

Frequently asked Questions Veterans Identification Card

1. What is the Veteran Affairs identification card (VIC)?

On July 20, 2015, the President signed into law the “Veterans Identification Card Act of 2015”. This Act allows eligible Veterans to be issued an identification card directly from VA.

2. How can the VIC card be used?

The VIC will serve as proof of service in the Armed Forces and can be used to obtain discounts on goods and services offered to Veterans.

3. When can I apply for a VIC?

VA began accepting applications for the VIC in November 2017.

4. Is there eligibility criteria in order to qualify for the VIC?

Yes, any Veteran who served in the Armed Forces (includes: active Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines as well as Reserve Component and National Guard) and have a character of discharge type of Honorable, General (Under Honorable Conditions) may request the VIC. Veterans Affairs will review eligibility to ensure a Department of Defense form DD-214 or other official document of discharge is present and a character of discharge type is annotated describing the service of the Veteran.

5. I served in Army from 5/11/2005 - 5/10/2009 and Navy from 5/11/2009 - 3/18/2011. However, when I was discharged from the Navy in 2009, I received a dishonorable discharge. Am I still eligible for a VIC?

No, if you have multiple segments of service that are not all honorable or general (under honorable conditions) you are not eligible for a VIC.

6. I served in the Reserves, am I eligible for the VIC?

Individuals that served in the Army Reserve, the Navy Reserve, the Marine Corps Reserve, the Air Force Reserve, the Coast Guard Reserve, the Army National Guard of the United States, or the Air National Guard of the United States qualify for a VIC if they received an Honorable or General (Under Honorable Conditions) discharge. Request from individuals that served in the Reserves will be processed at a later date.

7. I received an Unknown or Uncharacterized discharge status am I eligible for a VIC?

Individuals with an uncharacterized or unknown discharge status may be eligible. We will likely ask you to submit a copy of your DD-214 so we can verify the nature of discharge and determine eligibility.

8. Are all individuals that have VA benefits automatically eligible for a VIC?

No, the two are not the same. VA can render a Character of Discharge Determination on discharges that are not Honorable or General (Under Honorable Conditions) and can assign limited benefits to an individual. VA cannot change the discharge of record on the actual DD-214 and that is the discharge field that determines VIC eligibility.

9. Am I required to be enrolled in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) in order to verify my eligibility for VIC?

No, not all Veterans retain their DEERS account after they are discharged. All active duty and retirees are automatically kept enrolled in DEERS. A VIC applicant does not necessarily need to have a DEERS account or be eligible for a DEERS account. It is required if you use a DS Logon. However, ID.me does not require that same system verification and individuals can access the application from there. If a Veteran has a DEERS account, we ask you to ensure it is updated with current information before trying to use the DS Logon to access VET.gov and the VIC application site. Applicants can update their DEERS information using the information below:

- Visit your personnel office or contact the Defense Manpower Data Center Support Office at 800-538-9552. You can find your nearest personnel office at: <http://www.dmdc.osd.mil/rsl/>
- Visit the DEERS website at: <https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/appj/bwe/indexAction.do>
- Go online to TRICARE to update your information: <http://www.tricare.mil/DEERS>

10. Will the VIC give me access to any other benefits, goods, or services that I don't already get with my Veteran Health Identification Card (VHIC), DoD retired identification card or state-issued identification with a Veteran designation?

No, if you have a VHIC, retirement card issued by DoD, or a driver's license with a Veteran designation you do not need to apply for the VIC. The VIC does not qualify you for additional benefits administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs and does not serve as proof for any benefits to which you may be entitled.

11. How do I apply for a VIC?

Log into Vets.gov to apply for a VIC. For more information please go to: <https://www.vets.gov/> or <https://vets.gov/veteran-id-card/>

12. How do I sign in to Vets.gov?

You can sign in with your DS Logon account (used to access eBenefits or MilConnect)—and we'll connect your account to Vets.gov through ID.me. ID.me is our trusted technology partner in helping to keep your personal information safe. If you have a basic or advanced (non-premium) account, you'll need to verify your identity through ID.me. We can also help you use ID.me to add an extra layer of security to your account (called 2-factor authentication). If you don't have a DS Logon account, you can create an account for Vets.gov through ID.me.

12. Will the VIC allow me to access military post or installations?

No, the VIC will not grant you access to military installations.

13. Can I go to a VA Medical Center or Regional Office to apply for the VIC?

No, currently the only way to apply for the VIC is by using Vets.gov. For more information, please go to <https://www.vets.gov/> or <https://vets.gov/veteran-id-card/>

14. Will the VA charge a fee to issue the VIC?

Veterans will not be charged a fee for the VIC. The printing and shipping of the card will be covered by a public-private partnership agreement.
