

Health Care & Benefits For a New Generation of Combat Veterans

The Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) and the Department of Defense (DoD) are coordinating efforts to identify the men and women returning from combat theaters and provide those discharged or needing VA services while on active duty with world-class VA service.

“A service member separating from military service and seeking health care through VA today will have the benefit of VA’s decade-long experience with Gulf War health issues,” says Robert H. Roswell, M.D., VA undersecretary for health. “VA has successfully adapted many existing programs, improved outreach, improved clinical care through practice guidelines and educational efforts, and improved VA health providers’ access to DoD health records.”

As of October 2003, VA records indicated that of approximately 17,000 veterans listed in the initial roster, about 2,000 have sought health care from VA for a wide variety of health problems. Each Veterans Health Administration (VHA) medical facility and each Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) regional office has identified a point of contact to coordinate activities locally. These points of contact work as a team to assure that the needs of service members and veterans are met and that contact is made with veterans that relocate.

Combat Theater Veterans

VA is also actively working to ensure successful implementation of Public Law 105-368, which authorizes VHA to provide health care for a two-year period to veterans who serve on active duty in a theater of combat operations during a period of war after the Gulf War, or in combat against a hostile force during a period of hostilities after November 1, 1998. Consequently, those who have served or are now serving in Afghanistan or Iraq will have a two year period of access to free VA health care for conditions possibly related to their combat

OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM - ENDURING FREEDOM



Enduring and Iraqi Freedom Veterans

VA CAN PROVIDE YOU WITH HEALTH CARE AND BENEFITS ASSISTANCE IF YOU HAVE SERVED IN A RECENT THEATER OF COMBAT OPERATIONS.

If you are a recently discharged veteran with service in a theater of combat operations, VA can provide you free medical care for two years from your discharge from active duty for conditions possibly related to your service, regardless of your income status.

Points of Contact

Veterans Health Administration

**VA Central California
Health Care System,
Fresno**

Danielle Shapazian, R.N. -
(559) 225-6100 ext. 4868

**VA Northern California
Health Care System,
Martinez/Sacramento**

Rebecca Dominy - (925) 372-2018

**VA Pacific Islands
Health Care System,
Honolulu**

Craig Oswald - (808) 433-0016;
Hayward Hesslup - (808) 433-7600

VA Palo Alto Health Care System

Joseph Russo - (650) 493-5000
ext. 63543

VA San Francisco Medical Center

Karen Xavier, LCSW - (415) 221-4810,
ext. 4341; (877) 487-2838 toll free

**VA Sierra Nevada
Health Care System, Reno**

Christopher Miller - (775) 328-1441;
Joe Arrascada, MSW - (775) 786-7200
ext. 1874

Veterans Benefits Administration

Honolulu

Edmond DeGuzman - (808) 433-0512
vsdedegu@vba.va.gov

Oakland

Tim Lane - (800) 827-1000 toll free

Reno

Jerry Yocom - (800)-827-1000 toll free
(775) 784-5640

Information and brochures can be found at the following web sites:

Special VA Healthcare Eligibility for Combat Veterans

www.va.gov/environmentagents

Veterans Health Initiative

www.appl.va.gov/VHI

Veterans Benefits

www.vba.va.gov

VA National Center for Post Traumatic Stress Disorder

www.ncptsd.org

service. We are aggressively reaching out to this group of current and former service members, including those who served in the National Guard and Reserves.

Further, VA is actively working with DoD to develop separation physical examinations

that thoroughly document a veteran’s health status at the time of separation from military service and that also meet the requirements of the physical examination needed by VA in connection with a veteran’s claim for compensation benefits.