

MILITARY & VETERANS AFFAIRS FACT SHEET



About MVAO

The Military and Veterans Affairs Office (MVAO) serves the **23,000** Veterans, servicemembers, families, and Survivors of Monterey and San Benito Counties. Our services include advocacy, education, outreach, and benefit claims for State and Federal Department of Veterans Affairs programs and entitlements. MVAO is the only organization in Monterey and San Benito Counties accredited by the Dept. of Veterans Affairs.

MVAO Locations

We provide in-person and remote appointments, and also have select walk-in hours from 4 locations:

- ▶ **Peninsula Office** - County Coastal Office Building, 2620 1st Avenue
- ▶ **Marina** - MG Gourley VA Outpatient Clinic, 201 9th Street
- ▶ **Salinas** - One Stop Community Center, 730 La Guardia Street, Suite 119
- ▶ **Hollister/San Benito Co** - Veterans Memorial Building, 649 San Benito Street

Assisting Veterans' Survivors

The County of Monterey Veterans Affairs Office (MVAO) supports veterans, their families, and survivors with a range of benefits. These include survivors' and widow's benefits, burial and cemetery benefits, and aid and attendance for veterans, their survivors, and families. MVAO also assists with veteran and dependent education benefits, as well as veteran status designation on California driver's licenses.

FY 2023-2024 Accomplishments



MVAO responded to **6,271** phone calls or email requests, served **2,991** unique Veterans or servicemembers through **4,336** appointments, and filed **5,770** benefit claims. The office secured **1,865** Department of Veterans Affairs Compensation Awards, totaling **\$6.3 million** in retroactive payments and **\$13.4 million** in recurring monthly compensation. Additionally, **270** California College Tuition Fee Waivers were processed, saving Veterans over **\$1.9 million** in tuition costs.



Benefits Support

MVAO provides or assists with a range of benefits, including comprehensive benefits counseling, claims preparation and submission, and follow-up to ensure final decisions are fully adjudicated. The organization also initiates and develops appeals and engages in networking and advocacy with federal, state, and local agencies.



Information & Referral Services


We offer information and referrals for various services, such as public assistance benefit programs, Veterans Affairs medical and health care, and homeless or at-risk assistance programs. Additionally, we assist with Service Treatment Records requests for claim processing, certification of discharge papers (DD-214), and support for Veterans Treatment Court and Military Diversion Court.




Assistance with Benefits Filing

MVAO provides assistance with filing for various benefits, covering VA Disability Compensation for service-related injuries or diseases, reopening compensation claims for increases or re-evaluation, and nonservice-connected pensions for war-era Veterans. We also handle requests for State Veterans Homes of California, military records and decorations, discharge upgrades and corrections, vocational rehabilitation, and VA home loan guarantee eligibility. Furthermore, our services extend to VA and California State education benefits, disability life insurance and premium waivers, payment of VA life insurance proceeds, medical and dental care at VA facilities, and Cal-Vet Home Loans.

Military & Veterans Affairs Contact:

 Main Office:
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