



www.WomenVetsUSA.org

Paperwork/Planning Priorities: Transitioning Out/ After Departing the Military

- ✓ **Be your own best advocate!** Make time to organize what you need to have on hand to relocate and settle in. Don't be rushed by yourself or others. Before you sign any document, understand it and ensure it is 100% accurate.
- ✓ **Take advantage of “Transition Assistance” Programs:** Attend available programs. The shared tips and connections can ease transition and save you money, time, and worry.
- ✓ **DD214/Other Discharge Form: This is a critically important document!** Always have your [DD214/NGB22](#) or other official discharge form on hand for after-the-uniform tasks. Safeguard it throughout your lifetime!
- ✓ **Housing:** See the [WomenVetsUSA Housing](#) section for “next home” alternatives.
- ✓ **Employment:** See the [WomenVetsUSA Employment](#) section for employment assistance to include job preparation, search, postings, and other job-related information.
- ✓ **Health Care:** See the [WomenVetsUSA Health Care](#) section to explore health care plans, services, and contacts to help you determine continuity of care alternatives.
- ✓ **Education:** See the [WomenVetsUSA Education](#) section for education and training assistance to include exploring your interests, school listings, and financial aid.
- ✓ **Meet with VA-Accredited Veteran Service Officer (VSO), Attorney or Claims Agent:** Check the status of your compensation claim if initiated before departing the military. Bring a copy to the meeting. If it's your first contact, bring your DD214, personnel, and medical records to your appointment. **Keep home copies of all VBA claim forms.** The [VSO/attorney/claims agent](#) usually works your claim from beginning to end regardless of where you choose to live and work after your military service.
- ✓ **Will & Estate Planning:** Ensure your [will](#) is recognized by the state in which you claim residency. If not, plan to update it.
- ✓ **Benefits & Services:** Visit the [WomenVetsUSA Home Page](#) for finance, legal, state, and other resource links.

Consider researching other resources that may clarify, help organize, and expedite what you choose to do during transition from and after you depart the military.

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