVPM or Patient Advocate at your nearest VA facility (found online at www.va.gov/directory). During normal business hours, you can contact VHA Women's Health Services at 202-461-0373; or VA's Center for Women Veterans at 202-461-6193.

Reminder: Please refer to your Department Instructions regarding use of DAV logos and uniformity any time you publicize DAV or disseminate documents.



VA's Center for Women Veterans

The Center for Women Veterans (CWV) is your gateway for information related to women veterans using VA for health care, benefits and claims.

The Center for Women Veterans was established by Congress in November 1994 by Public Law (P.L.) 103-446

CWV Mission

- Monitor and coordinate VA's administration of health care and benefits services, and programs for women veterans.
- Serve as an advocate for a cultural transformation (both within VA and in the general public) in recognizing the service and contributions of women veterans and women in the military.
- Raise awareness of the responsibility to treat women veterans with dignity and respect.

CWV Activities

- The Director serves as primary advisor to the Secretary on the Department policies, programs and legislation that affect women veterans.
- Monitor and coordinate with internal VA offices on their delivery of benefits and services to women veterans.
- Liaison with other Federal agencies, state and local agencies and organizations, and non-government partners.
- Serve as a resource and referral center for women veterans, their family and their advocates.
- Educate VA staff on the military contributions of women veterans.
- Ensure that outreach materials portray and target women veterans with images, messages, and branding in the media.
- Promote recognition of women veterans' military service and contributions by sponsoring activities and special events.
- Coordinate meetings of the Advisory Committee on Women Veterans.

For more information, visit www.va.gov/womenvet/

CWV Resources:

www.va.gov/womenvet/resources.asp



VA's Women Veterans Health Program

In 1988, the Women Veterans Health Program was created to streamline services for women veterans in order to provide more cost-effective medical and psychosocial care. In 2007, the program was elevated to increase its scope of activities to include all services provided to women veterans. VA is actively addressing resource needs so that the proper training, as well as equipment and supplies are in place in facilities.

As of March 27, 2011, Women's Health became part of the [Office of Patient Care Services](#) (PCS) and the program office name was changed to Women's Health Services in August 2012. The reorganization affords greater opportunities for collaboration between Women's Health and programs including Primary Care, Mental Health, and Specialty Care like cardiology and pain management, and other offices within PCS.

Program Mission

The Women Veterans Health Care Program addresses the health care needs of women veterans and works to ensure that timely, equitable, high-quality, comprehensive health care services are provided in a sensitive and safe environment at VA health facilities nationwide. We strive to be a national leader in the provision of health care for women, thereby raising the standard of care for all women.

To fulfill this mission, Women Veterans Health Care works to make certain that all eligible women veterans requesting VA care are assured of:

- Comprehensive primary care by a proficient and interested primary care provider
- Privacy, safety, dignity, and sensitivity to gender-specific needs
- The right care in the right place and time
- State-of-the-art health care equipment and technology
- High-quality preventive and clinical care, equal to that provided to male Veterans

For more information visit: www.womenshealth.va.gov/

VA Women Veterans Health Care Services:

www.womenshealth.va.gov/WOMENSHEALTH/womenshealthservices/healthcare_about.asp

VA Women Veterans Health Care Program FAQs:

www.womenshealth.va.gov/programoverview/faqs.asp

VA Women Veterans Call Center Information:

www.womenshealth.va.gov/WOMENSHEALTH/programoverview/wvcc.asp



Current Women Veterans Legislation for 114th Congress

Voice your support for bills through DAV's [Commander's Action Network](#) and familiarize yourself with [key legislative proposals](#)

S. 469

Women Veterans and Families Health Services Act of 2015

- The bill would improve VA facilities to better accommodate the needs of women veterans; would hold VA medical facility directors accountable to new performance measures focused on women veterans' needs; and, would ensure availability of obstetricians and gynecologists in all VA medical centers, among other provisions. Visit www.dav.org/can to join DAV in supporting this bill.

S. 471/H.R. 1356

Women Veterans Access to Quality Care Act

- The bill would provide for voluntary collection and preservation by the Department of Defense of genetic material post-injury to be used later should a severely injured veteran desire to have children. The bill would also provide fertility counseling and treatment in the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to such injured veterans, and promote further VA research into reproduction and infertility in the veteran population. The bill would also require certain improvements in VA's women veterans contact center, and would modify an existing authority for VA to conduct counseling in retreat settings for women veterans newly separated from military service. Visit www.dav.org/can to join DAV in supporting this bill.

H.R. 2915

Female Veterans Suicide Prevention Act

- This bill directs VA to identify mental health care and suicide prevention programs that are most effective and have the highest satisfaction rates among women veterans. This bill is in line with recommendations put forth in DAV's 2014 Report, Women Veterans: The Long Journey Home, and with DAV Resolution Number 039, which supports program improvement and enhanced resources for VA mental health programs.

H.R. 1496

Bill to improve the access to child care for certain veterans receiving health care at a VA facility

- The bill would direct the VA beginning January 1, 2016, to provide assistance to qualified veterans to obtain child care so they can receive health care services at a VA health care facility when required to travel to and return from such facility. This includes stipends for the payment of child care offered by licensed child care centers which shall be modeled after the VA's Child Care Subsidy Program; direct provision of child care at an on-site VA facility; payments to private child care agencies; and collaboration with facilities or programs of other federal departments or agencies.



H.R. 1575

Bill to make permanent the pilot program on counseling in retreat settings for women veterans newly separated from service in the Armed Forces

- ▶ The bill would make permanent the requirement for the Department of Veterans Affairs to carry out, through the Readjustment Counseling Service of the Veterans Health Administration, a program to provide reintegration and readjustment services in group retreat settings to women veterans who are recently separated from service after a prolonged deployment. (Currently, such program is required as a pilot program under the Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act of 2010.)

H.R. 1948

Veterans' Access to Child Care Act

- ▶ The bill would require VA to provide child care assistance to an eligible veteran during the time in which they receive covered health care services at a VA facility, or are required to travel to and from a VA facility for those services. This may include a stipend for payment of child care by a licensed child care center, direct provision of child care on site at the VA facility, a payment made directly to a private child care agency or the collaboration with another Federal department or agency child care program or facility.

H.R. 2054

Bill to provide for increased access to Department of Veterans Affairs medical care for women veterans

- ▶ The bill would ensure that gender specific services are continuously available at every medical center and community based outpatient clinic of the Department, and would authorize the VA Secretary to employ such personnel and enter into such contracts as may be necessary to provide the services required...based on the standards of the Department and the demand, and the projected growth of the demand, for such services, as determined by the Secretary.



Department Women Veterans Advisory Committee Outreach Report

Event: _____

Sponsor: _____

WV Committee Member Attending: _____

Number of Attendees: _____ (attach sign-in sheets)

Membership: ☐ New Life ☐ Life Payment ☐ Transfers

Note: Have your Chapter Adjutant process new member applications and mail transfers to appropriate Chapter for their approval.

Brief description of event activities (please attach program or literature if available):

Approximate number of supplies distributed:

Women Veterans Bumper Sticker _____ New member gifts _____

Stand Up for Women Veterans Magazine _____ Brochures _____

Women Veterans: The Long Journey Home Report _____ Other _____

Status of supplies for events (if additional items are required please indicate below):

Event report must be submitted to a NSO within three days following the event and a copy provided to the Women Veterans Committee Chair (address/fax available in the State Directory.)



Women Veterans Outreach Supplies

National Items				
(purchased through DAV Store at www.davstore.org)				
Inventory #	Items	Start	Used	Total
509049	Stand Up for Women Veterans Bumper Sticker	50		
509071	<i>Stand up For Women Veterans</i> Magazine			
509072	<i>Women Veterans: The Long Journey Home</i> Report			
	Women Veterans T-Shirt			
Pamphlets				
(ordered through the Membership department at 888-236-8313)				
Inventory #	Items	Start	Used	Total
901312	Membership Application			
901316	Membership Transfer Form			
901318	Membership Application			
404095	DAV Pocket Folder	25		
404096	DAV & Women Veterans Brochure	25		
404001	Legislative Goals Brochure	25		
404004	American Flag Brochure	25		
409109	DAV Bookmarks	25		
404002	Death Benefits Guide	25		
936007	Volunteer Brochure	85		
936016	Youth Scholarship Brochure			
936017	LVAP Brochure			

DAV Outreach Materials

All items available for Departments & Chapters
Purchase online through the DAV Store: www.davstore.org

Women Veterans Swag



Bumper Sticker | \$.60

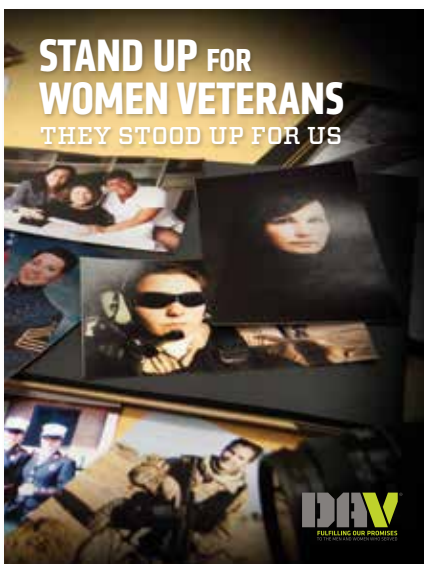
Inventory # 509049



Women Veterans T-Shirt | \$20

XS-4XL

Women Veterans Publications



Stand Up for Women Veterans Magazine

\$1 per copy

Inventory #509071



Women Veterans Study Book

\$2 per copy or free to download at
www.dav.org/women-veterans-study

Inventory #509072

Online Materials

Women Veterans Brochure
(this is the only Women Veterans item on this order form):

www.dav.org/wp-content/uploads/MembershipSupplyOrderForm.pdf

Women Veterans Issue Brief:

www.dav.org/wp-content/uploads/WomenVeteransIssueBrief.pdf

VA Outreach Printable Posters

Click to download high-resolution images for printing.

All images available at:

www.womenshealth.va.gov/WOMENSHEALTH/outreachmaterials/culturechange/campaigns.asp

Culture Change Campaigns



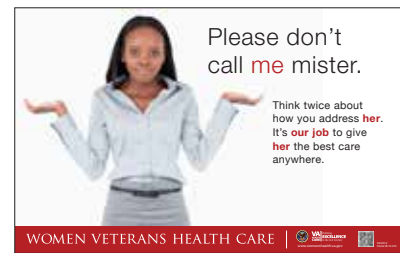
She Earned These

11" x 17"



She Was There

11" x 17"



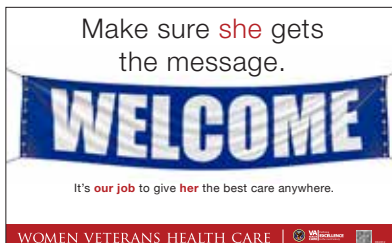
Please Don't Call Me Mister-I

11" x 17"



Please Don't Call Me Mister-II

11" x 17"



Welcome Women Veterans

11" x 17"



She Wore These

11" x 17"



Which One is the Veteran?

11" x 17"



Which One is the Veteran?

11" x 17"



VA Knows Women Veterans

11" x 17"

VA Outreach Printable Posters

Click to download high-resolution images for printing.

All images available at:

www.womenshealth.va.gov/WOMENSHEALTH/outreachmaterials/reproductivehealth/pregnancy.asp

Reproductive Health



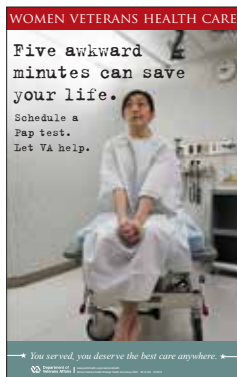
VA Delivers

8.5" x 11" or 11" x 17"



Breastfeeding Baby

8.5" x 11" or 11" x 17"



Cervical Cancer

8.5" x 11" or 11" x 17"



Preconception Care

8.5" x 11" or 11" x 17"



Healthy Pregnancy

8.5" x 11" or 11" x 17"

VA Outreach Printable Posters

Click to download high-resolution images for printing.

All images available at:

www.womenshealth.va.gov/WOMENSHEALTH/outreachmaterials/mentalhealth/ptsd.asp

Mental Health



Suicide Prevention

8.5" x 11" or 11" x 17"



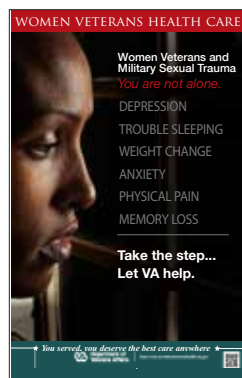
Dementia

8.5" x 11" or 11" x 17"



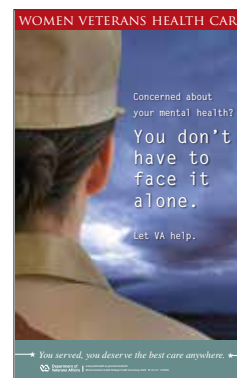
PTSD-I

8.5" x 11" or 11" x 17"



PTSD-II

8.5" x 11" or 11" x 17"



PTSD-III

8.5" x 11" or 11" x 17"



Substance Abuse

8.5" x 11" or 11" x 17"

VA Outreach Printable Posters

Click to download high-resolution images for printing.

All images available at:

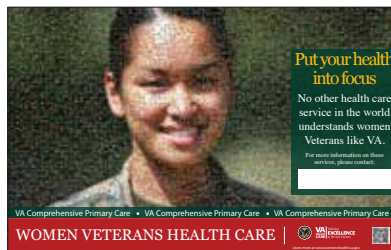
www.womenshealth.va.gov/WOMENSHEALTH/outreachmaterials/abuseandviolence/intimatepartnerviolence.asp

Health and Wellness



Breast Cancer Screening

8.5" x 11", 11" x 17" or 16" x 19"



WV Health Care (fillable)

8.5" x 11" or 11" x 17"



Alcohol Awareness

8.5" x 11", 11" x 17" or 16" x 19"



Quit Smoking Today

8.5" x 11" or 11" x 17"



Comprehensive Care

8.5" x 11" or 11" x 17"

Abuse and Violence



Partner Violence

8.5" x 11", 11" x 17" or 16" x 19"



Sexual Trauma

8.5" x 11" or 11" x 17"

Center for Women Veterans

25 Frequently Asked Questions from Women Veterans

The most frequently asked questions from women Veterans, along with the answers, can now be found on the Center's Web site www1.va.gov/womenvet/. "These 25 questions are the ones we hear most often," said the Director of the Center for Women Veterans. "Too many women Veterans don't know that they are eligible for the full range of VA benefits. Too many are unaware of special programs for them." The Director of the Center for Women Veterans notes that the information will be helpful to male Veterans as well. Topics include services available to women Veterans; information about gender-specific services (including Pap smears, mammography, and prenatal and child care); evaluations for nursing home care; and employment options for women Veterans.

General Information

1. What services are available to women Veterans?

A full continuum of comprehensive medical services, including health promotion and disease prevention, primary care, women's gender-specific health care; e.g., hormone replacement therapy, breast and gynecological care, maternity and limited infertility (excluding in-vitro fertilization), acute medical/surgical, telephone triage, emergency and substance abuse treatment, mental health, domiciliary, rehabilitation and long term care. To enroll in VA health care or find a facility, visit MyHealththeVet@va.gov or www.va.gov/health. VA researchers at many VA facilities also conduct medical research on women's health.

2. How do I access the system for health and benefits services?

Veterans can apply for VA health care enrollment by completing VA Form 10-10EZ, "Application for Health Benefits." The 10-10EZ may be obtained by visiting, calling or writing any VA health care facility or Veterans' benefits office. You can also call the VA Health Benefits Call Center toll-free at 1-877-222 VETS (1-877-222-8387) to determine your eligibility or access the form from the Health Administration Eligibility Reform Web site: www.va.gov/elig. For VA benefits, refer to Federal Benefits for Veterans and Dependents at www1.va.gov/opa/publications/benefits_book.asp. This booklet discusses the variety of Federal benefits available to Veterans and their dependents and survivors, such as:

- Compensation and Pension
- Montgomery GI Bill (Education)
- Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment
- Veterans Group Life Insurance, and
- Home Loan Guaranty

Additional information and application forms can be obtained at VA's Web site: www.va.gov. The Veterans Online Application (VONAPP)

March 2011

Center for Women Veterans
25 Frequently Asked Questions from Women Veterans

<http://vabenefits.vba.va.gov/vonapp/main.asp>, allows you to complete and submit application forms on-line.

You may also call the VA nationwide toll-free number, 1-800-827-1000, for specific benefit information.

Another resource for Veterans to use to receive information and services on VA benefits is called eBenefits. eBenefits is an online portal for Service Members and Veterans to access their personalized DoD and VA information. Some features of eBenefits include checking the status of your claim, reviewing payment history and requesting your personnel file from DoD; however, you will need to obtain a premium eBenefits account.

A premium eBenefits account allows you to access your personalized information and use other personalized features through the portal by obtaining a DS Logon. If you are a Veteran and would like to receive a DS Logon for your premium eBenefits account, please go to any VA Regional Office with two forms of identification. You can go to our Web site at www.va.gov to obtain a list of VA Regional Offices. Service Members and retired Veterans do not need to go to a VA Regional Office and may use their DoD CAC or myPay account PIN to obtain their premium eBenefits account by going to the Web site below.

For more information on eBenefits, please visit www.eBenefits.va.gov.

3. Does VA provide maternity benefits?

VA provides maternity benefits to eligible women Veterans. Public Law 111-163 authorizes VA to furnish health care services, for not more than 7 days, to a newborn child of a women Veteran who delivered the child in a VA facility or in another facility pursuant to a VA contract for such care.

Children born to women Veterans who served in Vietnam may also be eligible for monthly monetary benefits, medical care, and vocational training if they have certain birth defects linked to their mother's service. Contact the nearest VA regional office on the nationwide toll-free number, 1-800-827-1000, for information and eligibility requirements, or visit VA's home page at www.va.gov.

Veterans Health Services

4. How can I receive gender-specific services, including Pap smears, mammography, prenatal and childcare?

Apply for VA health care enrollment by completing VA Form 10-10EZ which may be obtained by visiting, calling, or writing any VA health care facility or Veterans' benefits office. You can also call toll-free 1-877-222 VETS (1-877-222-8387) or access the form on the Internet at www.va.gov. The provision of health care to non-Veteran children is limited to those instances where specific authority is given to VA by law. Contact your local VA health care facility and ask to speak

Center for Women Veterans
25 Frequently Asked Questions from Women Veterans

with the Women Veterans Program Manager (white pages of the telephone directory under U.S. Government, Department of Veterans Affairs).

5. How can I obtain emergency assistance with payment of my delinquent utility bills, rent, mortgage, etc.?

Your state Department of Veterans Affairs can best assist Veterans in this situation. You can find the number of your state's Department of Veterans Affairs in the blue or white pages of your local telephone directory. Also, local Veterans service organizations, churches, and community organizations may be able to assist Veterans in need.

6. How long does it take to get a clinic appointment?

If you are a new enrollee and/or new patient rated less than 50 percent service connected requiring care for a service connected disability, you will be scheduled for a primary care evaluation within 30 days of desired date. If your outpatient appointment cannot be scheduled within this timeframe, VA will arrange to have you seen within 30 days at another VA health care facility or obtain the services on fee basis, under a sharing agreement or contract at VA expense.

If you are a Veteran who is 50 percent service connected or higher and is an already established patient (not new), your request for an appointment will be reviewed by a VA medical provider who will determine a medically appropriate timeline for an appointment. A clinic visit will be scheduled or rescheduled, based on the medical provider's review. You will be contacted by telephone or through correspondence of your appointment.

7. Where can I get inpatient psychiatric care as a woman Veteran?

Most VA Medical Centers have inpatient mental health programs. Contact your VA Primary Care Provider or the local Mental Health Program office for assistance. If you already have a therapist and need inpatient care, please discuss your concerns with your therapist.

There are programs that offer specialized care for trauma in residential or inpatient settings for Veterans who need more intense treatment and support. Some of these programs serve women only or have women-only treatment cohorts.

There is also a hotline to provide emergency support and resources to homeless Veterans. The National Call Center for Homeless Veterans is 1-877-4AIDVET (1-877-424-3838)

8. Where can I get treatment for conditions related to sexual assault or sexual harassment I experience while in the military?

You may be eligible for Military Sexual Trauma (MST)-related care, even if you are not eligible for other VA services. Every VA facility provides free care for mental and physical health conditions related to MST. Veterans may be eligible for service connection or disability compensation for injuries or illnesses related

Center for Women Veterans
25 Frequently Asked Questions from Women Veterans

to MST. To receive care, ask your VA provider for a referral for MST services, contact the MST Coordinator at your local VA Medical Center, or contact your local Vet Center (www.va.gov).

9. What kind of specialized services are available for women Veterans who have experienced a trauma?

Every VA health care facility has providers knowledgeable about treatment for the aftereffects of trauma. Contact the Women Veterans Program Manager at your local health care facility for more information. Vet Centers provide counseling for combat Veterans who are experiencing readjustments difficulties (www.vetcenter.va.gov). Additional information can also be found at www.ncptsd.va.gov.

10. How do I get evaluated for nursing home care?

If you have never been seen at a VA health care facility, you must first enroll for benefits. Then, you must enroll in a primary care clinic and ask for an evaluation for nursing home care. The evaluation will be done either by the primary care provider or a geriatrics care team.

11. What is the process of getting quality of care issues addressed?

Contact the Women Veterans Program Manager or Patient Advocate at your local VA health care facility (white pages under U.S. Government, Department of Veterans Affairs or www.va.gov).

Veterans Benefits

12. How do I get my disability compensation claim reevaluated?

You may request a reevaluation of your claim anytime that you believe your condition has changed or worsened. Submit the request to reopen or reevaluate your claim to the VA Regional Office by either letter or statement or on VA Form 21-4138, "Statement in Support of Claim," www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-21-4138-ARE.pdf. You may also reopen your claim via the toll-free telephone number, 1-800-827-1000.

Your request should include the following information:

- Name
- VA claim number, Service Number, or Social Security Number
- Day and evening contact information
- Current address
- Statement explaining change requested
- Any new and pertinent medical evidence that supports your request

A Women Veterans Coordinator is available at each VA regional office to assist women Veterans.

Center for Women Veterans
25 Frequently Asked Questions from Women Veterans

13. How and where do I apply for home, business, or car loans?

VA Home Loan Guaranty Program provides loan guaranties to service members, Veterans, reservists, and un-remarried surviving spouses for the purchase of homes, condominiums and manufactured homes, and for refinancing loans. Some of the ways a VA loan guaranty can be used include:

- Buy a home
- Buy a residential condominium
- Build a home
- Repair, alter, or improve a home
- Refinance an existing loan
- Buy a manufactured home with or without a lot

You must complete VA Form 26-1880, "Request for a Certificate of Eligibility for VA Home Loan Benefits, www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/vba-26-1880-ARE.pdf and submit it to the VA Eligibility Center along with acceptable proof of service as described on the instruction page of the form.

The Center for Veteran Enterprise partners with the Department of Labor and the Small Business Administration to provide information, assistance, and mentoring for Veterans who would like to start their own business. See www.vetbiz.gov for additional information.

VA does not provide assistance for automobile purchases, except for certain Veterans and service members who need special adaptive equipment. To apply, contact a VA regional office (1-800-827-1000) or a VA medical center.

14. How do I obtain GI Bill education benefits?

Montgomery GI Bill (Chapter 30) Benefits end 10 years from the date of your last discharge or release from active duty. If your benefits expire mid-term, your benefits are extended to the end of the term or semester. (Example: Your benefits expire in November but the course ends in December. You will be paid for December.)

The delimiting date can be extended past your 10-year period if you were prevented from attending classes.

If your benefit eligibility is based on two years of active duty and four years in the Selected Reserve, you have 10 years from your release from active duty, or 10 years from the completion of the four-year Selected Reserve obligation to use your benefits, whichever is later.

The Post-9/11 GI Bill is a new education benefit program for individuals who served on active duty on or after September 11, 2001. For more information, call toll-free 1-888-GIBILL-1 (1-888-442-4551) or visit the VA GI Bill Web site at www.gibill.va.gov.

Center for Women Veterans
25 Frequently Asked Questions from Women Veterans

What is the Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship?

Public Law 111-32, the Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship, amends the Post-9/11 GI Bill (chapter 33) to include the children of service members who die in the line of duty after Sept. 10, 2001. The benefit is effective August 1, 2009; the same day the Post-9/11 GI Bill takes effect. Eligible children attending school may receive up to the highest public, in-state undergraduate tuition and fees, plus a monthly living stipend and book allowance under this program.

Homeless Services

15. How do I contact a coordinator for options for women Veterans who are homeless with children?

Contact the local VA homeless coordinator (or point of contact), Social Work Services department, or Women Veterans Program Manager at your local VA medical center or regional office. A listing of Homeless Veteran Coordinator offices, by state, can be found at www.va.gov/homeless. There is also a hotline to provide emergency support and resources to homeless Veterans and Veterans facing the possibility of homelessness. The National Call Center for Homeless Veterans is 1-877-4AIDVET (1-877-424-3838).

Burial Benefits

16. Am I eligible for burial benefits? What are my options?

If you served in a branch of the military and were discharged under conditions other than dishonorable, you may be eligible for burial in a Department of Veterans Affairs National Cemetery or a State Veterans Cemetery. Female Veterans married to a Veteran are entitled to their own separate grave, headstone or marker, burial flag and Presidential Memorial Certificate. However, they may choose to be buried in the same gravesite as their spouse. To locate the nearest VA National Cemetery or State Veterans Cemetery, visit: www.cem.va.gov. For more eligibility information call 1-800-827-1000. For information regarding burial at Arlington National Cemetery, visit www.arlingtoncemetery.org.

Locating Military Records

17. How do I locate my military records or those of a relative?

To obtain copies of your military records and/or "Report of Separation from Active Military Service" (DD Form 214 or equivalent), you must submit a "Request Pertaining to Military Records" (SF 180) to the records custodian of your branch of service. Addresses for each service's records custodian are found on page 2 of the SF 180. The SF 180 requires a signature and must be submitted either by mail or fax. Contact the National Personnel Records Center, Military Personnel

Center for Women Veterans
25 Frequently Asked Questions from Women Veterans

Records, 9700 Page Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63132-5100, or fax requests to (314) 801-9195. The Web site is www.archives.gov/research_room/vetrecs/index.html

Locating Other Veterans

18. How do I locate a buddy whom I served with in the military?

The Privacy Act obliges the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), as a Federal agency, to protect the privacy of Veterans' personal information. Therefore, VA cannot release personal information about a Veteran in its records system without that person's permission. VA can, however, forward a message from you to the Veteran, providing VA has a current address on record.

Write your message to your friend and place it in an unsealed, stamped envelope. Include a note to VA explaining who it is that you are trying to reach and add as much identifying information as you have. Put all of this in another envelope and address it to the nearest VA Regional Office.

If the Veteran is in VA records, your message to the Veteran will be sealed and the envelope will be sent to the address on file for the Veteran. It is then up to the Veteran to contact you. This process is designed to protect the privacy of Veterans, as required by law. If you have questions, you may call VA at 1-800-827-1000.

You may also contact the Women In Military Service for America Memorial (WIMSA) located at the ceremonial entrance of Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, VA, at www.womensmemorial.org or by telephone at 1-800-222-2294.

National Guard, Reserves, and Uniformed Services

19. Where can I find information regarding benefits and services for National Guard, Reserves, and Uniformed Services?

Current and former members of the Selected Reserve who served on active duty may establish Veteran status and may therefore be eligible for VA benefits, depending on the length of active military service and the character of discharge or release. Members of the National Guard activated for federal service during a period of war or domestic emergency may be eligible for certain VA benefits, such as VA health care, compensation for injuries or conditions connected to that service and burial benefits. Activation for other than federal service does not qualify Guard members for all VA benefits. Title 38, Section 3.7 of the Code of Federal Regulations identifies individuals and groups considered to have performed active military, naval, or air service.

Operation Enduring Freedom/Iraqi Freedom Veterans: VA provides five years of free health care for Veterans who served in certain combat locations during active military service, beginning on the date of separation from active duty. This benefit covers all illnesses and injuries except those clearly unrelated

Center for Women Veterans
25 Frequently Asked Questions from Women Veterans

to active military service. For more information call 1-877-222-8387. Every VA medical center has a team standing ready to welcome OEF/OIF Service members and to help coordinate their care (<http://www.va.gov/healtheligibility/Library/pubs/CombatVet/CombatVet.pdf>).

Employment

20. How do I access employment options for women Veterans?

Some job Web sites for Veterans include the following:

Information regarding **Veterans employment in the Federal government** can be found at www.fedshirevets.gov. Information regarding **Veteran employment specifically within the Department of Veterans Affairs** can be found at www.va.gov/vecs.

Department of Veterans Affairs Office of Human Resources Management:
www.va.gov/ohrm

Department of Labor Veterans site:
www.dol.gov/vets

CareerOneStop:
www.careeronestop.org

You may also wish to research job opportunities through:
Generic:
www.monster.com

Women Veterans Research

21. Where do I find research studies and surveys on women Veterans?

The Office of Research and Development at VA Central Office oversees research within the Veterans Health Administration through its four service areas:

The Medical Research Service provides knowledge of the fundamental biological processes to form an understanding of disease pathology, diagnosis, and treatment.

The Cooperative Studies Program applies the knowledge gained from medical research to patients by determining the effectiveness of novel or unproved therapies using multi-center clinical intervention trials.

The Health Services Research and Development Service (HSR&D) contributes to improving the quality, effectiveness, efficiency, and accessibility of health care services for Veterans.

Center for Women Veterans
25 Frequently Asked Questions from Women Veterans

The Rehabilitation Research and Development Service addresses the minimization of disability and restoration of function in Veterans disabled by trauma or disease.

Some important VA research Web sites to know are:

Web site for the HSR&D: www.hsrdr.research.va.gov/.

For HSR&D studies: www.hsrdr.research.va.gov/for_researchers/womens_health/

22. How and where do I find historical information on women Veterans?

Contact the Women In Military Service For America Memorial (WIMSA) located at the gates of Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, VA, through their Web site: www.womensmemorial.org.

23. How do I locate statistics on women Veterans by state and nationally?

VA provides statistics and demographic information on various Veteran populations at the following Web site: www.va.gov/vetdata. Additional statistics by state can be found on the same Web site.

24. Where do I locate legislation on women's and related issues?

You may access legislative information and follow up on Congressional bills through the Thomas Web site <http://thomas.loc.gov/>.

25. How do I get the names of local Veterans in my area to interview for a school project?

Veterans Service Organizations are available in most communities. Telephone book yellow pages will list local Veteran groups under "Veterans" or "Veteran Service Organizations." Examples of organizations include AMVETS (American Veteran), Disabled American Veterans (DAV), Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA), The American Legion, and Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States (VFW).

WIMSA can also help arrange for members to either speak at civic or educational events or to be interviewed about the Women's Memorial, a specific era, or women in the military. Contact the Public Relations Department, at 1-(800) 222-2294 or (703) 533-1155.

WIMSA also has volunteer opportunities if you are interested in speaking about the Women's Memorial, a specific era, or women in the military. Contact the Public Relations and Education Department at www.womensmemorial.org.

Center for Women Veterans

Helpful Website Links

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Department of Veterans Affairs (www.va.gov)

1.	Board of Veterans Appeals	www.bva.va.gov/
2.	Center for Minority Veterans:	www1.va.gov/centerforminorityveterans/
3.	Center for Veterans Enterprise & Business:	www.vetbiz.gov/
4.	Center for Women Veterans:	www.va.gov/womenvet
5.	Enrollment in VA's Health Care System:	www.va.gov/healtheligibility/
6.	Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships:	www.va.gov/cfbnpartnerships
7.	Federal Benefits for Veterans and Dependents:	www.va.gov/opa/publications/benefits_book.asp
8.	History of Veterans Day:	www.va.gov/vetsday
9.	Homeless Veterans Program:	www.va.gov/homeless/index.asp
10.	HR-Veteran Statistics:	http://vssc.med.va.gov/HR/Veteran.asp
11.	Information for Reservists Called to Active Duty:	www.va.gov/ohrm/reservist/
12.	National Cemetery Administration:	www.cem.va.gov
13.	National Center for Health Promotion & Disease Prevention:	www.prevention.va.gov
14.	National Center for PTSD:	www.ncptsd.va.gov
15.	National Resource Directory (DoD/DOL/VA):	www.nationalresourcedirectory.gov
16.	National Guard and Reserve	www.benefits.va.gov/guardreserve/
17.	National Veterans Employment Office:	www.va.gov/jobs
18.	Office of Survivors Assistance:	www.va.gov/survivors/
19.	Returning OEF/OIF service members:	www.oefoif.va.gov
20.	Survivor Benefits Homepage:	www.vba.va.gov/survivors/
21.	Transition Assistance Program (online):	www.turbotap.org
22.	VA Advisory Committees	www.va.gov/advisory
23.	VA Benefits for Veterans of Enduring Freedom-Iraqi Freedom:	vaww.va.gov/oa/pocketcard/oefoif.asp
24.	VA Caregiver Support:	www.caregiver.va.gov/
25.	VA Education Benefits and Services:	www.gibill.va.gov
26.	VA Health Services Research & Development:	www.hsrdr.research.va.gov
27.	VA Home Loan Guaranty:	www.homeloans.va.gov

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28.	VA Kids:	www.va.gov/kids
29.	VA Public Affairs for News Releases:	www.va.gov/OPA/pressrel/pressarchinternet.cfm and www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/opalist_listserv.cfm
30.	VA Statistics:	www.va.gov/vetdata
31.	Vet Center Website:	www.vetcenter.va.gov
32.	Veterans Benefits Administration:	www.vba.va.gov
33.	Veterans Crisis Line	www.veteranscrisisline.net
34.	Veterans Justice Outreach:	www1.va.gov/HOMELESS/VJO.asp
35.	VHA CHAMPVA:	www.va.gov/hac
36.	VHA Online Health Eligibility and Enrollment:	www.va.gov/healtheligibility
37.	Women Veterans Health Program:	www.womenshealth.va.gov

Department of Defense (www.defenselink.mil/)

38.	Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services (DACOWITS):	http://dacowits.defense.gov
39.	Defense Visual Information Center:	www.defenseimagery.mil/index.htm
40.	DoD New Policy on Prevention and Response to Sexual Assault:	www.sapr.mil
41.	DoD Reserve Affairs:	www.defenselink.mil/ra/
42.	TRICARE Fact Sheets:	www.tricare.osd.mil/factsheets/index.cfm?fx=show
43.	TRICARE Reserve Component:	www.tricare.osd.mil/reserve/
44.	TRICARE Smart Website:	www.tricare.osd.mil/smart
45.	TRICARE Website:	www.tricare.osd.mil
46.	DoD Mental Health:	www.militarymentalhealth.org
47.	Military Funeral Honors:	www.dmdc.osd.mil/mfh/
48.	National Resource Directory (DoD/DOL/VA):	www.nationalresourcedirectory.gov

Department of Labor (www.dol.gov/)

49.	America's Heroes at Work:	www.AmericasHeroesAtWork.gov
50.	DOL Employment & Training:	www.dol.gov/vets
51.	DOL Veterans' TAP Briefings:	www.dol.gov/vets/programs/tap/main.htm
52.	National Resource Directory (DoD/DOL/VA):	www.nationalresourcedirectory.gov
53.	DOL VETS-Women Who Served	www.dol.gov/vets/womenveterans/
54.	DOL Women's Bureau-Trauma Informed Care Guide for Service Providers	www.dol.gov/wb/trauma/

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Department of Health and Human Services (www.hhs.gov/)

55.	Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ):	http://webmm.ahrq.gov/
56.	HHS Administration on Aging:	www.aoa.gov
57.	HHS Women's Health:	www.4woman.gov
58.	Medicare:	www.medicare.gov

Other Federal and State Agencies

59.	Congressional Legislation & Other Information:	http://thomas.loc.gov .
60.	Federal Citizen Information Center:	www.gsa.gov/portal/category/101011
61.	Federal Publications:	http://publications.usa.gov/USAPubs.php
62.	Federal Register Notice of Meeting:	www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/advanced.html
63.	GAO report regarding the needs of women veterans:	http://archive.gao.gov/pdf/119503.pdf
64.	National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs (NASDVA):	http://www.nasdva.net/
65.	National Association of State Women Veteran Coordinators:	www.naswvc.com
66.	National Personnel Records Center (Military Records – DD214):	http://vetrecs.archives.gov
67.	OPM Pay Grade:	www.opm.gov/oca/ .
68.	Small Business Administration's Programs for Veterans:	www.sba.gov/vets
69.	SSA (Social Security) Website:	www.socialsecurity.gov
70.	State Veterans Homes:	www.nasvh.org
71.	Veterans History Project:	http://www.loc.gov/vets/
72.	White House:	www.whitehouse.gov/

Other Organizations

73.	American Red Cross:	www.redcross.org
74.	AMSUS & Convention Registration:	www.amsus.org
75.	Arlington National Cemetery:	www.arlingtoncemetery.org/
76.	Armed Forces Foundation:	www.armedforcesfoundation.org

Center for Women Veterans

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77.	Bar Association Legal Assistance for Military Personnel:	www.abanet.org/legalservices/helpreservists
78.	Business and Professional Women/USA:	www.bpwfoundation.org
79.	Commissary Information Baby Program:	www.commissaries.com
80.	The Veterans Corporation, Doing Business with the federal Government:	www.veteranscorp.org
81.	Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve:	http://www.esgr.org/
82.	Funeral Ceremony Bugle:	www.ceremonialbugle.com
83.	HQ Tuskegee Airmen, Inc.:	www.tuskegeeairmen.org/
84.	Metro, Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority:	www.wmata.com
85.	Military Records Correction (SF Form 293):	http://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/correcting-records.html
86.	Military Women Veterans History:	http://userpages.aug.com/captbarb/
87.	National Association of Child Care Resources and Referral Agencies:	http://www.naccrra.org
88.	National Coalition for Homeless Veterans:	www.nchv.org/
89.	National Veterans Legal Services Program:	www.nvlsp.org
90.	Native American Veterans Association (NNAVA):	http://nativeamericanveteransassoc.org
91.	The Women's Research & Education Institute:	www.wrei.org
92.	Veterans' Treatment Courts:	http://www.nadcp.org/learn/veterans-treatment-court-clearinghouse
93.	Veterans Upward Bound (VUB) Program:	http://education.military.com/timesaving-programs/veterans-upward-bound-vub
94.	VFW Unmet Needs Program for active duty, National Guard, and Reserves:	www.unmetneeds.com
95.	Women In Military Service For America (WIMSA):	www.womensmemorial.org
96.	Women's Overseas Service League:	www.WOSL.org
97.	National Resource Directory (DoD/DOL/VA):	www.nationalresourcedirectory.org
98.	Women's Policy , Inc:	www.womenspolicy.org/

DAV's Groundbreaking Report on Women Veterans

WOMEN VETERANS: THE LONG JOURNEY HOME



Includes DAV's 27 recommendations to close the gap in care and gender-specific services for women veterans; facts and figures on the women veterans population, and in-depth analysis of current federal programs and services.

Available for download at:

www.dav.org/women-veteans

or scan code below



No cost copies available for public events and women veterans summits; contact DAV Communications at 877-426-2838.