

Definitions for Veterans

Commonwealth Definition of Veteran

"Veteran" shall mean (1) any person, (a) whose last discharge or release from his wartime service as defined herein, was under honorable conditions and who (b) served in the army, navy, marine corps, coast guard, or air force of the United States, or on full time national guard duty under Titles 10 or 32 of the United States Code or under sections 38, 40 and 41 of chapter 33 for not less than 90 days active service, at least 1 day of which was for wartime service; provided, however, than any person who so served in wartime and was awarded a service-connected disability or a Purple Heart, or who died in such service under conditions other than dishonorable, shall be deemed to be a veteran notwithstanding his failure to complete 90 days of active service; (2) a member of the American Merchant Marine who served in armed conflict between December 7, 1941 and December 31, 1946, and who has received honorable discharges from the United States Coast Guard, Army, or Navy; (3) any person (a) whose last discharge from active service was under honorable conditions, and who (b) served in the army, navy, marine corps, coast guard, or air force of the United States for not less than 180 days active service; provided, however, that any person who so served and was awarded a service-connected disability or who died in such service under conditions other than dishonorable, shall be deemed to be a veteran notwithstanding his failure to complete 180 days of active service.

DEFINITION OF MASSACHUSETTS VETERAN

M.G.L. c. 4, sec. 7, cl. 43rd as amended by the Acts of 2005, ch. 130

Veteran of the Vietnam ERA:

Vietnam I – (Feb 1, 1955 – Aug 4, 1964) - 180 days of regular active duty service and a last discharge or release under honorable conditions.

Vietnam II – (Aug 4, 1964 – May 7, 1975) - 90 days of active duty service, one (1) day during "wartime" and a last discharge or release under honorable conditions.

Definitions are taken from Federal Register Vol. 73. No. 215 / November 5, 2008 / Rules & Regulations

Other Protected Veteran – Any other veteran who served on active duty in the U.S. Military, ground, Naval or Air service during a war or in a campaign or expedition for which a campaign badge has been authorized, other than special disability veterans or veterans of the Vietnam era.

Recently Separated Veteran – A veteran during the one-year period beginning on the date of such veteran's discharge or release from active duty in the U.S. Military, ground, Naval or Air service.

- **Operation Noble Eagle:** A veteran who performed Homeland Security missions. Operation Noble Eagle is the name given to the United States and Canadian military operations related to homeland security and support to federal, state, and local agencies. The operation began September 14, 2001, in response to the September 11th attacks. A last discharge or release was under honorable conditions.
- **Operation New Dawn:** A veteran who served in Operation New Dawn, which commenced on September 1, 2010 and ended on December 14, 2011. A last discharge or release was under honorable conditions.
- **Iraq War:** A Veteran who served during the armed conflict (March 2003 – December 2011) in Iraq that consisted of two phases. The first invasion of Iraq started on March 20, 2003, followed by a longer phase of fighting, which an insurgency emerged to oppose the occupying forces and the newly formed Iraqi government. The U. S. completed its withdrawal of military personnel in December 2011. A last discharge or release was under honorable conditions.

Retired Military – A veteran who served in the Armed forces of the United States and is retired from military status, and is not a Veteran of the Vietnam Era or an Other Protected Veteran.

Active Reserve- An active member of a US military reserve. National Guard and Reserve members who are on voluntary active duty providing full-time support to National Guard, Reserve, and Active Component organizations for the purpose of organizing, administering, recruiting, instructing, or training the Reserve Components.

Inactive Reserve- An inactive member of a US military reserve. National Guard and Reserve members who once served in the United States Army National Guard , the Air National Guard or reserve component of the armed forces of the United States.

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ERA of Service	DATES	Requirement for Veteran Status
WWI	6-Apr-1917 11-Nov-1918	90 days of active duty service, one (1) day during "wartime" and a last discharge or release under honorable conditions.
PEACETIME	12-Nov-1918 15-Sep-1940	180 days of regular active duty service and a last discharge or release under honorable conditions.
WWII (Merchant Marine: 7-Dec-1941 through 31-Dec-1946)	16-Sep-1940 25-Jul-1947	90 days of active duty service, one (1) day during "wartime" and a last discharge or release under honorable conditions.
PEACETIME	26-Jul-1947 24-Jun-1950	180 days of regular active duty service and a last discharge or release under honorable conditions.
KOREA	25-Jun-1950 31-Jan-1955	90 days of active duty service, one (1) day during "wartime" and a last discharge or release under honorable conditions.
Korean Defense Service Medal	28-Jul-1954 (to be determined later)	90 days of active duty service, last discharge under honorable conditions and the Korean Defense Service Medal
VIETNAM I	1-Feb-1955 4-Aug-1964	180 days of regular active duty service and a last discharge or release under honorable conditions.
VIETNAM II	5-Aug-1964 7-May-1975	90 days of active duty service, one (1) day during "wartime" and a last discharge or release under honorable conditions.
PEACETIME	8-May-1975 1-Aug-1990	180 days of regular active duty service and a last discharge or release under honorable conditions.
Lebanon Campaign *	25-Aug-1982 (to be determined later)	90 days of active duty service, one (1) day during "wartime" and a last discharge or release under honorable conditions.
Grenada Campaign *	25-Oct-1983 15-Dec-1983	90 days of active duty service, one (1) day during "wartime" and a last discharge or release under honorable conditions.
Panama Campaign *	20-Dec-1989 31-Jan-1990	90 days of active duty service, one (1) day during "wartime" and a last discharge or release under honorable conditions.
PERSIAN GULF	2-Aug-1990 (to be determined later)	90 days of active duty service, one (1) day during "wartime" and a last discharge or release under honorable conditions.

*Naval and Marine DD214 must indicate Expeditionary Medal. All DD214's must specify campaign: Lebanon, Granada, or Panama.

- For **GUARD MEMBERS** to qualify they must have 180 days and have been activated under Title 10 of the U.S. Code -OR- Members who were activated under Title 10 or Title 32 of the U.S. Code or Massachusetts General Laws, chapter 33, sections 38, 40, and 41 must have 90 days, at least one of which was during wartime, per the above chart.
- For **RESERVISTS** to qualify, they must have been called to regular active duty, at which point their eligibility can be determined by the above chart.

Training Duty Exception: Active duty service in the armed forces shall not include active duty for training in the Army or Air National Guard or active duty for training as a Reservist in the Armed Forces of the United States.

Minimum Service Exception (for Death or Disability)

It is not necessary that an applicant have completed the minimum service for wartime or peacetime campaign if he/she served some time in the campaign and was awarded the Purple Heart, or suffered a service-connected disability per the Discharge Certificate, or died in the service under honorable conditions.