

**Kings County
Military and Veterans Coalition
January 10, 2023 - 2pm PST**

Zoom Meeting Agenda

Meeting ID: 990 6902 3992 Pass Code: 430175

Join by Telephone

US: +1 669 900 6833 or +1 253 215 8782 or +1 346 248 7799 or +1 646 876 9923 or +1 301 715 8592 or +1 312 626 6799

Introductions

Previous Items

- **Veterans Service Office Status – M-F, 8am – 5pm**
 - **Lobby Hours:**
 - **M/W - 8:30 am -11:30 am and T/Th - 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm; All other times are for appointments**
 - *We are however, still serving clients via phone, email and internet conferencing applications. Certain questions may be answered by support staff, without having to speak with a VSR. Feel free to call anytime to ask for assistance. The Kings County Veterans Service Office can still complete the DMV Veteran Status Verification Form (VSD-001) for the Veteran Designation on your California driver's license/ID Card. We are no longer issuing the locally-generated Veteran I.D. cards.*
 - Kevin Renner, Senior VSR, has retired. Alex Nava is our new Senior VSR.

- **Kings County Veterans Support Group– (See Attached)**

Guest Presenter:

**Jorge L. Altamirano, Veterans Outreach Program Specialist,
Fresno Veterans Center**

New Items

- **NASL Career Expo – (See Attached)**
- **PACT Act Claims Processing – (See Attached)**
- **Cup of Joe/Conversation with Veterans – (See Attached)**
- **Transition Sponsor Training – (See Attached)**

Round Table –

Next Meeting – February 14, 2023 – Location: Zoom Meeting



Kings County Veteran's Support Group

It's our turn to serve those who serve on our behalf!



Veteran's Support Group

Meets the 2nd & 4th Tuesday
of the month via Zoom & in person

Time: 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

For Zoom link/meeting info call (559) 852-2444

Seating is limited, so please call to reserve your seat.



Due to the nature of the group, we can only allow
adults to participate.



460 Kings County Drive Suite 101
Hanford, CA 93230

**LOCATION:
SPUDS**

JOIN US!

Fleet and Family Support Center Presents:

NAS Lemoore
**CAREER
EXPO
2023**

**AVAILABLE TO:
ACTIVE DUTY
MILITARY SPOUSES
DEPENDENTS
RETIRED VETERANS**

2pm-6pm
26TH
January 2023
AT:SPUDS
870 Franklin Ave.

For more information please call Fleet and Family: **559-998-4042**

 (619)323-8264

 korrin.cox.ctr@navy.mil

VAU.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

News Release

Office of Public Affairs
Media RelationsWashington, DC 20420
(202) 461-7600
www.va.govFOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Dec. 29, 2022

VA will begin processing PACT Act benefits claims for all Veterans and survivors on Jan. 1

WASHINGTON — On Jan. 1, 2023, the Department of Veterans Affairs will begin processing PACT Act benefit claims for all Veterans and their survivors.

The PACT Act is the most significant expansion of Veteran benefits and care in more than three decades, empowering VA to help millions of toxic exposed Veterans and their survivors. Since President Biden signed the PACT Act into law Aug. 10, more than 213,000 PACT Act-related claims for benefits have been submitted. Additionally, more than 959,000 Veterans have received VA's new [toxic exposure screenings](#), with nearly 39% reporting a concern of exposure.

"The PACT Act is the least we can do for the countless men and women... who suffered toxic exposure while serving their country," said **President Biden** during the PACT Act bill signing ceremony. "It means access to life insurance, home loan insurance, tuition benefits, and help with healthcare. It means new facilities, improved care, more research, and increased hiring and retention of healthcare workers treating Veterans."

From the moment the PACT Act was signed into law, VA's priority has been getting Veterans the benefits they deserve as quickly as possible. VA sped up the timeline for many Veterans to get their PACT Act benefits by several years by deciding not to phase in PACT Act benefits through 2026, as written into the legislation, and instead make all new PACT Act presumptions of exposure and service connection applicable Aug. 10. January 1 is the earliest date that VA will have both the authorities and capabilities necessary to fully process all PACT Act claims.

"We at VA are ready to process these claims and deliver PACT Act-related care and benefits to toxic exposed Veterans and their survivors," said **VA Secretary Denis McDonough**. "To all Veterans and survivors: don't wait, apply now – we will get you the care and benefits you deserve."

"Right now, VA is delivering more benefits, more quickly, to more Veterans than ever before – and we are ready to deliver PACT Act benefits to all Veterans starting January 1," said **Josh Jacobs, senior advisor for policy, who is currently performing the delegable duties of the Under Secretary for Benefits**.

To prepare for the influx of PACT Act claims, the Veterans Benefits Administration has been aggressively hiring and training [Veterans service representatives](#), [rating Veterans service representatives](#) and [legal administrative specialists](#) around the nation. Over the past two years, VA has hired more than 2700 individuals to help process Veteran claims. As a result of these efforts, VA is processing Veteran benefits claims at the fastest rate in VA history: in 2022, VA completed more than [1.7 million VA disability and pension claims](#) for Veterans, an all-time VA record that broke the previous year's record by 12%.

While VA did not have the capabilities to begin fully processing PACT Act claims for all Veterans until Jan. 1, 2023, VA was [able to expedite processing for terminally ill Veterans beginning Dec. 12](#). VA continues to prioritize processing claims for terminally ill Veterans, [Veterans with toxic exposure-related cancers](#), Veterans experiencing homelessness, Veterans older than 85 years old, Veterans experiencing financial hardship, and Medal of Honor and Purple Heart recipients. In most cases, if a Veteran files a claim within the first year after the President signed the bill, the effective date for benefits will be Aug. 10, 2022.

VA is currently executing the [largest Veteran outreach campaign in its history](#) to inform Veterans, their families and survivors about the PACT Act and encourage them to apply for the health care and benefits they have earned. As a part of that effort, VA hosted a [PACT Act Week of Action](#) between Dec. 10 and Dec. 17, during which the Department hosted more than [120 events](#) across all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico.

For more information about PACT Act and how to file a claim, visit va.gov/PACT. If Veterans, their families, caregivers, or survivors have questions about PACT Act and wish to speak with someone to help, they may call 1-800-MyVA411 at any time.

###



Kings County Library



veterans
connect@
the library



**Kings County Library
Veterans Resource Center
invites you to**

A Cup of Joe & Conversation with Veterans

at the Corcoran Library

**Bring in 2023! Join us for some coffee,
donuts,
and camaraderie!**

This event will be held on Saturday January 14, 2023

Time: 9:30am – 11:30am

Location: Corcoran Branch Library (1001-A Chittenden Avenue)

This event is free to all veterans and their families.

To RSVP, contact Richard Perez at 559.413.7412, or email kcl.vrc@gmail.com.

You can also stop by the Corcoran Branch Library to sign-up or call 559.992-3314

www.kingscountylibrary.org/veterans-resources

Follow us on Facebook: @kcl.vrc





VOLUNTEER TODAY

INTERESTED IN ASSISTING A TRANSITIONING SERVICE MEMBER?

Join our team of ETS Sponsors and have a significant impact upon a transitioning Service Member and their family.



CERTIFY

Enroll online by visiting our website at <https://etssponsorship.com/>. Complete the necessary certification training.



CONNECT

You will be matched with a transitioning Service Member.



SUPPORT

Assist your sponsored Service Member with identified goals as they transition to the community.

UPCOMING TRAINING

In-Person and Virtual
Options to Attend

Thursday
January 26, 2023
9:00 AM-3:00 PM

VetStarts
301 S Center St
Arlington, TX 76010

[REGISTER HERE](#)



<https://ETSSPJan26.eventbrite.com>

ETS-SP CONTACT:

Danielle Bracco
danielle@etssponsorship.com

TRAINING CONTACT:

Vanessa Hentz
Vanessa.Hentz@va.gov

TRAINING PROVIDED BY:



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Health Administration
VISN 2 MIRECC & VISN 17 Center of Excellence
Transitioning Servicemember/Veteran
And Suicide Prevention Center (TASC)