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| |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | Vietnam Veteran News | | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | | |  | | --- | |  | | | | |  | | --- | | Disability benefits for tinnitus, mental health may change | | | |  | | --- | | Proposed changes to the VA disability ratings system will mean lower payouts for veterans with sleep apnea and tinnitus in the future but higher payouts for veterans facing mental health challenges like post-traumatic stress disorder and depression.    The changes are part of a months-long review of the department’s [Schedule for Rating Disabilities](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDAsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMjAyMTcuNTM1NTExMjEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy52YS5nb3Yvb3BhL3ByZXNzcmVsL3ByZXNzcmVsZWFzZS5jZm0_aWQ9NTc2NCJ9.X13_ml3c2ve2WXuZRXXRp_Byck_4-_jkd77FbfrlWfI/s/1018038920/br/126759185916-l), which governs how VA staffers evaluate and compensate veterans with service-connected injuries.    In a statement, Thomas Murphy, acting VA undersecretary for benefits, said the goal of the work was not to reduce or increase the number of veterans receiving disability benefits but instead to ensure that “veterans receive decisions based on the most current medical knowledge relating to their condition.”    For veterans currently receiving those payouts, the changes will not take away any existing benefits or lower their disability rating. They could see their ratings increased based on the changes, if the new rules end up more advantageous to their health situation.    But veterans who apply for benefits in the future will see a different set of standards applied to their cases than their older peers, and that could have significant financial ramifications for those individuals.    Read more in [Military Times](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDEsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMjAyMTcuNTM1NTExMjEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy5taWxpdGFyeXRpbWVzLmNvbS92ZXRlcmFucy8yMDIyLzAyLzE1L3ZldHMtZGlzYWJpbGl0eS1iZW5lZml0cy1mb3ItdGlubml0dXMtbWVudGFsLWhlYWx0aC1pc3N1ZXMtbWF5LWNoYW5nZS8ifQ.GPpaGB9Fr9ftm7J_C463WLLuRWfzkjQiWfA17zagAyI/s/1018038920/br/126759185916-l). Nearly 4,000 more 9/11 vets have died in the past 20 years than anticipated, study finds Post-9/11 veterans are dying at higher rates than Americans overall, particularly through accidents, suicide and homicide, new research has found. The numbers are even higher for veterans who have suffered a traumatic brain injury.    According to [Military.com](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDIsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMjAyMTcuNTM1NTExMjEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy5taWxpdGFyeS5jb20vZGFpbHktbmV3cy8yMDIyLzAyLzExL25lYXJseS00MDAwLW1vcmUtOS0xMS12ZXRzLWhhdmUtZGllZC1wYXN0LTIwLXllYXJzLWFudGljaXBhdGVkLXN0dWR5LWZpbmRzLmh0bWw_dXRtX3NvdXJjZT1TYWlsdGhydSZ1dG1fbWVkaXVtPWVtYWlsJnV0bV9jYW1wYWlnbj1FQkIlMjAwMi4xNC4yMDIyJnV0bV90ZXJtPUVkaXRvcmlhbCUyMC0lMjBFYXJseSUyMEJpcmQlMjBCcmllZiJ9.0x3-qjM-lOGeBdg_hx6I8RcURdop1WsVWQz4mh_ktj0/s/1018038920/br/126759185916-l), veterans who have served since Sept. 11, 2001, are dying via suicide at twice the rate of Americans overall, with homicide claiming retired service members at one-and-a-half times the rate of the general population.    They also had slightly higher rates of accidental deaths, [according to a study published recently in JAMA Network Open](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDMsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMjAyMTcuNTM1NTExMjEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL2phbWFuZXR3b3JrLmNvbS9qb3VybmFscy9qYW1hbmV0d29ya29wZW4vZnVsbGFydGljbGUvMjc4ODk3NCJ9.8rYZEZhz6mnqxGlO0hwX6jD8oyIByhImVSCze5V91mw/s/1018038920/br/126759185916-l).    The death rates were significantly higher for those with a history of traumatic brain injury: Veterans who experienced a mild traumatic brain injury died at nearly twice the general rate for accidents from 2002 to 2018 and three times the rate by suicide, while those with moderate to severe brain injuries were five times as likely to die by suicide and faced a threefold risk of being murdered or dying in an accident.    The study is the first to look at "excess deaths" among veterans who have served since Sept. 11, 2001, examining the number of deaths over and above what normally would have been expected during the 17-year study period. 'I found hope and healing'     Every day, 17 veterans take their own life, and MVAA Director Zaneta Adams was almost one of them. While she found hope and healing, other veterans may be struggling or feeling hopeless. But there is help. Learn more about available resources in this [new video](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDUsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMjAyMTcuNTM1NTExMjEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy55b3V0dWJlLmNvbS93YXRjaD92PTk3RU8zRnhFU1F3In0.ImevcAWJAY42LCwrHa6gwbxEAdjbPDD2UCao77Xs274/s/1018038920/br/126759185916-l) with Director Adams, an Army veteran.    Veterans experiencing a mental health emergency can contact the Veteran Crisis Line at 1-800-273-8255 and select option 1 for a VA staffer. Veterans, troops or their family members can also text 838255 or visit [VeteransCrisisLine.net](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9..pdFLk9H9dauKAVsMk0eXJ1fNQOtKX7MHON15Rix9EDs/s/1018038920/br/126759185916-l) for assistance. Free training programs for veterans, spouses offer path to tech careers Veterans and their spouses are eligible for free training programs offered by [NPower](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDcsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMjAyMTcuNTM1NTExMjEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy5ucG93ZXIub3JnLyJ9.EXRCOX6s5mCGhHgQRW43wbepeztHJuQmXmJtc4CiC5s/s/1018038920/br/126759185916-l).    NPower’s program has served more than 1,600 veterans and military spouses with free tech training, professional development, social and mental health support, assistance navigating VA benefits, paid learning opportunities and job placements – all for aiding participants into a successful career in tech.    Finding meaningful employment after leaving the military is one of the most important steps in a service member’s transition to civilian life. Despite possessing a myriad of valuable skills, nearly 50% of veterans leave the military without job prospects.    Technology jobs are in high demand and [competition for tech workers will remain strong in 2022.](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDgsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMjAyMTcuNTM1NTExMjEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3RoZW5ld3N0YWNrLmlvLzIwMjItZm9yZWNhc3Qtd2hhdHMtbmV4dC1mb3ItdGVjaC13b3JrZXJzLyM6fjp0ZXh0PVRoZSUyMGNvbXBldGl0aW9uJTIwZm9yJTIwdGVjaCUyMHdvcmtlcnMsc21hbGwlMkMlMjBjb21wYXJlZCUyMHRvJTIwdGhlJTIwZGVtYW5kLiJ9.KIkvdkI0uLMwgWruN6aQ28gnIq2Hogzqic2OXZ9TBdA/s/1018038920/br/126759185916-l) Veterans are well positioned to meet this demand. Veterans often possess sharp technical skills and have experience with complex equipment.    How to apply: visit: [npower.org/apply-2022](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDksInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMjAyMTcuNTM1NTExMjEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy5ucG93ZXIub3JnL2FwcGx5LTIwMjIvIn0.lp8bSoPtXM8z-WZP_o2VJ72Idi7Fj_flnoDUDZcDQOE/s/1018038920/br/126759185916-l)    Read more in the VA’s [VAntage Point blog](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMTAsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMjAyMTcuNTM1NTExMjEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL2Jsb2dzLnZhLmdvdi9WQW50YWdlLzk5OTkxL2ZyZWUtdHJhaW5pbmctcHJvZ3JhbXMtb2ZmZXItdmV0ZXJhbnMtc3BvdXNlcy1wYXRoLXRlY2gtY2FyZWVycy8ifQ.4tWEhnT2Gs2_pdOUMKvY1tyIdKfHR_wULot6XjK_Qos/s/1018038920/br/126759185916-l). Lean on Us at MVAA to connect to benefits and resources [Lean on us](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMTEsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMjAyMTcuNTM1NTExMjEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy5taWNoaWdhbi5nb3YvbXZhYSJ9.GgQb0eLeik-hJbO2dnb5L9FVips4-UbGgr4PauCflWk/s/1018038920/br/126759185916-l)    Are you and your family connected to all the state and federal benefits and resources you earned for your service?    **Call us to find out at 1-800-MICH-VET (1-800-642-4838).** Or you can use our Check on MIVet form by visiting [michigan.gov/MVAA](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMTIsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMjAyMTcuNTM1NTExMjEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy5taWNoaWdhbi5nb3YvbXZhYSJ9.wfRVSSe8hzXrJ6XagdouCuMlCerGTO1VvdPozqTYaZk/s/1018038920/br/126759185916-l) and clicking CHECK ON MIVET. Fill out and submit the form and we will contact you and set you up with an accredited Veteran Service Officer for a benefits consult. As a state agency, all of our services are complimentary and confidential.    The Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency (MVAA) is the central coordinating agency for Michigan’s nearly 568,000 veterans and their families and works to link them to federal and state benefits and resources, including VA disability benefits as well as health care, education and employment assistance. Veterans can call us 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for assistance. Can the VA pull off its ‘monumental’ bid to end veteran homelessness? For Denis McDonough, like generations of Veterans Affairs secretaries before him, homelessness among U.S. military veterans remains a confounding stain on America's promise.    "The American people expect that there not be homeless veterans. The bigger problem for us is going to be if we fail, which is why I'm not going to let us fail," McDonough told [ABC News in an exclusive interview](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMTMsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMjAyMTcuNTM1NTExMjEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL2FiY25ld3MuZ28uY29tL1BvbGl0aWNzL3ZhLXB1bGwtb2ZmLW1vbnVtZW50YWwtYmlkLWVuZC12ZXRlcmFuLWhvbWVsZXNzbmVzcy9zdG9yeT9pZD04MjU0MzU2OCJ9.YJdkNxKqrVgwEGbyGsQKbDOn_-X9Sq5an8cWZPbN8kM/s/1018038920/br/126759185916-l) marking one year after being confirmed to the job.    While the number of homeless vets has dropped by more than half over the last decade, an estimated 20,000 ex-service members are still without permanent housing on any given night, according to figures [released](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMTQsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMjAyMTcuNTM1NTExMjEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy5odWQuZ292L3ByZXNzL3ByZXNzX3JlbGVhc2VzX21lZGlhX2Fkdmlzb3JpZXMvSFVEX05vXzIyXzAyMiJ9.czuQ9cFe5aP13-8Tb3WY9UXP5pezEcCqYGQQ9Tk2xHA/s/1018038920/br/126759185916-l) this month by the Department of Housing and Urban Development.    McDonough believes the VA and an alliance of private developers and nonprofit groups could be on the cusp of significantly reducing the number even further, starting in Los Angeles, California, which has more homeless veterans -- an estimated 3,900 -- than anywhere in the country.    "We really think that we can supercharge this effort so we can show the country that this is doable there," McDonough said. "We can then use that momentum to get it done everywhere else." | | | |  | | --- | |  | | | |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | [Employment link image](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMTUsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMjAyMTcuNTM1NTExMjEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwOi8vd3d3Lm1pY2hpZ2FudmV0ZXJhbnMuY29tL0hvbWUvRW1wbG95bWVudC1TdW1tYXJ5In0.cwYWRmTIQplek4Wpn6xxJibUGgAI05D-npzhIAVYxPM/s/1018038920/br/126759185916-l) | [Education link image](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMTYsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMjAyMTcuNTM1NTExMjEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwOi8vd3d3Lm1pY2hpZ2FudmV0ZXJhbnMuY29tL0hvbWUvRWR1Y2F0aW9uLVN1bW1hcnkifQ.kQIorowKaIrNP2CczG6nnA8Ic97R64UKAxcI61y4LGc/s/1018038920/br/126759185916-l) | [Health Care link image](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMTcsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMjAyMTcuNTM1NTExMjEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwOi8vd3d3Lm1pY2hpZ2FudmV0ZXJhbnMuY29tL0hvbWUvSGVhbHRoY2FyZSJ9.VnF689Gg4cr6l9pyFIx35bm3XuB-xcTGeCvxqLXu0K0/s/1018038920/br/126759185916-l) | [Quality of Life link image](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMTgsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMjAyMTcuNTM1NTExMjEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwOi8vd3d3Lm1pY2hpZ2FudmV0ZXJhbnMuY29tL0hvbWUvUXVhbGl0eS1vZi1MaWZlIn0.8qn5svSzPKTbZ7BAyC37TFO2C-bhxejlQS4Me8AuovE/s/1018038920/br/126759185916-l) | [Veterans Homes link image](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMTksInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMjAyMTcuNTM1NTExMjEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwOi8vd3d3Lm1pY2hpZ2FudmV0ZXJhbnMuY29tL0hvbWUvVmV0ZXJhbnMtSG9tZSJ9.YxRg8-Xiij3PkNcFGgFwEmjO-nlnD24NbOEHNaoO2Is/s/1018038920/br/126759185916-l) | | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | |  | [facebook link image](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMjAsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMjAyMTcuNTM1NTExMjEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy5mYWNlYm9vay5jb20vTUlWZXRlcmFucz9yZWY9R292RGVsaXZlcnkifQ.LghEinFzXukM8sTARFjFEtGhv6jZSRfTnfsy7Bi6Mi4/s/1018038920/br/126759185916-l) | [twitter link image](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMjEsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMjAyMTcuNTM1NTExMjEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3R3aXR0ZXIuY29tL21pdmV0ZXJhbiJ9.KmvN2i6X9TeU2oboympSF4NdKceW-UdibRnmvBfQbns/s/1018038920/br/126759185916-l) | [Sign up for email updates link image](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMjIsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMjAyMTcuNTM1NTExMjEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwOi8vd3d3Lm1pY2hpZ2FudmV0ZXJhbnMuY29tL0hvbWUvU3Vic2NyaXB0aW9ucyJ9.mzWguQt6gndtqhc-DlEXxwJh4AymGoIl-3t3nwlYYZQ/s/1018038920/br/126759185916-l) |  | |  | | --- | | [Contact us link image](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMjMsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMjAyMTcuNTM1NTExMjEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwOi8vd3d3Lm1pY2hpZ2FudmV0ZXJhbnMuY29tL0hvbWUvQ29udGFjdCJ9.zrSAbz9bOp_DKISGVHkC1l3GRRB1jvtpunGZRAZKqZI/s/1018038920/br/126759185916-l) | | [Benefit Counselors link image](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMjQsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMjAyMTcuNTM1NTExMjEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwOi8vd3d3Lm1pY2hpZ2FudmV0ZXJhbnMuY29tL0hvbWUvQmVuZWZpdC1Db3Vuc2Vsb3JzIn0.ou9IpvAe_VQtG-5vCsoWFfszR3B5L9APnneLMkckryM/s/1018038920/br/126759185916-l) | |  | | |

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