APPLY FOR HEALTH CARE AT VETERANS ADMINISTRATION HEALTH SYSTEM

If you served in the military, please consider enrolling in the VA Health Care System. Will I be eligible? Veterans with a DD 214, honorable discharge, and active duty service of two years, one enlistment, or service during an eligible conflict/war should apply.

How do I apply? Online or in person with application form and required documents. What if I already have health insurance and a health care provider? Other health insurance coverage does NOT affect eligibility or services provided.

Will I be “taking another veterans’ slot” that needs health care? The VA is funded by Congress, using a formula with number of veterans in the District. You will not be taking anyone’s “slot”.

THE VA OFFERS:
- Emergency Room
- Fully equipped hospital
- Primary Care Case Management
- Radiology
- Rehabilitation
- Chiropractic
- Specialty Care
- Behavioral Health
- Post-Traumatic Stress Unit
- Community Living Center
- Skilled Long-Term Care
- Women’s Health
- Annual Physicals
- Walk-in Clinic….more

( Why VA? See article on Page 3 )
FRIDAY, 17 APRIL
Sporting Clays Shoot | Golf Tournament | 5K Fun Run/Walk | Industry Partner Registration Opens, Exhibit Lobby | Awards Interviews, Executive Boardroom | Registration Opens, Exhibit Lobby | Auxiliary Silent Auction, Lobby | Trade Show Opens, Exhibit Lobby | EANGKS Exec Council Meeting, Pecan Room | Military Family Appreciation Night | Chicken N Pickle | 1240 N. Greenwich, Wichita, 6:00 pm | Hospitality Rooms, 8:30 pm

SATURDAY, 18 APRIL
DRESS—Military-Slacks & Unit Polo | Civilian-Business Casual, Open Collar and No Jacket
Registration Opens Exhibit Lobby | Trade Show Opens-Exhibit Lobby 7:00am
NGAKS Past Presidents/Retiree Breakfast | Pecan/Oak Rm 7:00am
Joint Opening Session | Grand Ballroom | 8:00–10:00am
Break to Visit Trade Show | Exhibit Lobby | 10:00–10:30 am
Spouse Activity, Blade & Timber, Lobby | 10:45am–3:00pm
NGAKS Business Session Grand South Ballroom | 10:30 am–12:00pm
Breakout Lunch Sessions, Trade Show Visits, 12:00pm–2:30pm
**Retirees | Birch Room (see inset for agenda)
Joint Professional Development, Grand Ballroom | 2:30–3:20 pm
Joint Closing Session, Swearing In Officers, Grand Ballroom 3:30pm
Social Hour, Atrium | 6:30 pm
Kansas National Guard Awards Gala | Formal Attire Required (ROARING 20’S THEMED DRESS), Grand Ballroom 7:30 pm
Hospitality Rooms, Suites 908, 912, 918 | 9:00 pm

Retiree Lunch Agenda
*Tricare Briefing, Q&A
*KNG Retiree Updates
*Advocate Health-Medicare
*Space A Travel
*VA Health Care
*AWARD/Election
*Break to visit exhibitors
PRIZES!!
Military Hospitals and Clinics Closing to Retirees and Families

The Department of Defense issued notice in 2018 that DoD-wide more than 18,000 health care provider and professional positions would be eliminated throughout the military health care system. The effects of this downsize due to budget reductions or constraint is now being felt across military installations throughout the United States. This is the first round of such cuts, but Kansas’ military retirees will be impacted by the reductions.

Retirees will have to transition to civilian care in the Tricare network, and may also be required to purchase prescriptions differently. Kansas’s specific changes are noted below, as known on February 7, in the Military.com article.

- **Fort Leavenworth**, Kansas, downgrade from ambulatory surgery to an outpatient clinic is a facility slated for downgrade.
- **Fort Riley**, Kansas, Farrelly Health Clinic has either already transitioned to active duty-only, or are in process.

If you are a military retiree, you may be impacted by these reductions. Contact the clinic directly to identify what impact this change may have on you.


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**SUICIDE PREVENTION APP:** The Tennessee National Guard created an app for suicide prevention, called **GUARD YOUR BUDDY**; it connects smartphones with mental health professionals.

The Tennessee Guard worked with suicide prevention experts from the Jason Foundation and E4Health to produce the app. Another way the Tennessee Guard guards their members is a buddy check, once a week. Members are given a card with their assigned buddy’s information, and must check in with the once a week. It is a requirement for duty. Guard suicides are on the rise, a plague in the Guard. Thank you to TNG for this valuable work. See full article at [http://www.nationalguardmagazine.com/publication/?m=12619&i=648986&p=12](http://www.nationalguardmagazine.com/publication/?m=12619&i=648986&p=12)

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**National Vietnam War Day is March 29, 2020**

National Vietnam War Veterans Day is observed every year on **March 29** and is a way to thank and honor our nation’s Vietnam veterans and their families for their service and sacrifice.

**Who does Vietnam War Commemoration Honor?**

U.S. Armed Forces personnel with active duty service between

**November 1, 1955 to May 15, 1975**, regardless of location of service which includes:

- **Nine million Americans** serving during that time
- **6.4 million** Americans living today
- **2.7 million** U.S. service members who served in Vietnam
- **58,000** whose names are memorialized on a black granite wall in our Nation’s capital
- **304,000** who were wounded
- **1,253** Missing in Action (MIA) heroes who have not yet returned to American soil
- **2,500** Prisoners of War (POWs)

**ARE YOU A VIETNAM ERA VETERAN IN KANSAS? YOU ARE ELIGIBLE FOR A MEDALLION TO COMMEMORATE YOUR SERVICE.** Go to [https://kcva.ks.gov/home/2015/05/05/kansas-vietnam-veteran-era-medallion-program](https://kcva.ks.gov/home/2015/05/05/kansas-vietnam-veteran-era-medallion-program) or call 800.513.7731 or vicki.vawter@ks.gov

Read more: [https://militarybenefits.info/national-vietnam-war-veterans-day/#ixzz6FScXDyt6](https://militarybenefits.info/national-vietnam-war-veterans-day/#ixzz6FScXDyt6)