



October 2017

Veterans Identification Card Fact Sheet

This fact sheet is designed to explain the rollout and implementation of the Veteran Identification Card (VIC) that will be available in November 2017.

On July 20, 2015, the President signed into law the Veterans Identification Card (VIC) Act of 2015, Public Law (PL) 114-31, which requires that the Department of Veterans Affairs issue an identification card to Veterans that request a card and meet other eligibility requirements.

The VIC is a portable and secure alternative to a DD-214 that can be used to obtain discounts on promotional goods and services offered to Veterans.

Veterans who served a minimum obligated time in service but, did not meet the retirement or medical discharge threshold *may* be eligible to receive a VIC. Starting in November 2017, individual's that do not have a Veterans Health Identification Card (VHIC) or retirement card issued by the Department of Defense will be able to apply for a VIC online using vets.gov.

Key Facts:

- Starting in November 2017, Veterans can submit an electronic application for the VIC using vets.gov. To sign in, they can use their ID.me account or the same log-in that they use for their eBenefits account (DS Logon).
- Individuals that have a character of discharge type of Honorable or General (Under Honorable Conditions) are eligible for a VIC.
- Individuals with a Dishonorable, Other than Honorable conditions or Bad Conduct discharge are not eligible for a VIC.
- The VIC is not meant to duplicate Veteran identification cards currently issued by the VA or the Department of Defense (DoD).
- The VIC can be used as proof of service for Veterans who do not have a form of identification that designates them as a Veteran.
- The VIC can be used to obtain discounts on promotional goods and services offered to Veterans and does not reflect entitlement to any benefits administered by the VA.
- The VIC can be presented to Vendors for discounted services without compromising Personal Identifiable Information (PII) that is visible on the DD-214.

How to Apply for a VIC

- Veterans can apply for a VIC using vets.gov.

Explanation of Initiative

- The VIC can be used in lieu a DD-214 and will provide Veterans who served a minimum obligated time in service, but did not meet the retirement or medical discharge threshold with a more portable and secure alternative for proof of service.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q. When can I apply for a VIC?

A. VA will begin accepting applications for the VIC in November 2017.

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

A. 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 of is annotated describing the service of the Veteran.

Q. Are individuals that served in the Reserves or National Guard eligible for a VIC?

A. 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 a DD-214 or other approved document of discharge. Request from individuals that served in the Reserves or National Guard will be processed at a later date.

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

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

Q. How can Veterans submit a request for a VIC?

A. Starting in November 2017, Veterans can submit requests for a VIC on [vets.gov](https://www.vets.gov).

Q. What if the Veteran does not have an ID.me account, can they still apply for the VIC?

A. Yes, the same log-in used for eBenefits or DS Logon, can be used to log into their vets.gov account.

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

A. No, the only way to apply for the VIC will be by using [vets.gov](https://www.vets.gov).

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

A. 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.

Q. Is the list of vendors that offer discounts to Veterans available online?

A. Promotional discounts and services offered to Veterans may vary by location. Check with your local retailer to verify if they offer discounted goods or services to Veterans.