

# AM I A PROTECTED VETERAN?

The Vietnam Era Veterans' Readjustment Assistance Act of 1974 (VEVRAA), as amended (38 U.S.C. § 4212), prohibits discrimination against protected veterans.

Under VEVRAA, a veteran may be classified as a "disabled veteran," "recently separated veteran," "active duty wartime or campaign badge veteran," or "Armed Forces service medal veteran."

## DETERMINE YOUR VETERAN STATUS

**1** Did you serve on active duty\* in the U.S. Military?

\*See 38 USC § 101(21) for a full list of service that may be counted as active duty.

**2** Were you discharged or released from service under conditions other than dishonorable?

If you answered "yes" to the above questions, continue to the questions below. If you answered "no" to any of the questions, you may not be considered a protected veteran.

## DETERMINE IF YOU ARE PROTECTED UNDER VEVRAA

### DISABLED VETERAN

- Are you a veteran of the U.S. Military who is entitled to compensation (or who but for the receipt of military retired pay would be entitled to compensation) under laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs?
- or
- Were you discharged or released from active duty because of a service-connected disability?

### RECENTLY SEPARATED VETERAN

- Were you discharged or released from active duty within the last three years?

### ACTIVE DUTY WARTIME OR CAMPAIGN BADGE VETERAN

- Did you serve on active duty during one or more of the periods of war outlined in **38 U.S.C. § 101**†?
- Did you serve on active duty in any campaign or expedition for which a campaign badge has been authorized under the laws administered by the **Department of Defense**?

### ARMED FORCES SERVICE MEDAL VETERAN

- Did you serve on active duty in a U.S. military operation for which an Armed Forces Service Medal was awarded pursuant to Executive Order 12985 (61 FR 1209) and were you awarded the Armed Forces Service Medal?
- If you were awarded the Armed Forces Service Medal, is it listed on your **DD Form 214**?

If you answer "yes" to any questions in the above categories, you may be protected under VEVRAA. A veteran may qualify in more than one category. If you do not fall into any of the categories, you may not be a protected veteran.

Please note that this page provides general information. It is not intended to substitute for the actual law and regulations regarding the program described herein.

†Period of War Dates: Korean Conflict June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955; Vietnam Era February 28, 1961 – May 7, 1975 for veterans serving in the Republic of Vietnam or August 5, 1964 – May 7, 1975 for all other cases; Persian Gulf War August 2, 1990 – current.

If you do not have a DD-214 Form, or have additional questions about your veteran status, please contact the Department of Veterans Affairs at 1-800-827-1000.



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