

Licking County
Veterans Service Commission

935 Buckeye Avenue
Newark, OH 43055

★ ★ ★
★ LICKING ★

VETERANS' SERVICE COMMISSION

COUNTY

Focused on improving the efficiency of Veteran services across the community, we pride ourselves in taking care of the evolving needs of Veterans and their families.



THE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



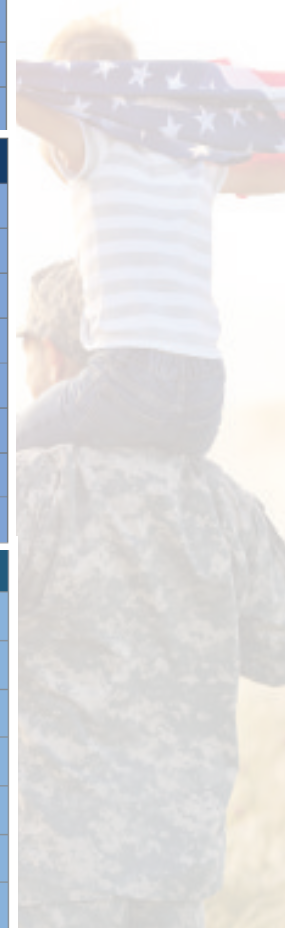
OCTOBER, NOVEMBER, DECEMBER 2023
VETERANS HELPING VETERANS SINCE 1886

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE 2023

Financial Assistance		
October 2023	November 2023	December 2023
Non- Grocery: \$17,806.18	Non- Grocery: \$19,572.71	Non- Grocery: \$13,627.28
Grocery: \$22,200.00	Grocery: \$18,800.00	Grocery: \$22,600.00
Total: \$40,006.18	Total: \$38,372.71	Total: \$36,227.28
Commission Review 3	Commission Review 2	Commission Review 2
Approved Applications 55	Approved Applications 51	Approved Applications 55
Denied Application 0	Denied Application 0	Denied Application 0
Withdrawn Applications 11	Withdrawn Applications 8	Withdrawn Applications 7

Transportation		
October 2023	November 2023	December 2023
Total Trips 118	Total Trips 196	Total Trips 147
Columbus 94	Columbus 160	Columbus 110
Newark 21	Newark 35	Newark 62
Zanesville 2	Zanesville 1	Zanesville 2
Millersport 1		
Miles 6,760	Miles 6,730	Miles 8,677
Total Cost \$17,576.00	Total Cost \$17,498.00	Total Cost \$22,560.20

Office Activity		
October 2023	November 2023	December 2023
Office Visits: 340	Office Visits: 307	Office Visits: 280
Walk-Ins: 34	Walk-Ins: 24	Walk-Ins: 23
New Clients: 39	New Clients: 31	New Clients: 29
Incoming Calls: 1,099	Incoming Calls: 1,270	Incoming Calls: 1,119
Outgoing Calls: 1,466	Outgoing Calls: 1,351	Outgoing Calls: 1,202
Total Calls: 2,565	Total Calls: 2,621	Total Calls: 2,321



LICKING COUNTY VETERANS' ALLIANCE

2023
Remembering Our Veterans

OCTOBER

Licking County Veterans Alliance performed 12 Veterans funerals.
There was 1 Veteran funeral that family did not want military honors.

NOVEMBER

Licking County Veterans Alliance performed 10 Veterans funerals.
There were 2 Veteran funerals that family did not want military honors.
There were 2 Veteran funerals that LCVA was not able to provide military honors.

DECEMBER

Licking County Veterans Alliance performed 15 Veterans funerals.
There were 2 Veteran funerals that family did not want military honors.
There were 2 Veteran funerals that LCVA was not able to provide military honors.

Contact: Dave Conner | 740-644-8595 | ricon20@roadrunner.com P.O. Box 854 Newark, Ohio 43058-0854

DATES & EVENTS

TUESDAYS

6PM-8PM

VETERANS' FORUM

2nd Tuesday & 4th Tuesday of Every Month

935 Buckeye Ave. Newark, OH

Contact: Gary Jones 740-745-5006

TUESDAYS

6PM-8PM

WOMEN OF WARRIORS

4th Tuesday of Every Month

935 Buckeye Ave. Newark, OH

Contact: Gary Jones 740-745-5006

WEDNESDAYS

4:30PM

2024 VETERANS' SERVICE COMMISSIONERS MEETINGS

935 Buckeye Ave. Newark, OH

January 24 th	February 28 th	March 27 th
April 24 th	May 22 nd	June 26 th
July 24 th	August 28 th	September 25 th
October 23 rd	November 27 th	December 18 th

FRIDAYS

10AM - 12PM

VET CENTER GROUP MEETING (Must Register to Participate)

Every Friday

935 Buckeye Ave. Newark, OH

Contact: Columbus Vets Center Jason Digiannantoni

866-360-4471 or 614-257-5550

FRIDAYS

6PM-8PM

HEART OF A WARRIOR FARM – VETERANS NIGHT

2nd Friday of Every Month

6545 Beecher Rd. Granville, OH 43023

Contact: 614-604-4565 or email heartofawarriorfarm@gmail.com

MEDICAL SUPPLY CLOSET FOR VETERANS

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS (DAV)

ROBERT L. COX CHAPTER #23

**NEED AN ITEM?
WANT TO DONATE?**

Contact Mr. Paul Wilson



Disabled American Veterans

DOC'S CORNER

By Joshua Renick

LET'S TALK ABOUT SECONDARY CLAIMS

Do secondary conditions raise your VA rating? Great question! Often, the answer is YES. You may receive an increased VA rating from secondary conditions if the VA determines that you are experiencing an additional illness or injury from your service-related disability.

You can file a secondary claim to get more disability benefits for a new disability that's linked to a service-connected disability you already have.

For example, you might file a secondary claim if you:

- Develop arthritis that's caused by a service-connected knee injury you got while on active duty, or
- Develop heart disease that's caused by the high blood pressure you were diagnosed with while on active duty and that we'd previously concluded was connected to your service.

There is no master list of conditions that you may be able to connect secondarily. That's because any condition medically related to a service-connected condition can be secondarily connected.

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN PRIMARY AND SECONDARY CLAIMS?

A primary condition is an illness or injury that was caused by -- or got worse because of -- your active military service. For example, you can receive a VA disability for back pain if you prove you developed it while on duty.

However, a secondary condition develops because of the primary condition. So, let's say you developed depression because your back pain was intense; depression would be the secondary condition, while back pain is the primary condition.

You can fit most disabilities in both categories, depending on when the condition developed.

HOW TO FILE FOR SECONDARY CONDITIONS

For the VA to consider disability benefits for a secondary service connection, you must file a claim and be service connected for a primary disability. You can't be granted the secondary condition until you're granted the primary one. Although the primary and secondary conditions may be diagnosed at different times, they may be granted service connection at the same time.

VETERANS & SPOUSES TRANSPORTATION

The Licking County Veterans' Service Commission contracts transportation for Veterans with Catholic Social Services (CSS) at no cost to the Veteran. Transportation can be provided to and from any VA approved medical appointments.

Transportation can be provided:

- To and from any VA medical appointment
- To and from any appointment at the Licking County Veterans Service Commission.
- To and from any medical appointment within Licking County.



You must schedule your transportation at least 5-business days prior to your appointment date.

For Questions and Registration 740-670-5430
To Schedule Transportation Call CSS 740-345-0353

**VA**U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

How to Talk With a Veteran in Crisis

If a Veteran you care about is going through a difficult time or having thoughts of suicide, you're probably worried and confused. You want to help but may be scared you could make things worse—the only wrong thing to do is to do nothing. Now is the time to act. You can begin by learning the signs of crisis and how to start a conversation with the Veteran.

REMEMBER: Everyone has a role to play in suicide prevention. Small actions, like starting a conversation, can make a big difference.



Signs of crisis

Every Veteran is different, and many may not show any obvious signs of intent to kill themselves. But some actions and behaviors can be a sign they need help.

Crisis signs

These signs require immediate attention. If a Veteran you know needs medical attention, **call 911** now. For immediate help in dealing with a mental health or suicide crisis, call the Veterans Crisis Line: **Dial 988 then Press 1.**

- Thinking about hurting or killing themselves
- Looking for ways to kill themselves
- Talking about death, dying, or suicide
- Self-destructive behavior, such as drug abuse, risky use of weapons, etc.

REMEMBER: If you believe a Veteran is at high risk of suicide and has already taken pills or harmed themselves in some way, **call 911**. And keep yourself safe—**never** negotiate with someone who has a firearm. **Get to safety and call 911, noting the Veteran is armed.**

Warning signs

These signs may indicate that a Veteran needs help. Contact the Veterans Crisis Line now—**Dial 988 then Press 1**—if a Veteran you know is exhibiting any of these:

- Appearing sad or depressed most of the time
- Hopelessness
- Anxiety, agitation, sleeplessness, or mood swings
- Feeling as if there is no reason to live
- Feeling excessive guilt, shame, or sense of failure
- Rage or anger
- Engaging in risky activities without thinking
- Increasing alcohol or drug misuse
- Losing interest in hobbies, work, or school
- Neglecting personal welfare and appearance
- Withdrawing from family and friends
- Showing violent behavior, like punching a hole in the wall or getting into fights
- Giving away prized possessions
- Getting affairs in order, tying up loose ends, or writing a will



How to start the conversation

For a Veteran in crisis—whose emotional struggles and health challenges may lead to thoughts of suicide—conversations and connections can mean the difference between keeping them safe and a tragic outcome.

If you and/or the Veteran are not in immediate danger, start a conversation by asking questions like:

- *"It sounds like you're feeling so incredibly (insert appropriate feeling here—trapped, overwhelmed, betrayed, etc.). Sometimes when people feel this way, they think about suicide. Is this something you're thinking about?"*
- *"When did you first start feeling like killing yourself?"*
- *"Did something happen that made you begin to feel like taking your life?"*

When responding to answers from a Veteran, remember simple, encouraging feedback goes a long way in showing support and encouraging help-seeking:

- *"I'm here for you. How do you hurt and how can I help?"*
- *"Can we talk for a while and see if we can find a way to keep you safe right now?"*
- *"I might not be able to understand exactly what you're going through or how you feel, but I care about you and want to help."*

You don't have to be an expert to talk to a Veteran facing challenges. You just need to show genuine care and concern.



Here are some things to keep in mind:

- Make supportive and encouraging comments, don't ask invasive personal questions.
- Don't inject judgment or emotion in the conversation. Stay calm.
- Listen more than you speak—don't dominate the conversation.
- Remind them you are there for them.
- Let them decide how much to share.
- It's okay to ask directly: "Are you thinking about taking your own life?" If the Veteran answers yes, follow the steps below:
 1. Inform them they can **Dial 988 then Press 1** to reach the Veterans Crisis Line or ask if they'd like to do this with you.
 2. Assess whether the Veteran is in crisis and determine if he or she has already initiated a plan to kill themselves or injured others or has an immediate plan to do so, with access to means.
 3. Try to find out where the Veteran is located and whether anyone else is nearby.
 4. For immediate emergency or medical assistance, **call 911**.

Asking if someone is having thoughts of suicide will not give them the idea or increase their risk. It may seem daunting, but it could save their life. Although many people may not show clear signs of intent to kill themselves, they'll likely answer direct questions about their intentions when asked.

REMEMBER: Even if the Veteran doesn't ask for support, they may need it. Make sure they know the Veterans Crisis Line is available **24/7** to help during a crisis. You can even call together.

Learn more with these resources:


Veterans Crisis Line: A free, anonymous, confidential resource available to Veterans in crisis, as well as their family members and friends. **Dial 988 then Press 1** chat at [VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat](https://www.VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat), or text **838255**

VA Mental Health: VA's repository of mental health resources, information, and data materials.

Make the Connection: VA's premier mental health literacy and anti-stigma website highlights Veterans' real, inspiring stories of recovery and connects Veterans and their supporters with local resources.



WE WELCOMED 1,194 YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN TO THE U.S. NAVAL ACADEMY



On July 2, 2020, we welcomed 1,194 young men and women to the U.S. Naval Academy as the incoming Class of 2024. This Induction Day (I-Day) marked the beginning of Plebe Summer, the military indoctrination and training period that helps new Midshipmen Candidates develop morally, mentally, and physically, which serves as the foundation to military life. I-Day 2020 was a momentous occasion that honored the tradition of the Academy, in addition to the young men, women, and their families, as they committed to beginning the journey of navigating their future as our next generation of leaders.

I-DAY





SNAPSHOT CLASS OF 2024

APPLICATIONS



OFFERS OF APPOINTMENT



CLASS SIZE



NOMINATING CATEGORIES

Presidential	665
Congressional	5,056
Secretary of the Navy	421
ROTC/JROTC	379
Children of Deceased/Disabled Veterans	94

RACIAL/ETHNIC BREAKDOWN

White	855
Hispanic	148
Multiple Races	121
African American (in conjunction with other races)	78 (124)
Asian American (in conjunction with other races)	96 (159)
Declined to Respond	19
Native American	5
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	5
International	15

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS



Midshipmen were admitted from every state in the Nation, as well as the District of Columbia, Guam, and Puerto Rico. The Class of 2024 also includes fifteen international students from: Albania (1), Cameroon (1), Fiji (1), Georgia (2), Jordan (1), Maldives (1), Mongolia (1), Montenegro (2), Peru (1), Philippines (1), Poland (1), Republic of Korea (1), and Sri Lanka (1).

MILITARY BACKGROUND Former Enlisted*



*This figure includes 19 who entered directly from the Fleet (17 Navy, 1 USMC), and 61 from the Naval Academy Prep School (47 USN, 14 USMC).

COMPOSITION

Varsity Athletics	91%
Community Service	90%
Captain/Co-Captain of Sports Team	73%
National Honor Society	67%
Student Body Leader	66%
Dramatics, Public speaking or debating	66%
Church Group	47%
Tutoring	44%
Work Experience (>10 hrs/week)	35%
Musical Activities (Band, Chorus, Etc.)	26%
Primary Language in Home Not English	20%
Boy/Girl Scouts	16%
ROTC/JROTC/Sea Cadets/Civil Air Pat.	15%
First to Attend College in Family	13%
School publication	13%
First Generation American	12%
Hardship or Adverse Life Experience	11%

ALUMNI SONS AND DAUGHTERS



The class of 2024 includes 52 sons and 20 daughters of alumni. Six members of the entering class have both parents who are alumni of the Naval Academy

STANDARDIZED TEST DATA



MIDDLE 50TH PERCENTIAL*

SAT VERBAL	SAT MATH
630-760	620-750
ACT ENGLISH	ACT MATH
27-34	27-34

*50% of the class achieved SAT/ACT scores within the range between the 25th and 75th percentile

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

The Class of 2024 includes 337 (28%) from college and post-high school preparatory programs which include:

- 198** From Naval Academy Prep School in Newport, RI
- 46** From the U.S. Naval Academy Foundation and Civilian Preparatory Programs
- 82** Additional students have completed at least one semester of study at a college or university, and 11 at a post-secondary prep school



VA PACT ACT

PERFORMANCE DASHBOARD

DECEMBER 20, 2023

ISSUE TWENTY-THREE
Published Bi-weekly on Fridays



In this VA PACT Act Performance Dashboard, we are demonstrating our commitment to transparency by sharing with all stakeholders—internal to VA and externally—key performance metrics and data we are using to assess our success in implementing the PACT Act.

If you, a Veteran, family member, or survivor would like more information about the PACT Act and your VA benefits, please start here:



VA.GOV
ask.VA.gov



CALL
1-800-MyVA411
24/7/365



WALK-IN
VA.gov/find-locations/



VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATION
VA.gov/disability/get-help-filing-claim



NEW HEALTH CARE & BENEFITS MAP
[Download Map Here](#)



Help spread the word—download [PACT Act Outreach Materials!](#)



Highlight

We have screened 5 million Veterans for toxic exposures—a critical step to detecting, understanding, and treating potentially life-threatening health conditions. Of the 5 million Veterans who have received the screening, 2.1 million reported at least one potential exposure. The screening takes five to 10 minutes and begins with VA health providers asking Veterans if they believe they experienced any toxic exposures while serving. We encourage Veterans to request a TES at their next VA health care appointment.



Making a Difference Through the PACT Act

Sergeant Major (SGM) Kenneth Erickson, a retired 28-year Veteran of the U.S. Army, was diagnosed with esophageal cancer in May 2023. As a form of gastroesophageal cancer, a cancer established as a presumptive condition under the PACT Act, SGM Erickson was now eligible for service connection. In the rating decision of June 1, 2023, SGM Erickson was rated at 100% for his esophageal cancer, granted special monthly compensation for meeting housebound criteria, and found permanent and total. With this rating decision, the VA can honor SGM Erickson with the care and compensation he earned over a career of selfless service spanning Vietnam to Operation Desert Storm. SGM Erickson encourages all Veterans to consider their military toxic exposure history and pursue VA benefits.

VA IS EXPANDING CARE AND BENEFITS FOR VETERANS AND SURVIVORS



The PACT Act is perhaps the largest health care and benefits expansion in VA history. In this section, we are measuring the overall impact of the PACT Act in terms of its expansion of health care and benefits.

Expanding Benefits



637,421

Total PACT Act Claims Approved
(08/10/2022–12/16/2023)



839,768

Cumulative Total PACT Related Claims Completed
(08/10/2022–12/16/2023)



157.0

Average Days for PACT Act Related Claim Completion
(12/16/2023)



75.9%

Approval Rate for PACT Act Related Claims
(12/16/2023)



44.5%

PACT Act Related Claims Completed <= 125 days
(12/16/2023)

Expanding Care

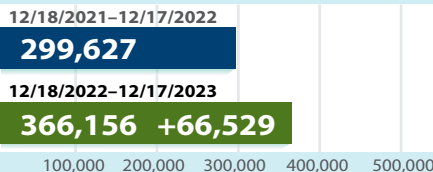


220,141

New Enrollees in the PACT Act Planning Population
(08/10/2022–12/17/2023)



Total New VHA Enrollees: (through 12/17/2023)



91.4%

VA Health Care 90-Day Trust Score
(09/04/2023–12/17/2023)



UPCOMING OUTREACH CALENDAR

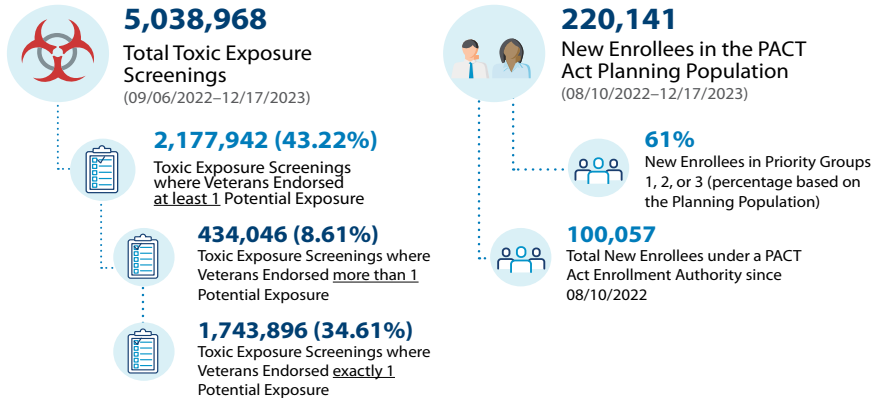
For more information on PACT Act events and other events, please visit <https://www.va.gov/outreach-and-events/events/>.





VA is committed to providing world class and timely health care, benefits and services to Veterans and Survivors. In this section, we measure VA's success in delivering outstanding and timely support and in earning the Veteran's and Survivor's trust.

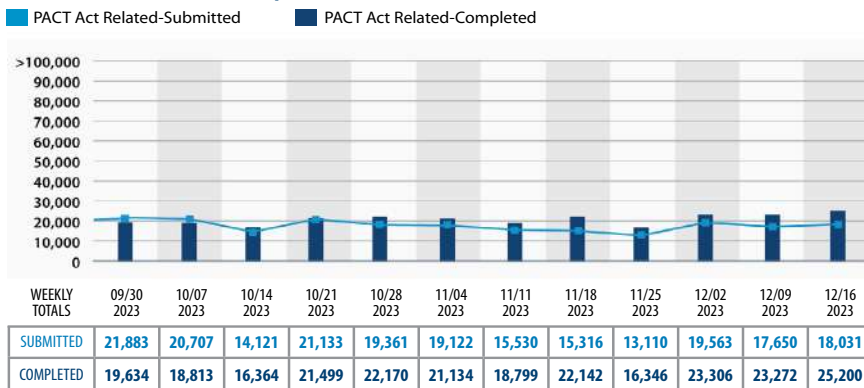
Care Experience



Benefits Experience

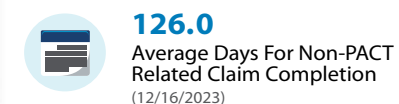
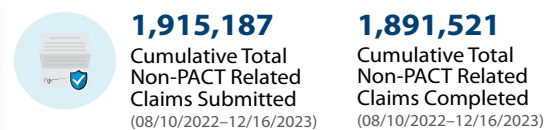
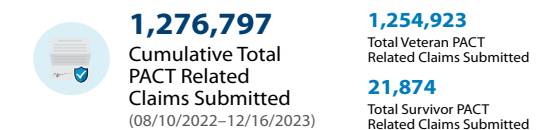
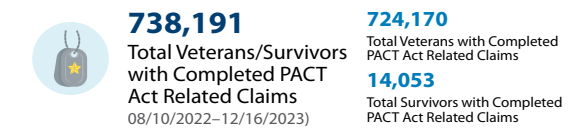
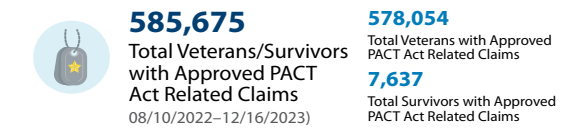
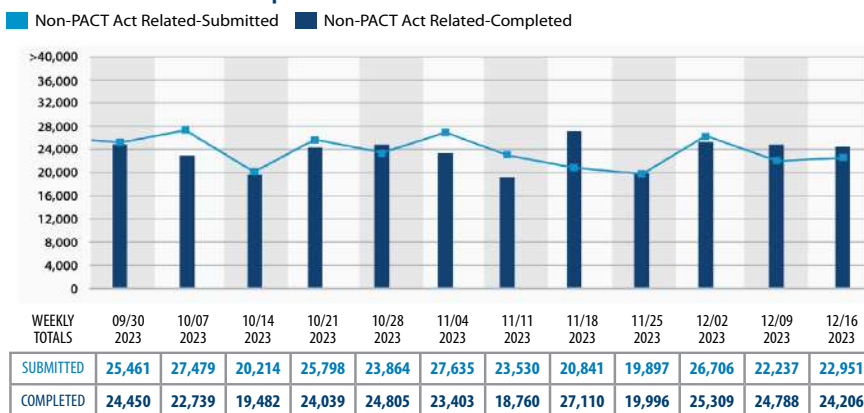
The charts below show the past 12 weeks (a rolling 12-week view).

Claims Submitted and Completed—PACT Act-Related



Percentage of Claims Submitted PACT Related vs. Non-PACT Related
(08/10/2022–12/16/2023)

Claims Submitted and Completed—Non-PACT Act Related



PACT Act Claims Submission Methods



29.8%
PACT Act Claims
Electronically
Submitted
(08/10/2022–12/16/2023)

91.9%
Electronic Claims
Submitted by Veterans

8.1%
Electronic Claims Submitted
by Power of Attorney

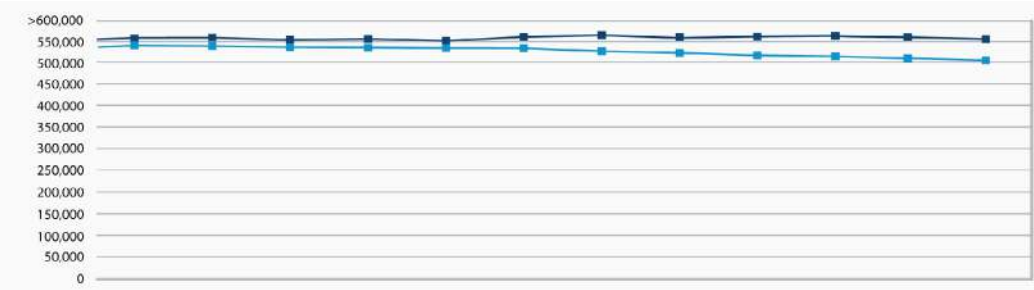


70.2%
PACT Act Claims
Submitted by Mail
(08/10/2022–12/16/2023)

85.5%
Mailed Claims Submitted with a
Power of Attorney on File with VA

Pending Claims—PACT Related and Non-PACT Related

Inventory Pending-PACT Related Inventory Pending-Non-PACT Related



WEEKLY TOTALS	09/30 2023	10/07 2023	10/14 2023	10/21 2023	10/28 2023	11/04 2023	11/11 2023	11/18 2023	11/25 2023	12/02 2023	12/09 2023	12/16 2023
PACT RELATED	538,591	540,485	538,242	537,876	535,067	533,055	529,786	522,960	519,724	515,981	510,359	503,190
NON-PACT RELATED	553,262	558,002	558,734	560,493	559,552	563,784	568,554	562,285	562,186	563,583	561,032	559,777



87,599
Total Pending PACT
Act Related Claims
with Partial Decisions
(as of 12/16/2023)



40,308
Total Pending Non-PACT
Act Related Claims with
Partial Decisions
(as of 12/16/2023)



503,190
Total Pending PACT
Act Related Claims
(as of 12/16/2023)



133.0
Average Days Pending for
PACT Act Related Claims
(12/16/2023)

274,380
Total PACT ACT Related
Claims Pending <=125 Days
(12/16/2023)



559,777
Total Pending Non-PACT
Act Related Claims
(as of 12/16/2023)



102.5
Average Days Pending for
Non-PACT Act Related Claims
(12/16/2023)

410,539
Total Non-PACT Act Related
Claims Pending <=125 Days
(12/16/2023)



Top 5 Most Frequent Conditions on PACT Act Related Claims (As of 12/16/2023)

Condition	Number of Claims	Number of Issues	Percent Granted	Percent Denied
Hypertensive Vascular Disease	231,353	234,682	75%	25%
Allergic Rhinitis	148,706	150,942	81%	19%
Maxillary Sinusitis	72,070	72,636	53%	47%
Bronchial Asthma	66,964	68,176	49%	51%
Malignant Growths of Genitourinary System	37,215	38,179	64%	36%

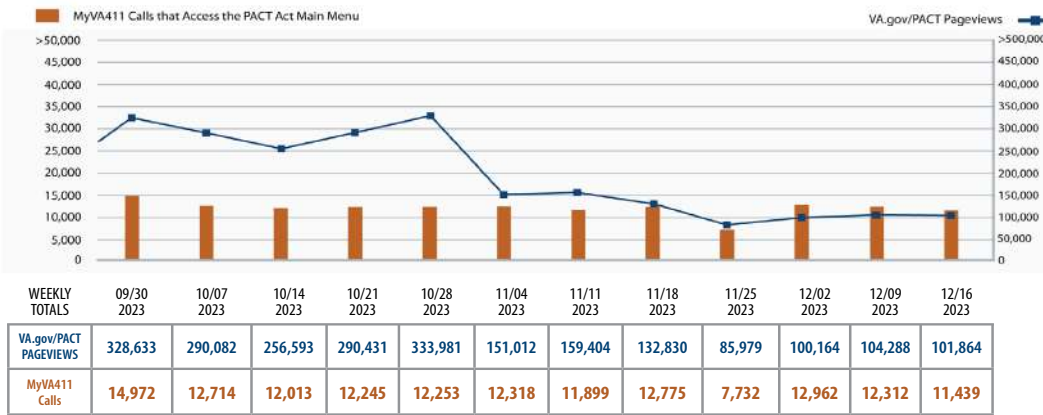


Most Frequent Denial Reasons (as of 12/16/2023)

- 1 No Diagnosis
- 2 Not Incurred or Not Caused by Service
- 3 Not Established by Presumption

Web and Phone Experience

VA.gov/PACT Pageviews & 1-800-MyVA411 Calls that Access the PACT Act Main Menu (Press 8)



The PACT Act webpage has received to date:



22,745,357
Total Page Views
(08/10/2022–12/17/2023)



895,966
Total Clicks on Call to Action to File a Disability Claim Online
(08/10/2022–12/17/2023)



187,255
Total Clicks on Call to Action to Enroll in Health Care
(08/10/2022–12/17/2023)

VA Call Centers



1,050,588

Total MyVA411 that Access the PACT Act Main Menu (Press 8)
(10/20/2022–12/17/2023)

MAIN MENU



247,761

Calls that Access Option 1 to Learn More about PACT Act and Health Care
(10/20/2022–12/17/2023)

OPTION 1



203,693

Calls that Access Option 2 to Learn More about PACT ACT Benefits
(10/20/2022–12/17/2023)

OPTION 2



282,050

Calls that Access Option 3 to Learn More about the PACT Act Overall
(10/20/2022–12/17/2023)

OPTION 3

GEOGRAPHICAL ANALYSIS

Issue 23—December 20, 2023



Starting with Issue 20 (November 10, 2023), State-by-State data and Congressional District data will be available in the Excel spreadsheet at <https://department.va.gov/pactdata/> (this link has been updated from previous issues). This data will be updated on a monthly basis.

FREE LEGAL CLINIC 2024

Legal Clinic offering FREE legal advice to low-income individuals.

Located at the Community Center in the Licking County Public Library

101 W. Main St. Newark, Ohio 43055 2nd Floor of Library

- LIMITED 10-15 MINUTE CONSULTATIONS
- PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED
- ONLY THE PERSON NEEDING ASSISTANCE WILL BE TALKED TO
- BRING ALL DOCUMENTATION AND PAPERWORK RELATED TO THE QUESTION
- ATTORNEYS WILL NOT HELP FILL OUT ANY FORMS

We reserve the right to limit the number of clients Southeastern Ohio Legal Services is the sponsor of this project.

Questions? Call 614-827-0505

FEBRUARY 21

APRIL 17

JUNE 12

AUGUST 21

OCTOBER 16

**Doors Open
3:45pm**

URGENT CARE SERVICES FOR ELIGIBLE VETERANS

VA offers urgent care services to eligible Veterans at VA medical facilities or at in network urgent care clinics.

Use VA's urgent care benefit to treat minor injuries and illnesses that are not life-threatening, such as colds, strep throat, sprained muscles, and skin and ear infections. To make sure you have a smooth experience, please review the information on this page to understand the requirements and limitations associated with this benefit.

To access an in-network urgent care provider, you must:

To be eligible for urgent care, Veterans must:

- Be enrolled in the VA health care system AND
- Have received care through VA from either a VA or community provider within the past 24 months
- You MUST go to an in-network urgent care provider.
- Pay a VA copayment (If applicable) after the visit, which is billed separately by VA.
- **IMPORTANT:** VA can only pay for urgent care if the provider is part of the VA contracted network. Veterans may be required to pay the full cost of care if they go to an out-of-network urgent care provider. By law, VA cannot pay claims for urgent care rendered to a Veteran from providers that are not part of the VA contracted network.

Covered Services:

The urgent care benefit covers services provided by urgent care centers and walk-in retail health clinics such as:

- Colds, minor injuries, skin and ear infections, pink eye, strep throat, and more.
- Diagnostic services like X-rays, some lab testing and some medications (with limitations).
- Therapeutic vaccines when these are required for the treatment of certain covered conditions.

IMPORTANT: Urgent Care is Not a Replacement for Preventive or Emergency Care

Veterans should work with their primary care provider for this type of care. While urgent care is a convenient benefit for nonemergent symptoms, Veterans should always consider talking with or seeing their primary care provider if they are concerned the urgent care location will not understand the complexities of their medical history or medications.

Veterans should remember the following when considering urgent care:

- When in doubt about your health condition or symptoms, Veterans should always seek a higher level of care, such as care from an emergency department. This is because they may have symptoms related to a serious health condition that an urgent care provider may not be able to adequately address.
- If Veterans have a medical emergency, they should immediately seek care at the nearest emergency room. A medical emergency is an injury, illness, or symptom so severe that a prudent layperson reasonably believes that delay in seeking immediate medical attention would be hazardous to life or health.
- If you believe your life or health is in danger, call 911 or go to the nearest emergency department immediately.

Difference Between Urgent and Emergency Care:

Urgent Care: Urgent care consists of medical services provided for minor illnesses or injuries that are not life-threatening such as strep throat, pink eye, or influenza.

Emergency Care: Emergency care is inpatient or outpatient hospital services that are necessary to prevent death or serious impairment of health such as severe chest pain; seizures or loss of awareness; heavy uncontrollable bleeding; or moderate to severe burns.

To Find an in-network pharmacy: You must visit an in-network pharmacy location in the same CCN region as your urgent care community provider to avoid any issues filling your urgent care prescription.

In-Network Urgent Cares:

Minute Clinic inside CVS: 955 N 21st Street Newark OH 43055 | (866)389-2727

Family Urgent Care: 607 Hebron Rd, Heath OH 43056 | (740)788 -8166

Wedgewood Urgent Care: 1906 Tamarack Rd Newark, OH 43055 | (740) 522-0222
Licking Memorial Urgent Care – Downtown Newark : 20 West Locust St. Newark, OH 43055 | (220) 564-7700
Licking Memorial Urgent Care – Granville: 14 Westgate Drive Newark, OH 43055 | (220) 564-7500
Licking Memorial Urgent Care – Pataskala: 1 Healthy Place Pataskala, OH 43062 | (220) 564-7600 OR (740)964-7600
Minute Clinic inside CVS : 8910 Broad St. SW Pataskala, OH 43062 | (866) 389-2727

In-Network Emergency Care :

Licking Memorial Hospital: 1320 West Main Street, Newark OH 43055 | (220)564 -4000
Mount Carmel New Albany: 7333 Smiths Mill Rd, New Albany OH 43053 | (614) 775-6600
Genesis Healthcare System: 2951 Maple Ave, Zanesville OH 43701 | (740)586-6725
Knox Community Hospital: 1330 Coshocton Ave, Mount Vernon OH 43050 | (740) 393-9000
Genesis Perry County Medical Center: 301 Mike Clouse Dr. Somerset, OH 43783 | (740) 743-3800
Mount Carmel Medical Center: 2300 State Route 256 Reynoldsburg, OH 43068 | (614) 234-1400

These update frequently to ensure a facility is still in network always refer to: <https://www.va.gov/find-locations/> Full details regarding urgent care can be found at: https://www.va.gov/COMMUNITYCARE/programs/veterans/Urgent_Care.asp

Last Updated 9/30/2023

To Find an in-network pharmacy:

You must visit an in-network pharmacy location in the same CCN region as your urgent care community provider to avoid any issues filling your urgent care prescription.

VA COMMUNITY BASED OUT-PATIENT CLINIC

TEAM A - DR. VERDE

Kim L. RN: 614-257-5918
Johnnie LPN: 614-257-5911
Michelle MSA: 614-257-5902

TEAM B - DR. ROBYN

Jennifer RN: 614-257-5938
Janice LPN: 614-257-5908
Kaitlyn MSA: 614-257-5200 X 52970

TEAM C - DR. ABRO

Netti RN: 614-257-5912
April LPN: 614-257-5200 x 52664
Kim MSA: 614-257-5901

TEAM D - DR. KNIGHT

Ellen RN: 740-788-1600
Daphne LPN: 740-788-1614
Pam MSA: 614-257-5904

Newark VA CBOC Teams, Names, and Telephone Numbers

If you have a medical need or question, please contact your Team RN or LPN.

Audiology, Mental Health, Optometry, Pharmacy

Josh MSA: 614-257-5907

**If you have mental health questions, please call 614-257-5917
OR 614-257-5934**

Veteran's Crisis Hotline 1-800-273-8255

**If there is a Mental Health
Emergency Call or Text Message
the National Suicide and Crisis
Lifeline at 988**

Thank you for your patience. We are here to care for you. Sue Gibson, MS, BSN, RN Newark CBOC Clinic Nurse Manager

HOMELESSNESS AMONG VETERANS JUMPS MORE THAN 7%

The number of homeless veterans rose more than 7% from 2022 to 2023, the largest such yearly jump since federal officials launched a nationwide focus on the problem more than a decade ago.

According to data released by the Department of Housing and Urban Development on Friday, officials saw an increase of more than 2,400 veterans without stable housing during their annual point-in-time count conducted last January. That put the total number of veterans experiencing homelessness that night in cities across America at 35,574. Advocates for homeless veterans have noted that the actual number of veterans dealing with housing issues is likely even higher, given the limitations of the single-night survey.

The increase in homeless veterans, meanwhile, was less severe than the rise in homelessness in the general population (12%) and is still 4.5% below veteran levels reported in 2020. The 35,574 estimate is also less than half the 74,000 estimate in 2010, when the White House and Department of Veterans Affairs launched a series of high-profile initiatives targeting the problem. But the point-in-time count took place several months before the expiration of pandemic programs offering extra assistance to veterans facing financial hardships, a move that advocates have warned may have driven up homelessness totals even further in the last half-year. In a statement, VA Secretary Denis McDonough announced the White House plans to increase a pair of grant programs designed to prevent housing issues among veterans.

“One veteran experiencing homelessness will always be one too many, and we will do everything in our power to ensure that veterans get the safe, stable housing that they deserve,” he said. “These new grants are a critical part of that effort, empowering VA and our partners to provide more housing and wraparound services to more homeless and at-risk veterans than ever before.”

Last month, VA leaders announced that for the second year in a row they had met their goal of permanently housing 38,000 veterans facing financial problems and uncertain shelter options. However, those efforts in 2022 were not enough to help reduce the national numbers.

VA and HUD officials said they are still researching the reasons for the increase, including the rising cost of housing in communities across the country and the end of COVID-related support programs. Earlier this week, HUD leaders announced the number of grants to homeless service organizations rose 15% from the end of 2022 to the end 2023. That translates into more than 330,000 individuals who sought assistance.

In a statement, officials from the National Coalition of Homeless Veterans called the new homelessness report disappointing but not surprising.

“These numbers reflect what many have long known, we are facing a crisis of housing affordability,” they said. “NCHV, our members across the country, and our national partners have long sounded the alarm regarding the seriousness of this crisis and the need for further and deeper federal investment in solutions.

“The administration and Congress should heed continued warnings that a lack of investment and programmatic change will continue to be disastrous for veterans facing housing instability. Congress must restore expired pandemic-era legislative provisions to improve veteran access to both transitional housing and supportive services.”

Veterans seeking help with homelessness or related financial problems can call 877-424-3838 for help.

December 15, 2023

Leo Shane III

<https://www.militarytimes.com/veterans/2023/12/15/homelessness-among-veterans-jumps-more-than-7/>

UPDATE ON VA HOME LOANS

Helping Veterans and their families stay in their homes is a top priority at VA.

Over the past year, we've been able to help more than 145,000 Veterans and their families retain their homes and avoid foreclosure. Even in the dynamic housing market of the last several years, rates of foreclosures of VA-backed mortgages are among the lowest in the country. And at the same time, we know that there are still Veterans struggling to make their payments.

To ensure these Veterans can stay in their homes, we are taking two steps:

1. We are calling on mortgage servicers to pause foreclosures of VA-guaranteed loans through May 31, 2024. During this pause we will work with servicers on workable home retention solutions for Veterans; and
2. We are extending the COVID-19 Refund Modification program through May 31, 2024. This extension will allow Veterans to obtain a zero-interest, deferred-payment loan from VA to cover missed payments and modify their existing VA-guaranteed loan to achieve affordable monthly payments for the duration of this extension.

By pausing foreclosures and extending the COVID-19 Refund Modification program, we can continue assisting Veterans with their loans while we launch our newest home retention option, the VA Servicing Purchase (VASP) program. Through VASP, VA will purchase defaulted VA loans from mortgage servicers, modify the loans, and then place them in the VA-owned portfolio as direct loans. This will empower us to work with Veterans experiencing severe financial hardship to adjust their loans – and their monthly payments – so they can keep their homes.

We want every Veteran with a loan to know that VA is here to help – and we encourage any Veteran who is struggling with making their payments to visit us at www.va.gov/housing-assistance or call us at 877-827-3702. We have loan technicians working with Veterans to help them stay in their homes, including discussing available home retention options such as repayment plans, special forbearance, loan modification, and more. And we will continue to actively review our portfolio of loans and work with loan servicers to do everything in our power to keep all Veterans and survivors with a VA-guaranteed mortgage in their homes.

<https://news.va.gov/press-room/va-calls-on-mortgage-servicers-to-pause-foreclosures-of-va-guaranteed-loans-through-may-31-2024/>

VA PENSION DEBT NOTIFICATION

VA provides pension payments to wartime Veterans of low income and their survivors.

These payments are based on income level, which is self-reported by the Veteran or family member who receives the payments. In addition to this self-reporting, VA has traditionally verified the recipients' self-reported income using data matching.

Between 2011 and 2022, due to discrepancies in data matching, VA was unable to reliably verify the self-reported social security income of Veterans and survivors receiving pensions. When income verification resumed in July 2022, roughly 9,900 beneficiaries were determined to have higher income levels than self-reported. This resulted in VA pension overpayments which – in some cases – spanned many years.

As legally required, VA established debts for these Veterans and survivors – meaning that VA determined that the amount of the overpayments was due back to VA. There are also approximately 30,000 additional Veterans and survivors who may have pension debts that have not yet been established. Many of these Veterans and survivors are elderly, and all are low-income, so these debts represent a significant hardship.

Recognizing the hardship and distress that these pension debts may cause, VA has paused the collection of all established pension debts and the establishment of new pension debts while we determine the path forward. Because this is a particularly vulnerable population of Veterans and survivors, VA is pursuing all available options to provide as much pension debt relief as possible. We will be reaching out directly to affected Veterans and survivors to let them know that pension debt collection has been paused while we pursue options for relief – and we will keep them updated throughout every step of this process. Additionally, to prevent issues like this from happening in the future, VA will be conducting a review to understand why the data discrepancies occurred and why it took so long to address.

We apologize to affected Veterans and their survivors for any distress that these pension debt notifications may have caused. For questions about debt management, we encourage these Veterans and survivors to visit our debt management website or call us at 800-827-0648.

VSO Liaison
Department of Veteran Affairs
Veterans Benefits Administration
Office of the Under Secretary for Benefits
1800 G Street, NW,
Washington, DC. 20006



PBJ CONNECTIONS WELLNESS SERIES

Veterans & Horses

OPEN TO VETERANS & FIRST RESPONDERS
LOOKING TO VOLUNTEER WITH HORSES
AND CONNECT WITH EACH OTHER.

The purpose of this group is to promote community and healing through horses. We will meet on Friday evenings for 90 minutes for activities with horses, volunteering on the farm and community building.
No horse experience is required.
This group does not include horseback riding.

Facilitated by Eagala Military Services
Provider, Anissa Kasarjian, MSW, LISW.

THIS GROUP IS OFFERED AT NO
COST TO PARTICIPANTS.

DONATIONS TO CONTINUE THE
GROUP ARE WELCOME.

2nd & 4th Fridays
17:30 - 19:00
5:30 - 7:00 PM

PBJ Connections
9800 Jug St NW,
Pataskala, OH 43062

RSVP & Confirm Dates
Info@pbjconnections.org
740.924.7543



VA FREE LEGAL ADVICE CLINIC



VETERANS— DO YOU HAVE LEGAL QUESTIONS?

VOLUNTEER ATTORNEYS ARE AVAILABLE TO ANSWER LEGAL QUESTIONS OR IDENTIFY RESOURCES FOR ISSUES RELATED TO:

- LANDLORD-TENANT (Conditions, Security Deposits, Escrow, Evictions)
- PUBLIC BENEFITS (Medicaid, Unemployment, VA Benefits, Food Stamps)
- CONSUMER DEBT (Bankruptcy, Lawsuits, etc.)
- “EXPUNGEMENT” (Record Sealing, Certificates of Qualification for Employment)
- FAMILY CONCERNS (Divorce, Custody, Child Support)
- WILLS, PROPERTY TRANSFERS, POWERS OF ATTORNEY

1st Wednesday of each Month
9:30-11:00 AM
Newark CBOC

*To receive free advice, you must have a gross household income at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level or be age 60+.

- Please be prepared to show proof of immigration status (if a non-citizen).
- Attorneys are available to answer questions only. They will not attend court with you unless your case is referred to LASC or SEOLS after the clinic.
- If you have any upcoming court deadlines, you should contact Legal Aid Intake at 614-241-2001 (Franklin County) or [844-302-1800](tel:844-302-1800) (outside Franklin County)
- We cannot give advice on criminal matters. If you have an open criminal or traffic, please contact your local public defender or court.

U.S. ARMY COMBAT ARTIST PROGRAM

History of the U.S. Army Combat Artist Program

The Army's official interest in art originated in World War I when eight artists were commissioned as captains in the Corps of Engineers and were sent to Europe to record the activities of the American Expeditionary Forces. At the end of the war most of the team's artwork went to the Smithsonian Institution, which at that time was the custodian of Army historical property and art.

There was no Army program for acquiring art during the interwar years, but with the advent of World War II the Corps of Engineers, drawing on its World War I experience, established a War Art Unit in late 1942. The War Art Advisory Committee, a select group of civilian art experts, nominated military and civilian artists to serve in the unit. By the spring of 1943 the committee had selected 42 artists: 23 active-duty military and 19 civilians. The first artists were sent to the Pacific Theater, but in May 1943 Congress withdrew funding from the program and the War Art Unit was inactivated. The Army assigned the military artists to other units and released the civilians.

The effort to create a visual record of the American military experience in World War II was then taken up by the private sector in two different programs, one by Life magazine and one by Abbott Laboratories, a large medical supply company. When Life offered to employ civilian artists as war correspondents, the War Department agreed to provide them the same support already being given to print and film correspondents. Seventeen of nineteen civilian artists who had been selected by the War Art Committee joined Life as war correspondents. Abbott, in coordination with the Army's Office of the Surgeon General, commissioned twelve artists to record the work of the Army Medical Corps. These two programs resulted in a wide range of work by distinguished artists who had the opportunity to observe the war firsthand.

By the end of World War II, the Army had acquired over 2,000 pieces of art. In June 1945 the Army established a Historical Properties Section to maintain and exhibit this collection, thus creating the nucleus of today's Army art Collection. The collection today is comprised of over 12,000 works of art. The Army Staff Artist Program was assigned to the U.S. Army Center of Military History, Museum Division in 1992 and where it has been established as a permanent part of the Museum Division's Collections Branch.

<https://history.army.mil/museums/armyartists/index.html>



CEDAR HILL CEMETERY Veterans Section 25



SWISS STEAK WITH TOMATO SOUP

INGREDIENTS

- Beef, Swiss Steak, Lean, Raw, Thawed 37-1/2 lbs
- Oil, Salad 3 cup
- Soup, Condensed, Tomato 1 gal 1-5/8 qts
- Water 2 qts 3 cup
- Salt 1 tbsp
- Pepper, Black, Ground 2 tbsp
- Garlic Powder 1/4 tsp
- Onion, Fresh, Chopped 2 qts 1 cup
- Peppers, Green, Fresh, Chopped 1 qts 2 cup

DIRECTIONS

1. Brown steaks on a 325 F. well greased griddle.
2. Overlap steaks in roasting pans
3. Mix tomato soup with water.
4. Add salt, pepper, garlic, onions and sweet peppers to tomato soup. Stir to mix well. Heat to boiling.
5. Pour about 6-1/4 quarts sauce over steaks in each pan. Cover.
6. Using a convection oven, bake 2 hours at 325 F. on high fan, closed vent or until steaks are tender. CCP: Internal temperature must reach 145 F. or higher for 15 seconds. Skim off excess fat. Remove steaks to steam table roasting pans. Place sauce in steam-jacketed kettle or stock pot. Heat to boiling.
7. Pour 8-1/2 cups sauce over steaks in each pan. CCP: Hold for service at 140 F. or higher.



Yield 100 Portion 7-1/2 Ounces

CALORIES	CARBOHYDRATES	PROTEIN	FAT	CHOLESTEROL	SODIUM	CALCIUM
339 cal	9 g	37 g	17 g	108 mg	489 mg	17 mg

www.marines.mil/Portals/1/Publications/MCO%20P10110.42B.pdf

H E N I R A M B U S V L G M A X S E R G E A N T
K T S E G K U W I C T U D K E D P G I F D M O K
Q O M V A R M A Q N I D I W A R X A B G U Y Q K
D S Z C X H H V S H H S W Y O N D D Y N B U B T
R V T L Q Z R L A A H E A Y X H K M S Y P V Q F
T V P B G C T U K N A T I B B P U I Q T S R Z P
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B D P A N O Z Z M A W F P H Y Q E H E X M F M Z

MILITARY

Troopcarrier
Antiaircraft
Midshipmen
Coastguard
Destroyer
Submarine
Halftrack

Chiefmate
Admiral
Sergeant
Bootcamp
Airforce
General
Private

Captain
Combat
Marine
Basic
Tank
Navy
Army



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VA Survivors Pension | Burial Benefits
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Transportation | Grave Markers
Homeless Prevention | **AND MORE**

Now serving two locations!

NEWARK LOCATION

935 Buckeye Avenue
Newark, OH 43055

O 740-670-5430

F 740-670-5434

lcvsc@lickingcounty.gov

Hours: 8am-4pm | Mon - Fri

PATASKALA LOCATION

310 Township Road
Pataskala, OH 43062

O 740-670-5430

F 740-670-5434

lcvsc@lickingcounty.gov

Service Office Adam Reed will be on site Tuesday and Wednesday of each week from 8am until 4pm



Scan your location
and conveniently
save our contact in
your phone.



OFFICE
740-670-5430
TRANSPORTATION
740-345-0353