

GLOSSARY OF TERMS/TERMINOLOGY

5 USC § 2108

The term Veteran for purposes of Veterans resources from Federal sources.

10 USC § 12301

The legislation enabling the Federal government to “activate” reserve and National Guard service members in a time of war or national emergency.

38 USC § 2021

The legislation establishing Homeless Veterans Reintegration Programs under the Department of Labor.

38 USC § Chapter 43

The legislation resulting from the Uniformed Services Employment and re-Employment Rights Act.

46 USC § 11201-11202

The legislation designating Veterans eligibility for certain members of the Merchant Marines.

Activated

A change in serving status, usually used by reservists or National Guard to mean they changed/were changed from their status as a “part time” troop to “full-time.” Typically for the purpose of deploying in support of war or national emergency.

Activation status

Reservists and National Guard are either activated or drilling.

Active duty

A form of military duty wherein the service member is full-time employed/contracted to the military. Typically in two, three, or four year contracts.

Administrative

Administrative separations are not punitive and cannot be issued by court martial.

Administrative separations are awarded with either a characterization of service or a description of separation for uncharacterized separations.

Air Force

One of the 5 branches of the United States armed forces.

DOD

Department of Defense

Air Force Reserve

The reserve component of the US Air Force

Air National Guard

The air component of the 50 states' militias. When activated under Title-10 orders, Air National Guard troops become members of the Air Force Reserve.

Airman

The term relating to males and females in the Air Force.

American Legion

A Veterans Service Organization.

Amphibious

In warfare, the ability to project ground and air force into hostile or potentially hostile locations using naval ships as a base of operations.

example: Beach landings at Iwo Jima and Normandy Beach.

Annual training

For Reserve and National Guard troops, the two-weeks (14 days) minimum required training period each year, in addition to monthly drills.

Area Median Income

The calculation of a median income in a designated geographic region as designated by the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Armed forces

The military of the United States or other nations.

Army

One of the 5 branches of the United States armed forces.

Army Aeronautical Division

An early version of today's Air Force, under the purview of the United States Army Signal Corps, from 1907-1914.

Army RA

Army, Regular Army. A term used to denote that someone was active duty - "full time," for their contracted military service.

Army Reserve

The reserve component of the US Army.

AT

Annual Training

Awards

Military awards take the form of medals, ribbons, and citations, awards, and badges.

Bad Conduct

A form of punitive discharge from the armed forces, administered by court(s) martial. Commonly referred to as a "BCD"

Base passes

A sheet enabling someone and a vehicle to enter a secured military installation.

Billet

In the Army and Air Force, a place to stay. In the Marines and Navy, a job title.

Campaigns

A term describing military action over a period of time.

Example: The battles at Iwo Jima, Okinawa, Saipan, Guam, Tarawa, and more were part of the “Island Hopping Campaign” during World War II.

Service in Iraq & Afghanistan during the Global War on Terror both warrant a respective Campaign medal.

“Iraq Campaign Medal”

“Afghanistan Campaign Medal”

Career Connections

A department within King County providing services to Veterans seeking employment, housing, and community assistance.

CBOC

Community Based Outpatient Clinic. A community based medical clinic the Veterans Health Administration uses to provide services outside of the VA Hospitals.

CCS

Catholic Community Services: A Housing and Community services non-profit agency in Western Washington.

CDL

Commercial Driver’s License.

Chaplain

A military designated religious person able to administer religious rights for any service member regardless of their religion.

Chit

Military term for a piece of paper, official or otherwise.

Example: Upon going to medical services, you often get a “chit” that designates whether you are full-duty or unable to perform certain tasks for a period of time, half-duty, or bed-rest.

CHS

Catholic Housing Services: Along with Catholic Community Services, provide a continuum of care for vulnerable populations.

Citation

An award or commendation, typically taking the form of a formal letter or statement describing the purpose of the citation.

Coast Guard

One of the 5 branches of the United States Armed Forces.

Coast Guard Reserve

The reserve component of the US Coast Guard.

Combat Veterans

A Veteran who served in a combat zone. The Veteran need not have been actively engaged in a firefight.

Combat Zone

An area in which the US Armed Forces are engaging or have engaged in combat. Established via Presidential Order.

Currently:

Arabian Peninsula (beginning Jan 17th, 1991)

Kosovo area (beginning Mar 24, 1999)

Afghanistan (beginning Sept 19, 2001)

Community Services Office

A service of the Washington Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS).

Congressional Medal of Honor

America's highest military honor. Awarded for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of life above and beyond the call of duty.

Conscription

Compulsory military service. In the case of the United States wars of the 20th century this was performed through a military "draft." The draft was administered through a lottery

system. The Vietnam draft ended in 1973 and is the last time America conscripted military forces.

Command Sergeant Major Jeff Mellinger (drafted 1972) was the last (originally) drafted soldier on active duty when he retired from the Army in 2011.

Corpsmen

A shortened form for a Navy Hospital Corpsman. Corpsmen are the medics of the Navy and Marine Corps. Corpsmen are embedded with the Marine Corps in combat operations as the Marine Corps do not have a native medical corps.

Court(s) martial

A military court charged with enforcing the Uniform Code of Military Justice. Separate from, but similar to, a civilian court.

CSO

Community Services Office: a resource of the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS).

DD-214

Discharge from Active Duty

DD-256

Honorable Discharge Certificate

Department of Defense

The parent agency of the Army, Marines, Navy, Air Force, and some elements of activated Coast Guard.

Department of Homeland Security

The parent agency of the Coast Guard.

Department of Housing and Urban Development

See Index entry...

Department of Labor

See Index entry...

Department of Revenue

See Index entry...

Department of Social and Health Services

See Index entry...

Department of Transportation

See Index entry...

Department of Veterans Affairs

See Index entry...

Dependent children

Natural or adopted children of the Veteran.

Dependents Educational Assistance

A form of VA education benefit. Commonly referred to as Chapter 35.

Deployment

All actions of a unit from mobilization to destination and occupation in designated area of operations.

Disability Compensation

Service connected disability compensation is monetary remuneration for a permanent/semi-permanent injury or illness that occurred or was exacerbated during a service members Active Duty service.

Disabled

Generally meaning a person is unable to do a task they were unable to do previously. In the case of service-connected disability, it relates to one's ability and health before entering service compared to their ability and health after leaving service. In the case of Social Security it relates to one's ability to engage in meaningful employment activity in relation to their

knowledge, skills, and abilities.

Disabled American Veterans

A Veterans Service Organization.

Disabled persons

More than one disabled person.

Discharge

The termination or ending of service obligation for a military member. Often the delineating point of what constitutes a Veteran.

Discharge documentation/records

All forms describing or accompanying a DD214 or similar document.

Dishonorable

A form of punitive discharge from the armed forces, administered by court(s) martial.

DOD

Department of Defense

DOD Identification Cards

Department of Defense Identification Card allowing the holder access to secured military installations and access to certain resources therein.

DOL

Department of Labor

Draft

See Conscription

Draftee

The receiving end of a draft.

Drill

Reserve and National Guard troops monthly service is classified as drills. Two drills make up one day. Reserve/NG troops must complete a requisite number of drills per year to have a satisfactory year.

DSHS

Department of Social and Health Services

DVA

Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Health Administration
Veterans Benefits Administration
National Cemetery Administration

E-VetRecs

Online portal through which Veterans can access the National Archives and request archived military documentation. Replaces SF180.

EBT

Electronic Benefits Transfer card (food stamps)

Electronic Benefits Transfer

A debit card for Food Stamps

ELS

Entry Level Separation

Entry Level Separation

ELS - a type of administrative discharge.

Executor

Typically, a person designated to administrate the estate of a deceased person/Veteran.

Expeditionary

Engaging in warfare abroad. In military vernacular, it typically describes being in a theater of war.

Example: The Global War on Terrorism Service Medal is awarded for service during the Global War on Terrorism.

Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal is awarded for deployment to a combat zone during the Global War on Terrorism

Flight-line

In military vernacular, the working area around a runway or take-off area.

Fraudulent entry

An uncharacterized discharge type.

GED

General Education Development (test) - high school equivalency test.

General Discharge

A type of administrative discharge from military service. General Under Honorable General Under Other than Honorable

General Under Other than Honor-able Conditions

A type of administrative discharge from military service. General Under Honorable General Under Other than Honorable

GI Bill

Education resource available from the Department of Veterans Affairs, Veterans Benefits Administration.

GWOT

Global War on Terrorism

GWOT Expeditionary Medal

A military award for expeditionary service in support of the Global War on Terrorism. This award has been largely replaced by the Iraq &

Afghanistan Campaign Medals.

Homeless Veterans

Veterans meeting one of several definitions of Homelessness. McKinney-Vento being one of the more common criteria (See Index).

Honorable

An administrative military discharge.

Honorably discharged

The term, “honorably” is commonly used to mean both Honorable discharges and General under Honorable Conditions discharges. The imprecise nature of this term can mislead many Veterans into thinking their General discharge doesn’t qualify them for resources. There is no “honorably” discharge classification.

HSLOB

Regional Human Service Board responsible for oversight of the King County Veterans & Human Services Levy.

HUD

Department of Housing & Urban Development

HUD-VASH

A partnership between the Department of Housing & Urban Development and the Department of Veterans Affairs establishing, VA Supportive Housing. A housing choice voucher program.

HUDVet

A resource directory for Veterans provided by the Department of Housing & Urban Development.

HVRP

Homeless Veterans Re-Integration Project

IAP

Individualized Action Plan

Infantry

A military job-role. Combat arms.

Initial training

Basic Training, Boot Camp, Advanced Individual Training, Marine Combat Training, Infantry Training Battalion, Military job school, etc.

KCHA

King County Housing Authority

KCVHSL

King County Veterans & Human Services Levy

KCVP

King County Veterans' Program

King County Veterans and Human Services Levy

Two levies, the first of which was enacted in 2007–2011, the second from 2012-2017.

King County's Veterans (Program) Advisory Board

A board required by WA state law to advise the legislative authority of the county on the needs of its indigent Veterans as well as for the local resources and programs that support those Veterans.

Korean Conflict

The Korean War. A conflict on the Korean Peninsula between June 25th 1950 and July 27th 1953.

Length of Service

The length, location, and type of service during military service.

LOS

Length of Service Or Line of Sight

M16A2

A military rifle used beginning in the 1980's. Successor to the M16A1 (Vietnam era) and precursor to the M16A4 (GWOT era). *M16A3 is a fully automatic variant of the M16A2 issued within the US Navy.

Marine Corps Reserve

Reserve component of the United States Marine Corps.

Marines

One of the 5 branches of the United States armed forces.

Medals

A military decoration awarded for various reasons, meritorious or service related.

Medals/Awards/Citations

Various types of military decorations.

Medical

A type of administrative discharge.

Merchant Marines

A fleet of civilian-owned merchant vessels able to be called upon in a time of war to deliver troops and supplies for the military - as an auxiliary of the Navy.

Military occupation specialty

MOS - A military service member's job. Typically represented in an alphanumeric code.

Military Personnel Records

Service records usually available at the National Archives in St. Louis via eVetRecs.

Military separation certificate

Typically a DD214 or a DD256 will suffice.

Montgomery GI Bill

A revision of the GI Bill adopted in the 1980's. Commonly referred to as Chapter 30 education benefits. For 2013, the benefit provides up to \$1576/month for fully eligible Veterans attending approved education institutions.

MOS

Military Occupation Specialty. A military service member's job. Typically represented in an alphanumeric code.

National Archives

A repository of military personnel records of service.

National Cemetery Administration

One of three administrative divisions within the Department of Veterans Affairs.

National Guard

A state militia under the command of the states, except when activated under Title-10 orders to serve in support of the US Army (or US Air Force for Air National Guard).

National Personnel Records Center

Also known as the National Archives - A repository of military personnel records of service.

National Security Act of 1947

The legislation establishing the Air Force as an independent branch of the military and the US Marines as a separate force (under the budget of the Navy).

Naval infantry

A term for amphibious troops - generally Marines are considered a Naval infantry.

Naval Reserve

Reserve component of the US Navy.

Navy

One of the 5 branches of the United States armed forces.

NCA

National Cemetery Administration, one of the three administrative divisions of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

NGB-22

National Guard Bureau Form 22. The discharge documentation provided to National Guard troops at their release from National Guard duty.

Non-Service Connected Disability Pension

A monthly pension provided for war era Veterans who are unable to work for non-service related reasons. Typical requirements are that a person would be eligible for Social Security Income (<http://www.ssa.gov/disability>).

Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF)

Combat operations in Afghanistan in support of the Global War on Terrorism.

Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF)

Combat operations in Iraq in support of the Global War on Terrorism.

Operation New Dawn (OND)

Non-combat operations in Iraq in support of the Global War on Terrorism, beginning August 2010.

Operation Noble Eagle (ONE)

Non-combat operations related to homeland security in support of the Global War on Terrorism.

Ordinance 15279

The legislation establishing the King County Veterans and Human Services Levy from 2007-2011.

Ordinance 17072

The legislation establishing the King County Veterans and Human Services Levy from 2012- 2017.

OTH

General (Other than Honorable) discharge - an administrative type of military discharge.

Other than dishonorable

A manner of phrasing all discharges that are not dishonorable. Some service providers describe their eligibility in this manner in order to simplify their message. The alternative being to list out all the other discharges that might qualify someone for a service...

Persian Gulf War

A war between a coalition of forces and Iraq from August 2, 1990 - February 28th 1991.

Post 9/11 GI Bill

A revision of the GI Bill adopted in 2009. Commonly referred to as Chapter 33 education benefits.

Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)

A mental health diagnosis relating to a traumatic incident or a series of traumatic incidents.

Punitive

A type of military discharge issued by court(s) martial

Rate/rating

In the Navy, a rank is referred to as a rating. It involves both the job and the level at which a sailor is ranked.

Example:

Pay grade E-4 in the Marines = Corporal Pay grade E-4 in the Army = Specialist or Corporal

Pay grade E-4 in the Navy = (job title) 3rd class

RCW 28A.230.120

The legislation enabling Operation Recognition for Washington State.

RCW 41.04.005

The legislation defining the term, Veteran, for Washington State resources.

RCW 43.131.406

The legislation enabling the Veterans Innovation Program(s).

RCW 71A.10.020

The legislation defining, disabled, and detailing requirements for various Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife benefits.

RCW 73.08.010

The legislation requiring Washington's counties to maintain a Veterans Assistance Program.

RCW 73.08.035

The legislation requiring oversight of county based Veterans Assistance Programs.

RCW 73.08.080

The legislation authorizing a certain amount of funding be raised via property tax levy - for the sake of funding the mandated Veterans Assistance Funds.

RCW 79A.05.065

The legislation enabling Washington State Parks to issue free passes to Veterans with >30% service connected disability.

RCW 84.36.381

The legislation enabling property tax exemptions for certain Veterans or widows/widowers of Veterans

Recently discharged Veterans

Typically a Veteran discharged within the last twelve months; however, there is no official time limit for this.

Regular Army

Army, Regular Army. A term used to denote that someone was active duty - "full time," for their contracted military service.

Religious Persons

In the Navy, chaplains are Officers. Enlisted personnel who assist chaplains are referred to as Religion Persons or RP for short. See Rate/rating.

An RP will commonly be called something like, RP-3. Meaning Religious Person 3rd class - an E-4 religious person.

Reserve

A type of military service supporting one of the Federal military services, Army, Marines, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard.

Resident of King County

Typically, living, renting, or staying (couch surfing, homeless) in a residence or location in King County.

Revenue Cutter Service

Early precursor to the Coast Guard.

RFP

Request for Proposal

Sailor

The common term used to describe a person in the Navy.
This term is gender neutral.

SBA

Small Business Administration

SBA Express Loan

A resource of the Small Business Administration

Secured

Various definitions within the military - an old military joke:

One reason the Military Services have trouble operating jointly is that they don't speak the same language. For example, if you told Navy personnel to "secure a building," they would

turn off the lights and lock the doors. The Army would occupy the building so no one could enter. Marines would assault the building, capture it, and defend it with suppressive fire and close combat. The Air Force, on the other hand, would take out a three-year lease with an option to buy.

Semper Fidelis

Always Faithful - the motto of the United States Marine Corps.

Semper Paratus

Always Ready - the motto of the United States Coast Guard

Service branches

Army, Marines, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, *Merchant Marines

Service connected disability

Service connected disability compensation is monetary remuneration for a permanent/semi-permanent injury or illness that occurred or was exacerbated during a service members Active Duty service.

Service obligation

The length of required service outlined within a service members enlistment contract.

Service Officers

See Veterans Service Officers

SF-180

Standard Form 180

SHA

Seattle Housing Authority

Small Business Administration

See Index entry...

Social Security Administration

See Index entry...

Soldier

Terminology for a member of the Army. Gender neutral term.

Spouse

Married or widowed/widower (not re-married) of a Veteran.

Standard Form 180

A form for requesting military records from the National Archives. See discharge paperwork for download link.

State Archives

Location of service records for National Guard troops

Steward B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act

The legislation defining homelessness.

Surviving spouses

Widow/Widower (not remarried) of a Veteran or deceased service member (they never had the chance to become a Veteran).

Title 10

See Index entry...

Troop

A generic term used for currently serving personnel.

Type of Service

Active, Reserve, National Guard, Draft

UCMJ

Uniform Code of Military Justice - the law which all service members must adhere to.

Failure to comply may result in court(s) martial and punitive or less than honorable administrative discharges.

Under Honorable Conditions

A type of General discharge

Uncharacterized

An administrative separation without a characterization of duty.

Uniform Code of Military Justice

UCMJ - the law which all service members must adhere to. Failure to comply may result in court(s) martial and punitive or less than honorable administrative discharges.

VA health care

Healthcare provided by the Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs.

VA Hospital

A hospital operated by the Department of Veterans Affairs for eligible Veterans to receive basic and advanced medical care.

VA Medical Centers

See VA Hospital

VALOR-CBOC

A CBOC operated on contract by a third party company, Valor Healthcare.

VBA

Veterans Benefits Administration, an administrative division of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

VBOC

Veterans Business Outreach Center - A resource of the Small Business Administration.

VCC

Veterans Conservation Corps - a resource of the Washington Department of Veterans Affairs.

VCLOB

Veterans citizens oversight board which oversees funds for regional human services for Veterans, military personnel and their families in King County.

Vet Centers

A community based resource center provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Veterans

Various Definitions: Generally someone who served in the US Armed Forces.

Federal - 5 USC § 2108

State (WA) - RCW 41.04.005

County - Variable

Veterans Advisory Board

Washington State law requires that each county must establish a Veterans' advisory board for the purpose of advising the legislative authority of the county on the needs of its indigent Veterans as well as for the local resources and programs that support those Veterans.

Veterans Assistance Program

A state mandated resource provided to Veterans by their respective counties.

Veterans Benefits Administration

An administrative division of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Veterans Business Outreach Centers

See VBOC

Veterans Cemetery

A cemetery for Veterans and dependents. See Index (below)

Veterans Citizen Oversight Board

Veterans citizens oversight board which oversees funds for regional human services for Veterans, military personnel and their families in King County.

Veterans employment rights

The purview of the Department of Labor

Veterans Health Administration

An administrative division of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Veterans of Foreign Wars

A Veterans Service Organization

Veterans Service Officers

A VA accredited claims agent that provides assistance in applying for and appealing decisions of VA resource claims. Especially, VA disability claims.

Veterans Service Organization

An accredited support agency recognized by the Department of Veterans Affairs to provide certain advisory services to Veterans.

VHA

Veterans Health Administration, an administrative division of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Vietnam

A country in Southeast Asia - the location of a war involving a large number of American forces beginning as early as November 1, 1955 and ending April 30, 1975.

Vietnam Era

A Veteran who served from August 5, 1964 - May 7, 1975. If the Veteran served in Vietnam from February 28th, 1961 - August 4, 1964, they would still be considered a Vietnam Era Veteran.

Vocational Rehabilitation

A VA education benefit for unemployed Veterans with 10% or greater disability. Commonly called "VocRehab" or "V,R,& E."

Void Enlistment

A type of administrative discharge, without characterization.

WA-DOL

Washington Department of Labor, see Index entry...

WAC 308-96A-545

The administrative code describing Gold Star Parent resources.

WAC 458-16A-100

The administrative code describing property tax exemptions for certain Veterans and widows/widowers of Veterans.

Washington Department of Veterans Affairs

See Index entry...

Washington State Department of Licensing

See Index entry...

Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs

See Index entry...

Washington State Housing Finance Commission

See Index entry...

Washington State Parks

See Index entry...

Washington States Veterans Cemetery

See Index entry...

WDVA

Washington Department of Veterans Affairs, See Index entry...

Widows or widowers of Veterans

The survivor (typically not remarried) of a deceased Veteran or service member.

World War II

A massive global war fought by the United States and many other countries. The United States military involvement began December 7th, 1941 and ended September 2nd, 1945.

WSHFC

Washington State Housing Finance Commission, See Index entry...

NOTES (If you have additions or changes – or insights, leave a list):

- Some of the formatting on these pages may be a bit awkward – good luck.
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