



## BENEFITS DELIVERY AT DISCHARGE

### VA BENEFITS DELIVERY AT DISCHARGE (BDD) PROGRAM

Servicemembers who are separating from active duty and planning to file for disability can file their claim early through the Veterans Affairs (VA) Benefits Delivery at Discharge (BDD) program.

BDD allows a Servicemember to apply for disability compensation benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) prior to separation from active duty military service. Claims must be filed from 180 to 90 days prior to separation.

#### HOW CAN BDD HELP ME?

BDD allows Servicemembers to apply for their disability benefits before separation, with most claimants receiving their decision the day after leaving active duty. This provides time for the VA to schedule medical exams, review service treatment records, and evaluate the claim while Servicemembers are still on active duty.

#### PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

##### To be eligible for BDD:

- Servicemembers must have a known separation date and file their claim between 180 and 90 days prior to separation,
- Provide a copy of their service treatment record with the claim, and
- Be available for 45 days from the date of claim to attend VA examinations

##### The following issues/conditions are excluded from BDD:

- Servicemembers who do not meet the requirements above,
- Claims requiring case management for a Servicemember who is seriously or very seriously injured/ill, suffered the loss of a body part, or is terminally ill,
- Claims requiring a VA exam in a foreign country, except those that can be processed through Landstuhl, Germany or Yongsan, Korea,
- Claims for Servicemembers awaiting discharge while hospitalized in a VA or military treatment facility,
- Claims for pregnant service women, or
- Claims that require a character of discharge determination.



Disabilities determined by VA to be related to your military service can lead to monthly non-taxable compensation, enrollment in the VA health care system, a 10-point hiring preference for federal employment and other important benefits. Ask your VA representative or Veterans Service Organization representative about Disability Compensation, Pension, Health Care, Caregiver Program, Career Services, Educational Assistance, Home Loan Guaranty, Insurance and/or Dependents and Survivors' Benefits.



U.S. Department  
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## HOW DO I GET STARTED?

Submit your application and service treatment records online using [eBenefits](#). This option is preferred and starts your claim processing faster and more efficiently. You can include any personnel or other records that document injuries, illnesses, or events that contributed to your service related disability, and you must provide a copy of your service treatment records for your current period of service. Include buddy statements, if additional documentation is needed.

As an alternative, you can fill out and mail a [VA Form 21-526EZ, "Application for Disability Compensation and Related Compensation Benefits"](#) and submit it with copies of your service treatment records to this address:

Department of Veterans Affairs  
Claims Intake Center  
PO Box 4444  
Janesville, WI 53547-4444

Or, you can fax it to:

(844) 531-7818 (inside the U.S.)  
(248) 524-4260 (outside the U.S.)

You can visit your local VA regional office or Benefits Delivery at Discharge Intake Site and speak with a VA representative to assist you. For the location nearest you, use the [VA locator directory](#) or call 1-800-827-1000.

## WHAT ELSE SHOULD I KNOW?

BDD is a time-sensitive process. To receive your VA disability benefits shortly after separation, you must submit your claim 180 to 90 days prior to your release from active duty. This time is needed to complete your medical examinations and rate your claim before you are discharged from active service. Servicemembers should file their claim as close to the 180-day mark as possible to ensure that VA can make a decision the day following your discharge from active duty.

Anyone who does not meet the time requirements of BDD can file their claim before separation, but it will not be processed until after they leave active duty.

## HOW CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION?

If you are on a military installation, contact your local Transition Assistance Program office to attend VA benefits briefings and learn how to initiate your claim. You can also call the VA toll-free number, 1-800-827-1000. Be sure to visit [Military OneSource](#) for 24/7 access to helpful pre-separation and transition guides; employment, education, and relocation information; benefits checklist; and more.

Visit the BDD website at <https://www.benefits.va.gov/predischarge/index.asp>.