

Common questions and answers to the qualifications needed to be recognized as a Veteran.

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-- Here are just a few examples of the statements NVBDC hears when we ask someone to list their qualifications needed to be recognized as a veteran (and the true answer):

Anyone with an honorable discharge?

NO

Must have been overseas? NO

Must have served during a period of war? NO

National Guard and Reserve members?

Maybe, under specific conditions.

Anyone who has a DD-214 form? NO

If they served, they are a Veteran? NO

The key is understanding the person's service record: Did he or she serve in a campaign or expedition for which a

campaign badge or medal was authorized. Was he or she awarded the campaign badge or

medal?



Keith King, Founder & CEO, National Veteran Business Development Council (NVBDC)

To devise a way to recognize our troops serving in a "war," the Department of Defense (DoD) created designated periods of conflict that if you serve in an area of hostility and are awarded a campaign medal, you are considered a veteran. NVBDC uses, "180 days of active duty not counting training or 1 day in a combat zone," as the rule of thumb to determine if a person is a veteran or not. This is a much higher standard than what the Veteran Affairs (VA) uses for benefit awards.

To be a veteran, a service member must have:

- 180 days of consecutive active duty (not counting training)

— Or one day in a combat zone: served on Active Duty during a period of war or in a campaign or expedition for which a campaign badge was authorized.

— Served in the National Guard or Reserve for 20 years and retired under honorable conditions. (passed 2016)

The form no one tells you about is, in many cases, more important than the one everyone thinks they know (DD214). The DD 256 and 257 are issued when the person has not met the active duty requirements to be considered a veteran by the DoD. But having a DD214 form doesn't automatically mean you are a veteran! What is truly bothersome is that people who have served but don't qualify as a veteran can request a DD214. To the untrained eye, this person has a DD214 and in most cases their character of service is honorable, so people think that person is a veteran. But they're not!



Brigadier General (ret) Dick Miller,
President, NVBDC

In a recent report, the DoD admitted that data is collected from 30 different sources to “build” a DD-214. The truth about a DD214: it takes a highly trained person who understands veteran laws and exactly what the information is showing them to determine if that person meets the standards to be called a veteran.

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We are expanding NVBDC opportunities for our Certified Service-Disabled / Veteran Owned Businesses. NVBDC is always available to answer your questions on how to get certified.”

Brigadier General (ret) Dick Miller, President, NVBDC

[The National Veteran Business Development Council \(NVBDC\)](#) uses: Title 38 U.S. Code § 4211 as our standard to determine the definition of a veteran. The applicant must have received an Honorable Discharge (HD) or Discharge Under Honorable Conditions (UHC).

The NVBDC does not accept DD214's from the applicant. Why? One word: Photoshop. The most downloaded

Federal form is the blank DD-214. It shouldn't come as a big surprise that the amount of fraud in the Federal purchasing programs, especially the VA, is estimated at over \$500 million per year per government estimates.

<https://nvbdc.org/veteran-news/what-qualifies-someone-as-a-veteran/>

For more information on how to become an [NVBDC Certified](#) SD/VOB, please feel free to reach out to NVBDC by visiting our website: www.nvbdc.org or contacting us directly: (888) CERTIFIED.

NVBDC MISSION:

NVBDC is the only Veteran Owned Business Certification organization developed by Veterans, for Veterans. The purpose is to provide a credible and reliable certifying authority for all size businesses ensuring that valid documentation exists of Veteran ownership and control.

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