

# VA & Tricare Newsletter



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## **What is Verification of Military Experience and Training (VMET), DD Form 2586**

### **The History of the Verification of Military Experience (VMET)**

The Verification of Military Experience and Training (VMET) program was established by Public Law 101-510, Section 1143(a), 5 November 1990, National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1991.

VMET assists departing Service members transitioning to civilian life by verifying military skills and training, and translating that information into civilian terms.

All members of the military Services (Army, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Navy) on Active Duty on or after 1 October 1990 are recorded in the VMET database.

DoD Instruction 1332.36 dated 14 February 1994 states that, ideally, Service members receive their VMET document (DD-2586) at least 120 days before their separation date.

Since January 2001, the VMET document has been available to all DoD military members with Active, Reserve or National Guard Service on or after 1 October 1990. Before January 2001 (July 1992 - Dec 2000), VMET documents were not available on the Internet. During that period, the military Services printed and distributed VMET documents to all separating or retiring Active Duty Service members.

### **What VMET can do for you**

Your military service has given you valuable training and experience that can improve your chance of getting a good job or achieving your educational goals. As a Service

*Website:*

<https://milconnect.dmdc.osd.mil>

member, you have had numerous training and job experiences, perhaps to many to easily recall and include on job or college application. Fortunately, the military has made life a little easier in this regard. The DD2586, Verification of Military Experience and Training (VMET), is created from the Service member's automated records on file. It lists military job experience and training history, recommended college credit information and civilian equivalent job titles. This document is designed to help you apply for jobs, but it is not a resume.

You can obtain a copy of your VMET document online thru milconnect, under correspondence documents. You will need your CAC (Common Access Card), a DS Logon - Level 2, or your DFAS my Pay pin number to download your document. While at the site be sure you also print a copy of VMET Frequently Asked Questions. Once you have your VMET document, you should review it to ensure it is accurate. Then identify the experience and training you believe will help you to convince employers that you're the right person for the job. Because of the personal information they contain, DMDC cannot release VMET documents directly to a third party, such as a school, etc.

To get more information check out your milconnect.

To access your VMET record go to the following website:

[milConnect - FAQ \(osd.mil\)](https://milconnect.osd.mil)

<https://milconnect.dmdc.osd.mil>

Source: Milconnect

Transition Assistant Advisor  
(TAA): Amy Eagen

The TAA is the TRICARE and  
VA liaison for the state.

Assistance provided for:

- TRICARE for Life
- TRICARE Reserve  
Select/TRICARE  
Retired Reserve
- TRICARE Dental,  
Active Duty Dental
- VA Services and  
Benefits
- Filing assistance for  
benefits with VA,  
DOD and Tricare
- The TAA is available\*  
to provide in-person  
briefings for TRICARE  
and/or VA benefits.  
(Available during drill  
weekends)
- Pre-separation  
counseling  
associated with  
Transition Assistance  
Program (TAP).

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## **VA Benefits**

### **What are Burial Benefits**

#### **Eligibility**

Veterans discharged from the active duty under conditions other than dishonorable and service members who die while on active duty, as well as spouses and dependent children of veterans and active duty service members may be eligible for VA burial and memorial benefits. The veteran does not have to pass away before a spouse or dependent child for them to be eligible.

With certain exceptions, enlisted personnel with active duty service beginning after Sep 7, 1980, and officers with service after Oct 16, 1981, must have served for a minimum of 24 consecutive months or the full period of active duty (as in the case of reservists or National Guard members called to active duty for a limited duration).

Reservists and National Guard members, as well as their spouses and dependent children, are eligible if they were entitled to retired pay at the time of death, or would have been if they were over age 60. Eligibility is not established by active duty for training (Basic or AIT) in the reserves or National Guard.

VA national cemetery directors verify eligibility for burial in their cemeteries. A copy of the veteran's discharge document that specifies the period(s) of active duty and character of discharge, along with the deceased's death certificate and proof of relationship to the veteran (for eligible family members) are all that are usually needed to determine eligibility.

#### **VA National Cemeteries**

Burial in a VA national cemetery is available for eligible veterans, their spouses and dependents at no cost to the family and includes the gravesite, grave-liner, opening and closing of the grave, a headstone or marker, and perpetual care as part of a national shrine. For veterans, benefits also include a burial flag (with display case for active duty) and military funeral honors. Family members and other loved ones of deceased veterans may request Presidential Memorial Certificates.

The VA operates 136 national cemeteries. Burial options are limited to those available at the specific cemetery but may include in-ground casket, or interment of cremated remains in a columbarium, in ground or a scatter garden. Contact the nearest national cemetery to determine if it is open for new burials and which options are available. To schedule a burial, first fax all discharge documentation to the **National Cemetery Scheduling** Office at 1-866-900-6417 or scan and email the documentation to [NCA.Scheduling@va.gov](mailto:NCA.Scheduling@va.gov) with the name of the decedent in the subject line.

Next, please call 1-800-535-1117 and have the following information readily available when you call:

- Cemetery of choice
- First or subsequent burial (Veteran or dependent already buried)
  - If subsequent interment, who is already interred, section and site number (if known)
- Decedent's:
  - Full name;
  - Gender;
  - Social Security Number (SSN);
  - Date of death;
  - Date of birth; and
  - Relationship (Veteran or dependent)
- Funeral director's contact information:
  - Funeral director's name;
  - Funeral home's name;
  - Address; and
  - Email address of the funeral home
- Next of kin information:
  - Name;
  - Relationship to deceased;
  - SSN;
  - Telephone number; and
  - Address
- Type of religious emblem for headstone (if known)
- Did the decedent reside within 75 miles of requested cemetery?
- ZIP code of decedent at time of death
- County of decedent at time of death
- Type of burial:
  - Casket;
    - Casket size/liner size
  - Cremation
    - Urn size/urn vault size
- Marital status of deceased (if Veteran is buried in a private cemetery, must provide documentation of marital status of spouse at time of death)
- Is surviving spouse a Veteran?
- Any disabled children for future interment (must provide name and date of birth). If requesting immediate interment (must provide marital status, doctor's statement stating type of illness, date of onset of illness and capability of self-support).
- Military Honors requested

For more information: <http://www.cem.va.gov>

**Source: VA website**

Watch out for the August newsletter which will contain information about Gray Area Retirement and Special Adaptive Housing Grant.

**If there is any material on Tricare, VA or DoD program you would like to see me address in my next newsletter please feel free to contact me at (720) 250 -1173 or email [amy.j.eagen.ctr@mail.mil](mailto:amy.j.eagen.ctr@mail.mil)**



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