

Questions Veterans might ask!

1. Where can I get a copy of my DD214?
2. Who else can I talk to other than the VA about my Veterans benefits?
3. What is the difference between CalVet and the V.A.?
4. How do I register with CalVet?
5. Where can I go to search for jobs?
6. I want to revise my resume, but I need help. Who can help me with my resume?
7. I'm not sure if I'm really a veteran. Who do I ask?
8. I've always wanted to know about that benefit for buying a house. Where do I start? How does it work?
9. Is it true that I can get healthcare at any V.A. hospital, regardless of my income?
10. I talked to my V.A. doctor, and he told me that I need to go to another facility for some tests. He told me that the transportation is provided for free by the V.A. Where do I find out about that?
11. I'm not interested in asking for money or help. But I am interested in talking to other veterans. Where can I find places to hang out with people like me?
12. My spouse keeps bugging me about asking for help for my PTSD or depression. Who can I talk to?

Frequently Asked Questions from Veterans to Librarians or V.R.C.

1. Where can I get a copy of my DD-214?

There are a couple resources that can help you get your DD-214:

- One way to order a copy of your military records is to go to the website for the National Archives at www.archives.gov. Follow the steps below once you have reached the website.
 - Click on the blue box titled *Veterans' Service Records* > under Request Military Service Records click on the bullet titled *Request Service Records Online*.
- For any further questions you can contact the Tulare County VSO in Visalia.
 - Ken Cruickshank, County Veterans Service Officer 3348 W Mineral King Ave Visalia, CA 93291. Phone: 559-713-2880. Fax: 559-713-3747

2. I have had some difficulties dealing with the V.A. Where else can I talk to someone about veteran benefits and resources?

- Other options aside from working with the V.A. may include:
 - The local vet center or the County Veteran Services Officer Ken Cruickshank, at the County Veterans Service Office 3348 W Mineral King Ave Visalia, CA 93291. Phone: 559-713-2880. Fax: 559-713-3747.
- Many veterans learn ways to ask for help from the V.A. through local chapters of the AMVETS or their local library Veterans Resource Center.
 - AMVETS (American Veterans) Post for Tulare California (Tulare County CA). Post #56. Contact AMVETS Post #56 at: (559) 685-2446
- Veterans Resource Center @ www.calibrariesforveterans.org has many links too.
 - Tulare Public Library @ www.Tularepubliclibrary.org Research and Databases, VetNow.

3. What is the difference between the V.A. and CalVet?

- The U.S. Dept of Veterans Affairs provides patient care & Federal benefits to veterans and their dependents. (www.va.gov)
- CalVet is The California Department of Veteran affairs. It assists veterans with finding housing, healthcare, employment, education, VA claims, and advocacy assistance. (www.calvet.ca.gov)

4. How do I register with calvet?

- Register at (www.calvet.ca.gov)
 - In the upper right hand corner click the link Log in/ Register
 - On the next page click Register in the middle of the page.

5. Where can I go to search for jobs?

- CalVet www.calvet.ca.gov
- CalJOBS can help veterans translate their military training and specialties into marketable skills applicable to civilian jobs. www.caljobs.ca.gov
- VetNow through the Tulare Public library website
 - Tulare Public Library @ www.Tularepubliclibrary.org, Research and Databases, VetNow.
- EDD. www.edd.ca.gov
 - Employment Development Department-Workforce Service Branch
Address: 4025 W Noble Ave # B, Visalia, CA 93277
Phone: (559) 713-5150

6. I want to revise my resume, but I need help. Who can help me with my resume?

- Tulare Public Library has Laptops and a Chromebook that veterans can use for working on a resume or searching for a job.
- EDD has monthly classes the second to last Friday of each month. Contact Scott Kilgore-Thursdays @ 559-713-5000 for further information. www.edd.ca.gov
 - Must be registered at caljobs. (www.caljobs.ca.gov)
- Tulare Public Library has study rooms available and VRC staff can help with resumes.
- VetNow and JobNow have resume templates.
 - Data bases: www.Tularepubliclibrary.org, Research and data base, VetNow.

7. I'm not sure if I'm really a veteran. Who do I ask?

- Contact the local vet center or the County Veteran Services Officer Ken Cruickshank, at the County Veterans Service Office 3348 W Mineral King Ave Visalia, CA 93291. Phone: 559-713-2880. Fax: 559-713-3747
- If you have served in the military for at least six months, you should register with CalVet. www.calvet.ca.gov
- Once completed you can speak to a CalVet representative and learn about your benefits.
 - If you have served in the military for at least six months, then you are a veteran, even if you have never seen combat or been deployed.

8. I've always wanted to know about the VA benefit for buying a house. Where do I start? How does it work?

- The State of California offers benefits for veterans who want to own a home, CalVet representatives are prepared to talk to you about home ownership.
 - The best place to start is by registering with CalVet. (www.calvet.ca.gov)
- The Veterans Administration is a federal organization. (www.va.gov)
 - Once on the website under benefits go to home loans. (www.homeloans.va.gov)

9. Is it true that I can get healthcare at any V.A. hospital, regardless of my income?

- If you have served in the military, you can learn about your medical benefits through the membership office at the Veteran's Hospital or by registering with CalVet. (www.calvet.ca.gov)
 - Some veterans use their veteran's healthcare benefits to augment their health insurance, even when they are already employed or have health insurance elsewhere.
 - The V.A. uses a rating system to determine the cost of healthcare, and the rating system might change from year to year. Learn more by contacting a CalVet representative. (www.va.gov)
 - Contact the local vet center or the County Veteran Services Officer Ken Cruickshank, at the County Veterans Service Office 3348 W Mineral King Ave Visalia, CA 93291. Phone: 559-713-2880. Fax: 559-713-3747

10. I talked to my V.A. doctor, and he told me that I need to go to another facility for some tests. He told me that the transportation is provided for free by the V.A. **Where do I find out about that?**

- You can contact the nearest veteran's hospital. (*Fresno V.A. Hospital 559-228-6933*)
 - When you call their information desk, they can transfer you to the appropriate office to arrange transportation for veterans.

11. I'm not interested in asking for money or help. But I am interested in talking to other veterans. **Where can I find places to hang out with people like me?**

- You can ask your CalVet representative about the nearest vet center.
- A CalVet representative can talk to you about the many organizations throughout California that coordinate events for veterans.
 - Annette Wholaver @ 559-600-5436 (www.calvet.ca.gov) Sacramento Site 800-952-5626.
- Team AMVETS Sharon Allison-Crook @559-688-3407 or 877-526-1339 (www.teamamvets.org)
- county veteran services officer, or other organizations in your area.

- Our local Tulare County VSO is in Visalia. (Ken Cruickshank, County Veterans Service Officer 3348 W Mineral King Ave Visalia, CA 93291. Phone: 559-713-2880. Fax: 559-713-3747).

12. My spouse keeps bugging me about asking for help for my PTSD or Depression. Who can I talk to?

- You can call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1-800-273-8255 to speak with someone now.
- You can also visit the website for the Veterans Crisis Line. @ www.veteranscrisisline.net
 - The website provides a chat line, text numbers, and resources for veterans and family members to learn more about mental health issues.
 - The V.A. has also published video testimonials from other veterans at Make the Connection. (www.maketheconnection.net)
 - This site includes a searchable video gallery of testimonials from veterans of all ages and backgrounds.