

ACRONYMS & TERMS USED IN VA BENEFITS CLAIMS & APPEALS

9	VA Form 9, Appeal to the Board of Veterans' Appeals
10-10EZ	VA Form 10-10EZ, Application for Health Benefits
10-10EZR	VA Form 10-10EZR, Health Benefits Renewal Form
10-10EC	VA Form 10-10EC, Application for Extended Care Services
1151 Claim	A claim for benefits under 38 U.S.C. Section 1151 as a result of injury caused by VA treatment or rehabilitation services similar to a medical malpractice claim.
A&A	Aid and attendance
AAO	Assistant adjudication officer
ABCMR	Army Board for Correction of Military Records
ACAP	Annual clothing allowance payment
ADA	Americans with Disabilities Act
ADHC	Adult day health care
ADL	Activities of daily living
ADT	Active duty for training
AFB	Air Force Base
AFBCMR	Air Force Board for Correction of Military Records
AFHRA	Air Force Historical Research Agency
AFI	Air Force instruction
AFIP	Armed Forces Institute of Pathology
AGG	Aggravated in service
AHRC	Army Human Resources Command
AL	American Legion
ALJ	Administrative Law Judge
ALS	Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis
AMC	Appeals Management Center
AML	Acute myelogenous leukemia
AMVETS	American Veterans
AO	Agent Orange or adjudication officer
AOCAP	Agent Orange Class Assistance Program
AOJ	Agency of original jurisdiction
AOR	Agent Orange Registry
APA	Administrative Procedures Act
Appellee	The party in an appeal who is defending the decision on appeal. In the Veterans Court, the VA Secretary is always the Appellee.
Appellant	The party in an appeal who is challenging the decision on appeal. In the Veterans Court, the claimant seeking benefits (veteran or dependent) is always the Appellant.
ARBA	Army Review Boards Agency
AVSCM	Assistant Veterans Service Center Manager
AWA	All Writs Act
AWOL	Absent without official leave

BAH	Basic Allowance for Housing
BCD	Bad conduct discharge
BCMR	Board for Correction of Military Records
BCNR	Board for Correction of Naval Records
BDD	Benefits Delivery at Discharge
BDN	Benefits Delivery Network
BHL	Bilateral hearing loss
Board	The Board of Veterans' Appeals or "BVA".
BVA	The Board of Veterans' Appeals. The Board is the organization within VA that reviews initial rating decisions when the claimant files a Notice of Disagreement.
C-file	Claims file. VA creates a hard copy paper file for each claimant that contains all the documents related to that claimant since the first application for benefits. C-files can contain thousands of pages of documents and must be physically shipped between offices when claims are reviewed by different VA groups or the Veterans Court.
CAAF	Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces
CAVC	The United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims. The appellate court to which claimants can appeal adverse Board decisions. Also known as the "Veterans Court."
C&P	Compensation and Pension
CARES	Capital Asset Realignment for Enhanced Services
CAVC	Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims
CBO	Chief business office
CBOC	Community Based Outpatient Clinic
CCF	Compound comminuted fracture
CDR	Counter designation of record
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CG	Coast Guard
CGBCMR	Coast Guard Board for Correction of Military Records
CHAMPUS	Department of Defense Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Uniformed Service
CHAMPVA	Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs
CHR	Consolidated health record
CIB	Combat Infantryman Badge
Claim Number	Each claimant is assigned an unique VA claim number that VA uses to identify that claimant for life. Claimants should put their claim number on each document and correspondence sent to VA.
CLC	VA Community Living Center (formerly VA Nursing Home Care Units)
CLL	Chronic lymphocytic leukemia
CMB	Combat Medical Badge
CMD	Chief Medical Director
CMO	Chief Medical Officer

CNHC	Community nursing home care
CO	VA Central Office or commanding officer
COD	Character of discharge
COG	Convenience of the government
COLA	Cost-of-living adjustment
Compensation	A monetary benefit awarded based on the degree of disability caused by a service-connected condition.
CONUS	The contiguous United States
COVA	Court of Veterans Appeals (Renamed Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims)
COWC	Committee on Waivers and Compromises
CPI	Claims Processing Improvement
CRC	Community residential center
CRDP	Concurrent retirement and disability pay
CRSC	Combat-related special compensation
CUE	Clear and unmistakable error
CURR	Center for Units Records Research
CWT	VA Compensated Work Therapy Program
DAV	Disabled American Veterans
DBQ	Disability Benefits Questionnaire
DC	Diagnostic code
DD	Dishonorable discharge
DD-214	Discharge certificate
DDD	Degenerative disc disease
DEA	Dependent's educational assistance
DES	Disability evaluation system
DFAS	Defense Finance and Accounting Services
DFR	Dropped from the rolls
DIC	Death & Indemnity Compensation. A benefit awarded to surviving spouses and qualifying dependents when a service-connected condition is a cause of a veteran's death.
DM	Diabetes mellitus
DMZ	Demilitarized zone
DOD	Department of Defense
DRB	Discharge Review Board
DRO	Decision Review Officer. Usually an experienced member of a regional office rating team who reviews a rating decision at the request of the claimant after an initial denial. DRO review is optional and cannot change decisions favorable to a claimant.
DSM	American Psychiatric Association's Diagnostic and Statistical Manual for Mental Disorders
DSO	Department service officer
DTR	Deep tendon reflexes
DVA	The Department of Veterans Affairs. A technically more accurate

acronym than "VA," although not as widely used.

EAD	Entry on active duty
EAJA	Equal Access to Justice Act
eBenefits	VA online portal that allows veterans to manage their benefits and personal information.
ECA	Expedited Claims Adjudication Initiative
ED	Erectile dysfunction
ECG	Electrocardiogram
EKG	Electrocardiogram
EOB	Explanation of benefits
EOD	Entry on Duty or Explosive Ordinance Disposal
EVR	Eligibility verification report
FDC	Fully Developed Claim
Federal Circuit	The United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit. The federal appellate court to which claimants and VA can appeal Veteran Court decisions.
FOIA	Freedom of Information Act
Form 9	The VA form that must be submitted after receipt of a Statement of the Case to perfect an appeal to the Board of Veterans Appeals.
FTCA	Federal Tort Claims Act
GAO	Government Accounting Office
GC	General Counsel
GPO	Government Printing Office
GSW	Gunshot wound
GWS	Gulf war syndrome
HB	Housebound
HIPAA	Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act
HISA	Home improvement and structural alterations
HIV	Human immunodeficiency virus
HO	Hearing officer
IED	Improvised explosive device
IG	Inspector general
IME	Independent medical expert or independent medical evaluation
INC	Incurred in service
IOM	Institute of Medicine
IOP	Internal operating procedures
IRIS	Inquiry Routing and Information System
IU	Individual unemployability
IVAP	Income for VA purposes
JAG	Judge Advocate General
JMR	Joint motion for remand
JSRRC	Joint Services Records Research Center
LOD	Line of duty
LOM	Limitation of motion

LSW	Licensed social worker
M21-1MR	Adjudication Procedures Manual Rewrite
M-1	VA Healthcare Adjudication Manual
M-21	VA Claims Adjudication Manual
MACR	Missing air crew reports
MAPR	Maximum annual pension rate
MCL	Marine Corps League
MGIB	Montgomery GI Bill
MIB	Marine index bureau
MOPH	Military Order of the Purple Heart
MOS	Military occupational specialty
MPR	Military personnel records
MRI	Magnetic resonance imaging
MST	Military Sexual Trauma
NA	National Archives
NARA	National Archives and Record Administration
NAS	National Academy of Sciences
NAUS	National Association for Uniformed Services
NHL	Non-hodgkins lymphoma
NMCB	U.S. Navy Mobile Construction Battalion
NOA	Notice of Appeal
NOD	Notice of Disagreement. Claimants must file a written NOD within one year of receiving a rating decision to be able to appeal that decision.
NOS	Not otherwise specified
NPC	Naval Personnel Command
NPRC	National Personnel Records Center
NRPC	Naval Reserve Personnel Command
NSC	Non-service-connected
NSLI	National Service Life Insurance
NSO	National service officer
NVLSP	National Veterans Legal Services Program
OEF	Operation Enduring Freedom
OGC	Office of the General Counsel
OIF	Operation Iraqi Freedom
OIG	Office of Inspector General
OMPF	Official military personnel file
OPC	Outpatient clinic
OPT	Outpatient treatment
OQP	Office of Quality and Performance
OTH	Other than honorable
PDBR	Physical Disability Board of Review
PDR	Physicians Desk Reference
PEB	Physical Evaluation Board

PEBLO	Physical Evaluation Board Liaison Officer
Pension	A VA benefit based on financial need available to fully disabled veterans who served during a time of war.
PERMS	Permanent Electronic Records Management System
PG	Persian Gulf
PGW	Persian Gulf War
PIES	Personnel Information Exchange System
PIF	Pending issue file
PMC	Pension Management Center
POA	Power of attorney
POW	Prisoner-of-war
PRC	Polytrauma Rehabilitation Center
Presumption	A legal term meaning that no evidence of a nexus between a current medical condition and an in-service occurrence is required. A claimant currently suffer from a "presumptive condition" only needs to establish he or she experienced the specified in-service event to be awarded service connection.
PT	Physical therapy or permanent total disability
PTE	Peace time era
PTSD	Posttraumatic stress disorder
PVA	Paralyzed Veterans of America
RAD	Release from active duty
Rating	The initial VA decision on a claim which either grants or denies an award or "continues" the claim for further development.
Decision	
Rating	The table of medical conditions and disabilities established by law
Schedule	that VA raters use to determine the degree of disability for compensation purposes.
Remand	Return of a decision to the organization that made it for additional review and revision. The Board remands rating decisions to the originating regional office. The Veterans Court remands Board decisions back to the Board.
RMC	Records Management Center
RMO	Records Management Officer
RN	Registered nurse
RO	Regional Office
ROTC	Reserve Officers' Training Corps
RVN	Republic of Vietnam
RVSR	Rating Veterans Service Representative
SBP	Survivor Benefit Plan
SC	Service-connected
SDRP	Special Discharge Review Program
SDVI	Service Disabled Veterans' Insurance
Secretary	The Secretary of Veterans Affairs. The Cabinet officer who is the administrative head of VA.

Service Connection	A requirement that a claimant for VA compensation must (1) have a current medical condition; (2) identify an event or condition during military service; and (3) establish a nexus or connection between the medical condition and the in-service event or condition.
SF	Special forces
SGLI	Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance
SMC	Special Monthly Compensation. Additional compensation available to the most seriously disabled veterans for anatomical loss of limbs or loss of use of body parts, aid and attendance, and other special needs.
SMP	Special monthly pension
SMR	Service medical record
SN	Service number
SOC	Statement of the Case. A document that VA must prepare and provide to a claimant who has submitted a timely Notice of Disagreement. The purpose of an SOC is to identify the facts and law VA used to reach the decision(s) with which the claimant disagrees.
SPD	Separation program designator
SPN	Separation program number
SRD	Schedule for Rating Disabilities
SSA	Social Security Administration
SSB	Special separation benefits
SSDI	Social Security Disability Income
SSI	Supplemental Security Income
SSN	Social Security Number
SSOC	Supplemental Statement of the Case
STR	Service treatment records
STS	Soft tissue sarcoma
TAD	Temporary active duty
TBI	Traumatic brain injury
TCDD	2,3,7,8-tetrachlorodibenzodioxin
TDIU	Total Disability based on Individual Unemployability. A special rating that considers whether a claimant who does not meet the rating schedule requirements for 100% disability is still unable to work in a substantially gainful occupation. A TDIU award pays benefits at the 100% scheduler rate even though the actual rating percentage is less than 100%.
TDY	Temporary duty
TRDL	Temporary disabled retirement list
TRICARE	Health care program of the United States Department of Defense Military Health System
UCMJ	Uniform Code of Military Justice
U.S.C.	United States Code
U.S.C.A.	United States Code Annotated

U.S.C.S.	United States Code Service
USGLI	United States Government Life Insurance
USJSRRC	United States Joint Service Records Research Center
VA	The most commonly used acronym for the Department of Veterans Affairs.
VACO	VA Central Office
VAF	VA form
VAGC	VA General Counsel
VAHAC	VA Health Administration Center
VAMC	VA Medical Center
VAOGC	VA Office of the General Counsel
VAOIG	VA Office of the Inspector General
VAOPC	VA outpatient clinic
VAR	VA regulation
VARO	VA Regional Office
VBA	Veterans Benefits Administration
VBMS	Veterans Benefits Management System
VCAA	Veterans Claims Assistance Act
VEAP	Post-Vietnam Era Veterans' Educational Assistance Program
Veterans Court	Another common name for the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims. <i>See also</i> CAVC.
VFW	Veterans of Foreign Wars
VGLI	Veterans' Group Life Insurance
VHA	Veterans Health Administration
VISN	Veterans Integrated Service Network
VJRA	Veterans Judicial Review Act
VLJ	Veterans Law Judge. A member of the Board of Veterans' Appeals who hears appeals from claimants who disagree with a rating decision.
VMLI	Veterans' Mortgage Life Insurance
VONAPP	Veterans Online Application. A VA website for electronically applying for VA benefits.
VRC	Vocational rehabilitation counseling
VSCM	Veterans Service Center Manager
VSM	Vietnam Service Medal
VSO	Veterans Service Organization / Veterans Service Officer
VSR	Veterans Service Representative
VVA	Vietnam Veterans of America
WRIISC	War Related Illness and Injury Center