

## DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS



The VA seal features five key elements. The primary element is the bald eagle, the official symbol of the United States since 1789. The mature eagle is a powerful representation of the United States symbolizing both the American people and the freedoms they enjoy. The circle of five stars above the eagle represent the five branches of the U.S. military; Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps and Coast Guard, which produce the Veterans VA serves.

The two flags in the eagle's talons symbolize America's history from the thirteen colonies to the present fifty states. A golden cord symbolic of those Americans who have fallen in service to their country binds the flags. The cord is also held by the eagle to perpetuate the memory of those veterans who have sacrificed for the nation. The seal's colors are derived from the American flag and the natural colors of the earth, representing the Nation's commitment to its veterans.

### ADMINISTRATIONS WITHIN VETERANS AFFAIRS

The Department of Veterans Affairs is composed of three administrations.

- Veterans Health Administration
- Veterans Benefits Administration
- National Cemetery Administration

### BRANCHES OF THE MILITARY

Branch	Responsibility
Army	As the oldest branch of the Military, the Army protects the security of the United States and its resources.
Marine Corps	Working closely with the Navy, the Marine Corps is often first on the ground in combat situations.
Navy	The Navy defends the right to travel and trade freely on the world's oceans and protects national interests overseas.
Air Force	The Air Force protects American interests at home and abroad with a focus on air power.
Coast Guard	The Coast Guard is a military, multi-mission, maritime service within the Department of Homeland Security. Its core roles are to protect the public, the environment and U.S. economic and security interests in any maritime region, including international waters and America's coasts, ports and inland waterways.

SEALS OF THE MILITARY BRANCHES

