TRANSITION SERVICE PROGRAM

Our Mission

We are dedicated to a single purpose: empowering veterans to lead high-quality lives with respect and dignity. We accomplish this by ensuring that veterans and their families can access the full range of benefits available to them; fighting for the interests of America's injured heroes on Capitol Hill; and educating the public about the great sacrifices and needs of veterans transitioning back to civilian life.

How we accomplish our mission

- More than 100 offices throughout the U.S. and in Puerto Rico
- Nearly 300 national and transition service officers who are wartime injured and ill veterans themselves
- Counsel and representation for service members and their families with claims for benefits from the VA, DOD and other government agencies
- Continual training to stay up to date on changes in all laws and regulations affecting benefits

Why is it important to speak with a DAV representative before discharge?

As you prepare to transition from military service, the decisions made now will affect your future in many ways. DAV is here to help and assist you.

How can DAV assist in your transition?

- Reviewing your service treatment records to identify conditions that may warrant disability compensation by the VA
- Explaining the claims process, assisting in completing forms and presenting all claims information for you to the VA
- Representing your claims during their adjudicative and possible appeals processes

What is disability compensation?

A VA monetary tax-free benefit paid for an illness or injury incurred or aggravated by active military service, known as a "service-connected disability."

Examples that may warrant compensation

- Hearing loss
- Erectile dysfunction or infertility
- Gastroesophageal reflux disease
- Irritable bowel syndrome
- Ulcers
- Anxiety and depression
- Sleep apnea
- Migraines and headaches
- Arthritis
- Fractures
- Dermatitis or eczema
- Meniere's syndrome
- Sinusitis
- Vertigo

Other areas service connection may make a difference

- Federal employment preference
- Vocational readiness and employment benefits
- VA home loan guarantees
- Health care at the VA
- VA life insurance
- Property tax exemptions
- Educational tuition waivers
- State and local benefits
- Death benefits for your family

Need guidance making the transition from military service?

DAV offers claim filing assistance and transition support, at **no cost** to veterans.

When and who should you contact?

- Anytime before discharge, reach out to your transition service office (TSO)
- Any time after discharge, no matter your location, you can reach out to a national service office (NSO) by looking one up at benefitsquestions.org

What should you bring?

- A copy of all service medical and treatment records
- A copy of all nonmilitary private practice medical and treatment records
- A copy of all dental records
- If applicable, a copy of your marriage certificate and children's birth certificates or adoption decrees
- Dependents' Social Security numbers
- Direct deposit information
- A copy of any prior DD-214s

Interested in learning more?

Check out our videos that can help with your transition. They can be viewed by going to dav.org/news-media/videos.

- Seven ways to service-connected disability
- Who should file a VA claim
- What to expect after filing a VA claim
- How to appeal your VA claim decision
- C&P Exams
- Determining VA disability ratings

To view all videos, visit **dav.org/news-media/videos**.

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benefitsquestions.org

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