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by Ryan Guina

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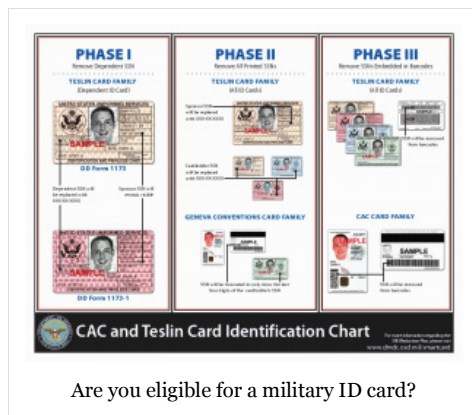
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How to Get a Military ID Card

A military ID card or dependent ID is a valuable card which can unlock a variety of valuable benefits, such as health care through TRICARE, education benefits, and access base facilities, including the commissary, base exchange, rec centers and other support agencies.

Unfortunately, getting a military ID card isn't always as easy as waltzing onto your local military installation and requesting one. In fact, only certain individuals are eligible to receive a military ID card or dependent ID card. You are usually eligible to receive a military ID if you are a military retiree or are currently in the military (active duty, Guard, Reserve, or Inactive Ready Reserve). Certain dependents are eligible for dependent ID cards as well (see below).



What about a veteran ID card? One of the most common questions we receive comes from veterans who are looking to get a veteran ID card which proves their military service. There are many reasons why proof of military service can come in handy – including securing veterans benefits, proof of service for **military discounts**, or just to show off your military pride. However, if you served in the military and have since separated from, but didn't retire from the military, you may not be eligible for a military ID card.

In this article we will cover information about some of the forms of military ID that are available, who is eligible to receive one, and alternative forms of identification to prove military service if you are a military veteran who is not eligible for a military ID card.

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Military ID Card Eligibility

In general, you must be in the DEERS system to receive a new military ID card. This includes the servicemember (sponsor) and eligible dependents (who must be entered into DEERS by the sponsor). Here are some general rules regarding military ID card eligibility. Check with your local issuing base personnel office more more specific information.

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- **Active Duty ID card.** You must be on Active Duty military status and be in the DEERS system.
- **Guard/Reserve Military ID Card.** You must be in the Guard or Reserves, which may include the Inactive Ready Reserves (IRR).
- **Retiree Military ID Card.** You must qualify as a military retiree, which generally means 20 years of active military service, or 20 years in the Guard or Reserves (though age limits may change eligibility requirements for Guard/Reserve retirees). Medically retired servicemembers may also be eligible.
- **Military Dependent ID Card.** These may include, but are not limited to: Lawful spouse, un-remarried surviving spouse, unmarried children (including adopted or stepchildren) who are: under 21 years of age, over 21 but incapable of self-support (documentation is required), over 21 but under 23 who are attending an approved learning institution as a full time student (documentation is required). There are additional eligibility rules for former spouses, dependent parents/in-laws, and certain other cases. Contact your card issuing service for additional information.
- **Veteran ID Card.** This is where it gets a little tricky. There is no official DoD issued military veteran ID card. However, the VA medical system may issue ID cards for veterans who are in their system for service connected disability benefits and certain other situations. (see below).

How to Get a Replacement Military Dependent ID Card

In addition to being in the DEERS system, you will need at least 2 forms of ID. For more information about where to go, contact your local base personnel office, or visit the [Rapids Site Locator \(RSL\)](#) for ID card requirements and to locate the nearest ID Card Facility/RAPIDS Station based on City, Zip, State or Country.

Veterans ID Cards

As we mentioned above, not all veterans are eligible for a military ID card. But there may be ways you can still prove your military service. Some states, **including Virginia**, issue state issued veterans ID cards. Some other states may include an endorsement on their state issued driver's licenses or ID cards. If this is the case, you



[How to Replace Lost Military Service Records](#)


[How to Replace Lost Military Medals, Awards, and Decorations](#)

[Unemployment Benefits After Separating from the Military](#)

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






[Home Depot and Lowe's 10% Military Discounts](#)



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should be able to get an ID card through your state (note: not all states offer these cards at this time).

The VA also issues a Veterans Identification Card (VIC), which is a photo ID for veterans who are eligible for VA health care. (note: you do not have to have a service-connected disability rating to be eligible for VA health care benefits). The VIC is a photo ID and you will need to qualify in order to be eligible this ID card. Here is more about how to get a **Veterans Identification Card from the VA**, and **VA health care eligibility**.

If you do not have access to the above veterans ID card options, you may still be able to prove your military service in other ways.

Your DD 214 Will Prove Military Service

The easiest way to prove your military service without one of the above ID cards is with a **DD Form 214**, which is the document which serves as your service record. This is issued to all military members when they separate from military service (the military used to issue a wallet sized DD Form 214, but so far as I know, this is no longer the case).

Unfortunately, carrying around a letter size document is inconvenient. One tip we have received from many veterans is to take your DD Form 214 to an office supply store such as Office Depot, Office Max, Fed-Ex/Kinkos, etc. and ask them to shrink the card to a wallet size version and have it laminated. This will give you a wallet sized document that will prove your service.

Note: Your DD Form 214 is one of the most important documents you will receive, so keep good care of it! Here are more details on the DD Form 214, including **how to get a new DD 214**.

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How You Can Get an ID Card to Prove Military Service

Unfortunately a DD Form 214 isn't a photo ID, it is simply a document. If you are looking for a photo ID or other wallet sized ID to prove your military service, then these may be good options for you:

- **Department of Veterans Affairs ID Card.** This ID card is issued to military veterans who are eligible to receive medical care from the VA. Contact your local VA medical center for more information about your eligibility.
- **State Driver's License.** Some state driver's licenses display a logo or code that denotes military service. Call your state Department of Motor Vehicles, or licensing branch for more information. You will likely need to bring your DD Form 214 to prove your military service. See a full list of states which offer a **veterans designation on drivers licenses or state issued ID cards**.

- **State or County Veterans ID Card program.** Some counties or other communities issue veteran ID cards. These aren't "official US or state government IDs," but they may be valuable in the local community, as many restaurants and retailers will extend discounts as a thanks for your service. These cards may also be good for local or county benefits programs, but these vary by locale.
- **Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Card.** Check with your local VFW for eligibility requirements.
- **American Legion membership card.** Check with your local American Legion for eligibility requirements.
- **Other service organization ID card.** Check with your local military organization for eligibility requirements.

Do you know of any other forms of ID that can be used to prove military service? If so, please **contact us**. We will add it to the list.

VA ID Card photo source: [WikiMedia Commons](#)

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Date published: November 21, 2011. Last updated: December 3, 2012.

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Article by [Ryan Guina](#)

Ryan Guina is the founder and editor of this site. He is a writer, small business owner, and entrepreneur. He served over 6 years in the USAF and also writes about money management, small business, and career topics at [Cash Money Life](#). You can also see his profile on [Google](#)

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William P. Turczynski says:
 November 22, 2011 at 12:46 pm

I'm a veteran and looking into getting a ID card and found this site:
<http://www.veteranprograms.com/id1366.html> which issue a card w/wo a
[Veterans Designation on Drivers Licenses or State ID Cards](#)
 or attach it after the FAXing. It mentions a "Aspyr Media" at the end of the
[How to Get a Military Discount](#)
 process. This is a company that ports Windows games for the Mac! What are they
[DoD to Remove SSN from All ID Cards](#)
 doing issuing ID cards? The DD214 contains much info like your full SS# for a
 starter.

Reply



Ryan Guina says:
 November 22, 2011 at 12:59 pm

William, this is *NOT* an official veterans ID card issued by the government and it is extremely unlikely this would be recognized in any official capacity. It may be good enough to receive a discount from a restaurant or retail store, but since it is not an official government card, it is just as likely to be turned down. With the right equipment, anyone could make a similar ID card. I highly recommend caution before giving any personal identification to a non-government organization.

Thanks for sharing this with the community.

Reply



Aiona says:
 September 27, 2012 at 8:27 pm

I'm trying to figure out if my father would be eligible for a military ID or not. He was honorably discharged when he served in Hawaii. He did not retire from the military, just served for 2ys I think. Or any type of benefits greatly appreciate any type of info.

Reply



Ryan Guina says:
 September 28, 2012 at 11:11 am

If your father served two years, then he likely would not be eligible for a military-issued ID card. He may, however, be eligible for a VA issued ID card, or a veterans designation on his driver's license, provided he lives in a state

which issues ID cards with a veterans designation. We have links to those resources within this article.

He may also be eligible for various veterans benefits. These vary by individual, so the best thing for him to do would be to visit with a veterans affairs office at his county or state, or with the VA. He can visit his state website or <http://www.va.gov> for more information.

Reply



Mister IDCard says:

March 7, 2012 at 2:37 pm

I have sent a link to that website to the VA for investigation. They may be legit, but I have a sneaking suspicion that they are not authorized IDs. I am also contacting DMDC, the people whom are in charge of all military IDs for verification. No organization should charge a veteran for an ID card. This sounds REALLY fishy, as in, identity theft fishy... CAVEAT EMPTOR...

The VA can issue veterans IDs if you got out with less than 20 years service, please contact them for details on qualifications.

I work across the hall from our ID card shop at a National Guard Armory. (requirements are the same as active duty or reserve for running the ID card station...)

Reply



Ryan Guina says:

March 7, 2012 at 3:07 pm

These ARE NOT official ID cards, so always use your judgement before sending personal information, especially if you send your SSN or other info that could be used to steal your identity. Only government entities can issue an official ID card.

Reply



Arthur says:

November 29, 2011 at 3:10 pm

I have taken documents to Staples store and shrunk them down to a small size and then had them sealed in plastic . You will have to be the judge of how small to go because of the legibility of the print. I have never shrunk a DD214 but seems like a good idea to try for easier handling. The Staples scanners do a professional job and the sealing operation. I am not employed by Staples.

[Reply](#)



Paul says:

November 29, 2011 at 4:24 pm

Ryan,

Many states are introducing legislation authorizing a “Veteran’s Designation” – typically a “V” on state drivers licenses for this precise reason. South Dakota hopes to see the law passed this upcoming session. Check with your state representative; if it’s not scheduled to be introduced, push for it to be!

[Reply](#)



Ryan Guina says:

November 29, 2011 at 5:02 pm

Paul, I would love for each state to do this. There are a few which do it right now, but I wish it were implemented nationwide. It would be a great way to recognize veterans for their service and give them a quick and easy way to prove their service.

[Reply](#)



Kenneth Nutter says:

December 2, 2011 at 3:12 pm

Just a little misunderstanding about veterans ID Cards. I am a 100% service-connected disabled veteran, and I have been issued to a military ID card. They will enter you into DEERS. The card is Tan. Additionally, all of my dependents (Spouse, and children up to 21 – or 23 if attending school) are issued regular Military Dependent ID cards.

100% service connected disability ID Cards are identical to retired cards except: they are tan in color (not blue); and they only allow for use of the Exchange, Commissary, and MWR (NOT MEDICAL).

[Reply](#)



Dennis M Tapp says:

January 26, 2012 at 6:27 pm

Can I get a Veteran ID card if I served in the army from June 61 to June 64. I was told I cannot because I did not serve during a war. Is this true?

[Reply](#)



Ryan Guina says:

January 27, 2012 at 10:34 am

Dennis, the US government does not issue veteran ID cards, with the exception of retiree cards and VA issued ID cards. The VA only issues ID cards based on service connected disability ratings, it has nothing to do with serving during a period of war.

Note, that some counties offer veterans ID card for local use, and some states add a military service recognition on their state driver's licenses.

I hope this is helpful, and thanks for your service!

[Reply](#)



Carlos says:

June 5, 2012 at 3:48 pm

Ryan,

Why is it that service connect veterans are not allowed access to a military base? If VA are so restricted to service connection only.

[Reply](#)



Carlos says:

June 5, 2012 at 3:50 pm

Ops, sorry, VA service connect ID cards are so restricted is what I meant.

Carlos

[Reply](#)



Ryan Guina says:

June 5, 2012 at 3:54 pm

Carlos, It's military policy to limit base access to those with active, retiree, and dependent ID cards. My guess is if they opened the

gates to everyone with a VA issued service connected disability card, they would have too many people coming on base. In addition, those with VA disability cards aren't always eligible for most base services, such as the Commissary, base exchange, etc., so there wouldn't really be anything they could do once they were on base. In the end, I'm sure it all comes down to budgets, as giving vets with service connected disabilities the same benefits as military members would cost a fortune.



m coulbourne says:

April 4, 2012 at 5:42 pm

LOWES AND HOME DEPOT DISCRIMINATE , AND GIVE THE 10% to whom they please. and turn other Vets down.

excuses,excuses they have,leaving it up to the mngr. All Vets are Vets, and none is any better than the other. ALSO, the DD214 should be good enough proof, No ID required other than that. Only on certain days, is boloney. retired or not is boloney, reserve or not, in combat or not, what else can they come up with to get out of giving Any vet the well deserved 10% discount ???? Vets should be mad

Reply



sondralb says:

May 24, 2012 at 5:47 pm

I have worked at LOWES for some time. In our store and know that several all around honor vet cards. I have a military family; father, hubby, son, sister, nephew, niece. I actually honor any id that is military even if it's not on the id sheet. Alot of times I see vet hats and inform the customer of our 10% off. Vet's and military should ALWAYS ask if there is a discount. We just got back from vacation with our son & his gf. I was shoked at the discounts they give. Just about all places in Gatlinburg give a 10-30% off. Ripleys charges only 5\$ for their military. Email the corp office of LOWES and I am sure you would get a positive responds and present it when you go to LOWES.

[Reply](#)**m coulbourne says:**

April 4, 2012 at 5:51 pm

Furthermore, My father served in Combat in Vietnam, and died from his injuries there. My stepfather was in Combat in Korea , my other relatives were in Combat in places like Iwo Jima, and other Hellholes in WW2 . I served active Duty with a Honorable Discharge too, so I Dare these stores to Deny me my well deserved measly 10% Discount. This mistake just cost Lowes several thousand dollars in sales I was ready to pay them, so, they hurt noone but themselves.....

[Reply](#)**Dave says:**

June 5, 2012 at 6:09 pm

The stores are nice enough to give military discounts. Who they give them too, or if they give them at all is their business. If it is measly—then quit bellyaching. The releases I've read says both stores give the 10% discount to active duty and retired—which I am. I appreciate their generosity and tell them that at every purchase as they don't have to do it. Go dare someone who really cares an honor discharge is a dime a dozen. I have a long list of ancestors who served also, but I am not them and don't expect to be rewarded for their accomplishments. For that look to obama who wants everybody rewarded equally regardless of how they perform.

[Reply](#)**Mike Ogazon says:**

April 4, 2012 at 8:26 pm

If you served 6 months active duty reserves 1963 to 1969...and have a DD214...
1)are you a veteran elegible to be buried in a military cemetary...ie Calverton...LI, NY...

[Reply](#)**blanketjackson says:**

June 2, 2012 at 11:11 pm

sorry folks. the only people eligible for military id cards are active duty, dependents, and 100% disabled vets. having served, wartime or peacetime is just

not enough to be awarded benefits afforded to the aforementioned. while your service to this country is greatly appreciated, our government just doesn't issue id cards to recognize service. as far as commissary, exchange, and mrw privileges go, it should be reserved only for the aforementioned. if you wanted to retain those bennies, you should have stayed in. can you imagine the nightmarish hell that the posts and bases would have to go through to clear half of this country for admittance onto military installations? we'd all be complaining about the outrageous military budget expenditures.

Reply



Carlos says:

June 5, 2012 at 3:58 pm

What military budget? VA already issues VA ID cards. All active service and former members are loaded in the DEERS programs. So again what budget? That's an excuse the government gives. The fact is there are far more vets living too far from a military base than what the government want to say. Another thing according this article, Vet ID cards are retracted for service connect vets. So where is the expenditure? The government just spent countless of hours enrolling vets in their ebenefits. That was a waste of funds.

Reply



roland says:

June 30, 2012 at 11:31 pm

I served from 1981 to 1994, desert storm era, I wanted to do 20 years but was forced to take the ssb option. I was deemed 10 percent disabled but feel i should be 100 percent mentally disable, Id like to know what im entitled to if anything. I have a honorable discharge. Is there money I can apply for or anything else that im missing? Please respond Thanks. 13 years active duty in the army deserves something dont you think??

Reply



Ryan Guina says:

July 2, 2012 at 10:47 am

Roland, You will need to contact the VA about your disability claim. If you believe it was made in error, then you can file a new claim or apply to have your claim upgraded.

You may also be eligible for additional benefits, however, eligibility for various programs depends on your unique situation. It is recommended you meet with a VA benefits counselor to go over your military and veterans file to determine benefits eligibility.

Best of luck, and thanks for your service.

[Reply](#)



Eric Staggs says:

July 4, 2012 at 11:18 pm

Texas will give you a status on your Drivers License. <http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/DriverLicense/vetServices.htm>

[Reply](#)



Ryan Guina says:

July 5, 2012 at 7:50 am

Thanks for sharing this with the community, Eric. This is an example all states should follow!

[Reply](#)



Donnie Freeman says:

July 5, 2012 at 4:13 pm

I purchased a dishwasher at Lowe's last week that was already 10% off. I asked the manager if they gave veterans discounts and she asked for one of the cards. Of course I didn't have one but she knew to ask for my DD214. I went home and got it and she gave me an additional 10% off without blinking. At checkout, the salesman said I could get an additional 5% off if I used a Lowe's card with a total of 25% off. I applied for the card right then. He said I should see the additional 5% when my statement comes. We'll see. Additionally, our governor just signed law to get veterans ID on license in LA. It starts in Aug. The rest of nation should follow.

[Reply](#)



Ryan Guina says:

July 5, 2012 at 4:36 pm

Thanks for sharing, Donnie. More and more states are adding a veteran's ID on licenses. I hope it is done across the nation, as it would be a good way for veterans to prove their military service!

[Reply](#)



James Copeland says:

August 5, 2012 at 10:04 am

Are there any updates on the U.S. Veteran Compensation Programs (veteranprograms[dot]com) on Veteran ID Cards to replace your DD214?

[Reply](#)



Ryan Guina says:

August 5, 2012 at 10:12 am

James, This quote is directly from their site:

Note: The Veteran ID Card produced by USVCP is not an official State or Federal government ID card. The Veteran ID Card is produced and managed exclusively by USVCP and used by USVCP members primarily for programs and services sponsored by USVCP. The Veteran ID Card is not to be used for official military business.

Basically, this is a vanity/discount card they have created. You may find that it works some places, but it is not an official ID card, and there is the risk of sending away your SSN and other personal information. In my opinion, the risks are not worth any potential rewards. I do not endorse this card and would not recommend it based on the information I read on their website.

[Reply](#)



Dave M says:

August 8, 2012 at 10:25 am

The Veteran ID Card produced by USVCP seems to be bogus, I sent in my form filled out, with a photo and a check plus a copy of my discharge papers and to date I have received nothing, even after many emails to them. I have contacted the Texas Attorney generals office and filed a complaint and with the Arizona attorney generals off as well. I am looking into filing a complaint with the FBI for cyber crime

[Reply](#)



James Harrison Jr says:

August 18, 2012 at 4:53 pm

Is there a compilation of States that identify/provide ID of vets' service?

[Reply](#)



Ryan Guina says:

August 21, 2012 at 11:44 am

Hello James, we put together this list of states that offer a [Veterans Designation on Drivers Licenses or State ID Cards](#). Hope this helps!

[Reply](#)



Daniel G says:

August 22, 2012 at 12:56 pm

I did not make it through Marine Corps boot camp. I was injured in boot camp and after surgery was medically discharged. This is back in 2003 and I have been going back in forth about whether I am considered a vet or not. I have a General under Honorable conditions discharge. Am I considered a veteran? Not looking to just reap the benefits from this just would like a clear answer.

[Reply](#)



Ryan Guina says:

August 24, 2012 at 2:59 pm

Daniel, I haven't been able to find a firm legal definition of a military veteran. There are several definitions in regard to benefits eligibility, such as the VA loan, GI Bill, etc. For example, to qualify for the VA Loan, you would have needed to have served 181 days on active duty, not including training time, unless you were discharged with a service-connected disability.

The US government also gives a Veteran's Preference for Federal Jobs. Part of their definition includes the following: those honorably separated veterans who 1) qualify as disabled veterans because they have served on active duty in the Armed Forces at any time and have a present service-connected disability or are receiving compensation, disability retirement benefits, or pension from the military or the Department of Veterans Affairs; or 2) are Purple Heart recipients.

in short, I don't have a firm answer for you. Sorry I couldn't give you a better answer.

[Reply](#)



Cal says:

October 2, 2012 at 2:56 pm

My fiance retired after 21 year in the Army. He has is DD214 but how would he get an actual retired military ID card?

Reply



Ed L says:

October 29, 2012 at 8:47 pm

I have membership in Amvets (life), Army Navy Club (life), American Legion and VFW. I have the Military designation on my drivers license and my DD214.

I have been refused any discount at three different Lowes stores because I don't have a VA issued card. I was told corporate says all the other forms are to easy to fake and they won't honor them. That is their business and they can honor or reject as they see fit. This is my experience with their program.

Reply



Victor says:

November 1, 2012 at 12:12 pm

I was wondering once i get issued my military id from the VA, is it possible to get my wife a military dependant id?

Reply



Ryan Guina says:

November 1, 2012 at 12:26 pm

Hi Victor, the VA doesn't issue military ID cards. If you are still in the military, you can get an ID card issued from Pass and ID. If your wife is in the DEERS system, she can get a dependent ID card. If you are no longer in the service and are eligible for VA health care, then you can get an ID card issued by the VA. You wife would not be eligible for one of these ID cards unless she too is eligible for VA health care. I hope this helps. Best of luck, and thanks for your service.

Reply



rodney groves says:

November 5, 2012 at 11:02 pm

I have a wallet size laminated DD214 that was issued to me upon separation by the US Army. I showed it to a guy down at the VA who told me that he had never seen them wallet sized and laminated before and basically accused me of making it myself. Mine was issued at Ft. Lewis, Washington in 1971, Can you tell me what years they issued them and what year they discontinued them?

Reply**Ryan Guina says:**

November 5, 2012 at 11:05 pm

Rodney, I have heard several other veterans mention they were issued a laminated DD 214 upon separation from the service. I don't know the years this was done, and it may have been done at a branch or even base level instead of DoD wide. I have also heard of people doing it in recent years as a way to show proof of service. It isn't a photo ID, however, but it does show you served. Thanks for your service!

Reply**rodney groves says:**

November 6, 2012 at 1:44 am

Thanks Ryan. I just wanted to show that guy at the V.A. that it is legitimate Army issue. It was made by Morley studios, I presume the one in Portland, Oregon, and given to me at Ft. Lewis, Washington when I came back from Korea. I am wrestling a bit with the V.A. now over my healthcare benefits. They have discontinued them because of that 2003 Veterans Disability Act that requires veterans to qualify based on income, if they did not get into the healthcare program prior to December 2003. It seems that I missed the cutoff by about \$1200 in my annual household income. I am taking some new info to the V.A. eligibility office tomorrow that shows nearly \$4500 in medical expenses for the year. I am hoping that will satisfy them and that they will reinstate my healthcare benefits.

Reply**Kirk says:**

November 7, 2012 at 11:07 am

I served in the Illinois Army National Guard from 1987 to 1995. Other than my DD214 is there anything else I can use to prove my service? I still have my military ID from that time and have used that in the past to prove my service.

Reply**oscar cepeda says:**



November 8, 2012 at 1:39 am

I served in U S M C from 1976 to 1980 active, inactive reserves from 1980 to 1982. I did recieve an Honorable Discharge. I have never use any of my G I Benefits mainly because I had gotten a good job working for AT&T. After working 30 years for AT&T, I retired and move out of state, I'm now living in Texas and people asked if I have ever served in the armed forces. I tell them I was in the Marines and they ask if I have an I D . I do not have one, Am I entitle to have one? If so, how do I go about to get one?

Reply



Jim Campbell says:

November 9, 2012 at 3:07 am

I was active 6/64 until 6/67 in the regular army. I was in France and Germany. I have always thought I was a veteran, then the Home Depot thing came up as I was buying an appliance the sales person asked about my statis as a vet. They didn't go for the 214 and since then I have changed my statis to "not real military" as it doesn't count now. As I learned about the real Army after I was in, I learned a lot after I left. I am glad I am out with minimum damage that they wouldn't believe.

Reply



stan says:

November 23, 2012 at 6:57 pm

Spent 6 years in the USAF and was Honorable discharged. Have no service connected disability and cannot get a VA id card. Home Depot will not except a DD214 as other stores will not. On Veterans day I cannot get most discounts open to vets and at stores that offer all year round discounts most will not accept a DD214. Home Depot even told me today they do not accept the NEW Florida drivers license with the V emblem in blue showing your veteran status. So if I where to visit the local VA clinic any chance I could get an ID card as some of my fellow vets without disabilities have in the past or have the rules changed?

Reply

**Bob says:**

November 24, 2012 at 8:28 pm

I was given a wallet-size DD-217N [yes, DD-217] form upon separation from USN.

It is not laminated. And I do not know anyone else who received this form with an honorable discharge. Also received my DD-214 at the same time.

[Reply](#)**Sherry Pritchard says:**

December 20, 2012 at 8:28 pm

I would like to know if you are a spouse of a Navy Vet.(which died) and are over the age of 57 and remarry do you lose your Navy Base I.D. card?? I still receive my DIC check and ChampVa. HealthCare. I went to renew my I.D. card today and was told it could NOT be renewed!!! That I could no longer use the Navy Base! Please clear this up for me. Thank you!!

[Reply](#)**sheila wilson says:**

January 7, 2013 at 2:43 pm

Could someone that has served only 6 years in National reserve, get a veterans id card, now that this person is retired?

Also I have a son station at Ft. Bragg which is near our home, do they still let parents of soldiers get military ids, it would benefit while visiting base weekly, also to buy him items on base.

[Reply](#)**Ryan Guina says:**

January 7, 2013 at 3:01 pm

Hello Sheila, Someone who served in the Reserves or National Guard for 6 years would generally be considered a veteran, but not retired (unless they were medically retired). They would only be eligible for a military ID card if they were retired. Otherwise, they would not be eligible for a military ID card. They may be eligible for an ID card from the VA or a drivers license or other ID card with a veterans designation, as described in this article.

Military bases do not issue military ID cards to parents of service members, unless the parents are considered legal dependents. You may possibly be able to get a day pass to the base if your son sponsors you onto base. However, you would not be able to use most base

facilities unless your son sponsors it. Base shopping is generally reserved for military members. However, he may be able to buy something for you. My recommendation is to speak with him or the base pass & ID office for more specific information.

[Reply](#)



Mike says:

January 7, 2013 at 5:31 pm

Did the USVCP card thing. In about 2 weeks got a nice looking laminated card with my info and pic (I sent pic and DD214). Has my branch of service and the numbers of veteran service organizations on the back. No SS# or other info that can compromise my (credit) identity is listed on the card. Card does state it is "NOT OFFICIAL FOR MILITARY OR GOVT BUSINESS". So you can't get back on base or anything like that. However, it also states that military service WAS verified by the company by DD 214, DD256 or other military documents. I was skeptical at first but I have presented the card to various merchants (I live in NY) and have gotten whatever military discount was offered-no questions asked. Even on vacation, I was in Hawaii with the fam and my card was recognized by a host of merchants. I even had a manager of a tour company ask me where I got the card because he, like many of us, never had a convenient way of proving his prior military service. NYS will FINALLY have a drivers license veterans endorsement, but not until the end of this year (2013) and I wanted something NOW. It was a one time fee of \$19 bucks, no renewal and they didn't/haven't tried to sell me anything. Your experience my be different from mine but I'm glad I got it. OH last thing, has a verification service where you check to see if the card holder is legit. I tried it on MYSELF w/o the company knowing it was actually me and it worked perfectly. Got a verification message to the # I provided of my name, military service branch and type of discharge (Honorable). Again, your mileage may vary but for \$19 bucks I couldn't be happier.

[Reply](#)



christopher fils says:

January 15, 2013 at 8:29 pm

Hey Ryan. I'm a 28 year old male who plans on joining the us navy in june of this year. I'm also married but, a situation happened with my wife that landed her in prison a stint, it's an assault charge. My question to you is will she still be able to attain a military ID card and live on base with me??

[Reply](#)



Lieutenant Frederick Georges says:

February 4, 2013 at 1:23 pm

Ryan,

I am a Vietnam veteran who was uninterested in anything when I was discharged from St. Albans Naval Hospital and just “walked away” and did not look back.

I will look into what you have afforded us all here. This information is “news to me” and I thank you for it.

Respectfully,

Lieutenant Frederick Georges

N.S.V.F.A./ Orleans Fire and Rescue-Retired

=====

Georges F. B170696 WO-1 Supply Core

United States NAVY – Vietnam Campaign

[Reply](#)



Gwendolyn Sidener says:

February 8, 2013 at 8:15 pm

I would like to know if I can still use my ID card. My previous husband retired from the military after 20 yrs. Eventually he came down with Myasthenia Gravis and ALS.

He passed away, I have remarried, and am still eligible to receive his VA pension. and I still have my ID card, but I don't know if I can still use it for the PX and Commissary, and wonder can I have it renewed when it expires?

[Reply](#)



James Lyons says:

March 6, 2013 at 5:27 pm

Hello,

I was a 1st Lieutenant in the army reserve 20 years ago. To the best of my knowledge I am still a member of the “ready reserve”. As an IRR designee would I be eligible for any type of ID card. The reason for asking is that I'm planning on taking my kids to Disneyland and they have some tremendous discounts for the military. Thanks for your response

[Reply](#)



Miriam Olin says:

March 11, 2013 at 4:52 pm

Hi Ryan, you seem like an expert! Just read your above article and learned a lot, thanks. I received an Uncharacterized Separation in 1994 and am wondering if I qualify for ANY benefits. Specifically medical but also, I travel often for months at a time and thought it might be nice to get an ID card so I can go on base to the PX – what are my options, do you know? Each time I call VA or DOD I just get the run around ... thanks in advance.

Miriam

Reply



Ryan Guina says:

March 12, 2013 at 6:58 am

Miriam, I would start with this [Veterans Benefits Guide](#) to see which benefits you may be eligible for, including [VA health care eligibility](#). Keep in mind this is just a guide to get you started. The VA has the final say in all benefits.

Regarding a military ID – the only way to get one is to be in the service, or to be a retiree, medical retiree, or dependent. Veterans are not eligible for military ID cards. You may still be able to show proof of service through your DD 214, a [Veterans Identification Card from the VA](#), or by a [veterans designation on a state drivers license](#), but these are not valid forms of ID for entering a base or using facilities such as the commissary.

Reply



Scott Parks says:

March 14, 2013 at 9:18 am

Thanks Ryan for the forum and all the good information. I served in Bamberg, Germany from 1984 to 1986. My wife and I was planning a self-guided tour of Germany this fall and I was hoping to get back on base just to revisit and show her where I spent two years of my life but it sounds like we will not be able to get on base. We will have to be content with looking at it from the outside. Once again, many thanks for the job you are doing.

Reply



robert williams says:

March 25, 2013 at 10:53 pm

I LOST MY MILITARY ID CARD A LONGTIME AGO AHD WOULD VERY MUCH LIKE TO HAVE ANOTHER ONE I ALWAYS WANTED TO TRY AND GET ONE BUT NEVER FOUND THE TIME ARE KNEW HOW SO IAM TRYING NOW TO GET IT IF POSSIBLE

Reply



Ramon Ojeda Santos says:

March 31, 2013 at 4:56 pm

I would like to know what is discharge type: OPT-NSC

[Reply](#)



John Campbell says:

April 12, 2013 at 2:11 pm

I have a Verterians VA card for service in Vietnam and have been confirmed I have PTSD from servive in Laos. What is the differance with a VA card which has service under the picture and one that does not?

[Reply](#)

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