

WWII Veterans

World War II Veterans

World War II (WWII) was the most widespread war in history with more than 100 million people serving in military units. About 16 million Americans served during WWII, and many of those Veterans are now receiving United States Department of Veteran Affairs (USDVA) benefits including Pension and Health Care. WWII Veterans who were a part of the Occupation Forces assigned to Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan soon after the detonation of Atomic-Bombs over those respective cities, and those American prisoners of war (POW's) who were housed in close proximity to those cities are sometimes called "Atomic Veterans."

USDVA Benefits

World War II Veterans may be eligible for a wide-variety of benefits available to all U.S. military Veterans. USDVA benefits include [disability compensation](#), [pension](#), [education and training](#), [health care](#), [home loans](#), [insurance](#), [vocational rehabilitation and employment](#), and [burial](#). See our [Veterans](#) page for an overview of the benefits available to all Veterans.

USDVA Benefits for World War II Veterans

The following sections provide information tailored to the experiences of World War II Veterans to help you better understand specific USDVA benefits for which you may qualify.

Benefits for World War II Veterans Exposed to Ionizing Radiation

World War II era Veterans may qualify for health care and compensation benefits if you were exposed to ionizing radiation during military service. Health care services include an Ionizing Radiation Registry health exam and clinical treatment at USDVA's War Related Illness and Injury Study Centers. You may also be entitled to disability compensation benefits if you have certain cancers as a result of exposure to ionizing radiation during military service.

Learn more about USDVA benefits for Veterans exposed to ionizing radiation:

- [Veterans Health Administration's Radiation page](#)
- [Disability Compensation Ionizing Radiation Exposure page](#)

Benefits for World War II Veterans Who Participated in Radiation-Risk Activities

World War II era Veterans may qualify for health care and compensation benefits if you participated in certain radiation-risk activities, such as nuclear weapons testing, during military service. These Veterans

may be informally referred to as "Atomic Veterans". Health care services include an Ionizing Radiation Registry health exam and clinical treatment at USDVA's War Related Illness and Injury Study Centers. You may also be entitled to disability compensation benefits if you have certain cancers as a result of your participation in a radiation-risk activity during military service.

Learn more about USDVA benefits for Veterans who participated in radiation-risk activities:

- [Veteran's Health Administration's Radiation Risk Activity page](#)
- [Disability Compensation Radiogenic Diseases Exposure page](#)

Benefits for Survivors of Veterans with Radiation Exposure

Surviving spouses, dependent children, and dependent parents of Veterans who died as the result of diseases related to radiation exposure during military service may be eligible for survivors' benefits.

Learn more on the [Dependents & Survivors page](#)

Find a USDVA Facility

Use the [facility locator](#) or call 1-877-222-VETS (8387).

Contact Your County Veterans Service Office

The County Veterans Service Offices (CVSO) are locally-funded agencies established to assist Veterans and their families in obtaining benefits and services accrued through military service. These County Veteran Service Offices promote the interest and welfare of Veterans, their dependents, and their survivors by enhancing their quality of life through counseling, education, benefits assistance, and advocacy. They connect Veterans to their benefits by assisting in their interactions with the USDVA.

- Visit the [CalVet](#) website for more information, **OR**
- Find the [CVSO](#) closest to you, **OR**

CalVet strongly recommends you to work with the CVSO nearest you. Your CVSO can guide you through the benefits and services available as well as help connect you with other local resources.

eBenefits

Apply for compensation, pension, housing, education and training, healthcare, insurance, and burial benefits through www.ebenefits.va.gov.

Questions/Comments

Email us at CalTAP@calvet.ca.gov

Sources

http://www.benefits.va.gov/persona/Veteran-world_war_II.asp