

Who is a Veteran?

Defining a Veteran

38 U.S.C. § 101(2): The term "veteran" means a person who served in the active military, naval, or air service, and who was discharged or released therefrom under conditions other than dishonorable.

By VA regulations, **13 CFR § 125.11:** Veteran has the meaning given the term in 38 U.S.C. 101(2). A Reservist or member of the National Guard called to Federal active duty or disabled from a disease or injury incurred or aggravated in line of duty or while in training status also qualify as a veteran.

Active Duty

38 U.S.C. § 101(21): The term "active duty" means:

- (A) full-time duty in the Armed Forces, other than active duty for training;
- (B) full-time duty in the Armed Forces (other than for training purpose) as a commissioned officer of the Regular or Reserve Corps of the Public Health Service
 - a. on or after July 29, 1945, or
 - b. before that date under circumstances affording entitlement to "full military benefits" or
 - c. at any time, for the purposes of chapter 13 of this title;
- (C) full-time duty as a commissioned officer of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration or its predecessor organization the Coast and Geodetic Survey
 - a. on or after July 29, 1945, **or**
 - b. before that date
 - i. while on transfer to one of the Armed Forces, **or**
 - ii. while, in time of war or national emergency declared by the President, assigned to duty on a project for one of the Armed Forces in an area determined by the Secretary of Defense to be of immediate military hazard, **or**
 - iii. in the Philippine Islands on December 7, 1941, and continuously in such islands thereafter, **or**
 - c. at any time, for the purposes of chapter 13 of this title;
- (D) service as a cadet at the United States Military, Air Force, or Coast Guard Academy, or as a midshipman at the United States Naval Academy; and
- (E) authorized travel to or from such duty or service

Armed Forces

38 U.S.C. § 101(10): The term "Armed Forces" means the United States Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, and Coast Guard, including the reserve components thereof.

Active duty for training

38 U.S.C. § 101(22): The term "Active duty for training" means:

- (A) full-time duty in the Armed Forces performed by Reserves for training purposes;
- (B) full-time duty for training purposes performed as a commissioned officer of the Reserve Corps of the Public Health Service

- a. on or after July 29, 1945, or
 - b. before that date under circumstances affording entitlement to “full military benefits”, or
 - c. at any time, for the purposes of chapter 13 of this title;
- (C) in the case of members of the Army National Guard or Air National Guard of any State, full-time duty under section 316 , 502 , 503 , 504 , or 505 of title 32 , or the prior corresponding provisions of law;
- (D) duty performed by a member of a Senior Reserve Officers' Training Corps program when ordered to such duty for the purpose of training or a practice cruise under chapter 103 of title 10 for a period of not less than four weeks and which must be completed by the member before the member is commissioned; and
- (E) authorized travel to or from such duty. The term does not include duty performed as a temporary member of the Coast Guard Reserve.

Active military, naval, or air service

38 U.S.C. § 101(24): The term “active military, naval, or air service” includes:

- (A) active duty;
- (B) any period of active duty for training during which the individual concerned was disabled or died from a disease or injury incurred or aggravated in line of duty; and
- (C) any period of inactive duty training during which the individual concerned was disabled or died;
 - a. from an injury incurred or aggravated in line of duty; or
 - b. from an acute myocardial infarction, a cardiac arrest, or a cerebrovascular accident occurring during such training.

Reserve

38 U.S.C. § 101(26): The term “Reserve” means a member of a reserve component of one of the Armed Forces.

Reserve Component

38 U.S.C. § 101(27): The term “reserve component” means, with respect to the Armed Forces

- (A) the Army Reserve;
- (B) the Navy Reserve;
- (C) the Marine Corps Reserve;
- (D) the Air Force Reserve;
- (E) the Coast Guard reserve;
- (F) the Army National Guard of the United States; and
- (G) the Air National Guard of the United States.

For information purpose only, for more information please click, [here](#).