

Eligible Wartime Periods

Updated: 02/26/2021

Under current law, VA recognizes the following wartime periods to determine eligibility for VA Pension benefits:

- Mexican Border Period (**May 9, 1916 – April 5, 1917** for Veterans who served in Mexico, on its borders, or adjacent waters)
- World War I (**April 6, 1917 – November 11, 1918**)
- World War II (**December 7, 1941 – December 31, 1946**)
- Korean conflict (**June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955**)
- Vietnam era (**November 1, 1955 – May 7, 1975** for Veterans who served in the Republic of Vietnam during that period; **otherwise August 5, 1964 – May 7, 1975**)
- Gulf War (**August 2, 1990** – through a future date to be set by law or Presidential Proclamation)

Blue Water Veterans (**Jan 9, 1962 – May 7, 1972**) for veterans who served on a Navy or Coast Guard ship that operated not more than 12 nautical miles from the demarcation line of the waters of Vietnam and Cambodia

DPRIS Periods

- Navy: January 1, 1995
- USMC: January 1, 1999
- Army: October 1, 2002
- Airforce: October 1, 2004

NPRC Fire Dates

July 12, 1973, a fire at the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) in St. Louis destroyed approximately 80 Percent of the records NPRC held for Veterans who were discharged from the Army between

- November 1, 1912 to January 1, 1960.

75 percent of the records NPRC held for Air Force Veterans:

- With surnames beginning (alphabetically) with *Hubbard* and running through the end of the alphabet, and who were discharged between
- September 25, 1947, to January 1, 1964