

# VA Skillbridge Partnership



**VA**

U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

*The VBA Office of Transition and Economic Development (TED) is the designated authority for VA SkillBridge implementation and serves as the liaison to the DoD SkillBridge program office. TED's role is to provide planning guidance and resources to VA organizations that want to develop and implement a SkillBridge program.*

### **Q1: What is VA SkillBridge?**

A1: VA SkillBridge is the organizing umbrella for VA programs designed to train active duty service members for career opportunities within VA. Service members must be 180 days or less from military separation. It is VA-specific component of the broader SkillBridge program established by DoD to deliver training and educational programs at military installations.

### **Q2: What value does SkillBridge have for transitioning service members, Veterans, and military spouses?**

A2: SkillBridge programs help service members gain valuable civilian work experience by allowing them to complete specific industry training, apprenticeships, or internships during their last 180 days of military service.

- Service members of any rank are eligible to participate, so long as they have completed at least 180 continuous days on active duty, can complete the program within their final 180 days of military service, and have approval from the appropriate authority in their chain of command.
- Each Service may impose additional criteria for eligibility, such as maintaining a physical fitness standard, qualifying for an honorable discharge, and/or completing Transition Assistance Program requirements; each Service may also implement its own rules re: the eligibility of members of the reserve components. Veterans and military spouses may participate in SkillBridge on a space-available basis and with the permission of the industry partner.

### **Q3: How does this align with the Transition Assistance Program (TAP)?**

A3: TAP is a five-day mandatory program for service members to support their transition to civilian life. VA facilitates one day of TAP, providing information about VA benefits. DoD SkillBridge is a separate, optional program that provides training for specific careers with public and private sector organizations.

### **Q4: Is this a new VA program offering?**

A4: On December 6, 2019, VA and DoD signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), which formalizes our partnership and allows VA to develop and market programs under the SkillBridge banner. This creates opportunities to recruit across the armed forces and establish VA SkillBridge programs at military installations across the world. VA has successfully piloted two programs thus far:

**To learn more, contact:**

VASkillbridge.VBACO@va.gov

  
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- **Warrior Training Advancement Course (WARTAC)** under VBA Compensation Services: This 10-week program provides training to wounded warriors and transitioning service members to prepare for roles as Veterans Service Representatives (VSRs) and Rating VSRs (RVSRs) at one of VBA's Regional Offices. Since 2014, WARTAC has fielded approximately 70 cohorts, with over 1,400 graduates. There are currently 13 WARTAC program sites.
- **Military Transition and Training Advancement Course (MTTAC)** under VHA Workforce Services: This program provides training to transitioning service members to prepare for roles as medical support assistants, logisticians, and biomedical technicians at VA medical centers. Since 2018, MTTAC has held 8 training sessions, with 35 graduates. There are currently two (2) MTTAC program sites.

## **Q5: How does it work?**

A5: Your organization identifies VA civilian jobs for which service members can be trained and developed to successfully acquire the position. VA then works with DoD to market and facilitate the implementation of the SkillBridge program. Your organization selects participants, facilitates the program, interviews graduates, and hires transitioning service members as VA civilian employees. To guide you along this journey, the Office of Transition and Economic Development serves as a coordinator and consultant for VA SkillBridge to assist in launching your development program.

## **Q6: I'm ready to get started, how can I learn more?**

A6: To learn more about VA SkillBridge and the opportunity to develop a program to train, develop and hire transitioning service members, send a message to [VASkillBridge.vbaco@va.gov](mailto:VASkillBridge.vbaco@va.gov).