



Veterans Affairs

Frank Guevara
Director

Fact Sheet #13
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WHO IS A VETERAN

Veterans, Who Are They?

A veteran is defined as a person who served in the active military, naval, air, or merchant marine* service who was discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable. The term "active...service" is defined in 38 Code of Federal Regulations as being:

- Active duty;
- Any period of active duty for training during which the individual is disabled or dies from a disease or injury incurred or aggravated in line of duty; or
- Any period of inactive duty training during which the individual was disabled or died from an injury incurred or aggravated in line of duty.

* - Merchant marines must have service dates between 12/7/1941 and 12/31/1946 to qualify.

Active Duty

"Active Duty" is defined in 38 Code of Federal Regulations as being full-time duty in the (regular) Armed Forces. As this is the usual circumstance for the overwhelming number of VA claimants, however, the following are also considered to constitute "active duty" for purposes of achieving veteran status:

- Full-time duty by commissioned officers of the Public Health Service;
- Full-time duty by commissioned officers of the Coast and Geodetic Survey and its successor agencies, the Environmental Science Services Administration and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration;
- Service as a cadet or midshipman at any of the service academies; and
- Attendance at an Academy preparatory school by persons who have a binding commitment to (regular) active duty if they were to be disenrolled from the school.



Veterans Affairs Office Locations:

- 222 W. Hospitality Lane, San Bernardino, CA 92415-0470 (909) 382-3290
- 15900 Smoke Tree Street, Hesperia, CA 92345 (760) 995-8010
- 8575 Haven Ave., Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91730 (909-948-6470
- **Or call Toll Free from anywhere in San Bernardino County : 1-866-4SBVets (1-866-472-8387)**