

## Enclosure 1 – Implementation Guidance for Expansion of the Military Pass Benefits to Veterans and Gold Star Family Members

1. On 6 November 2020, the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works directed the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to join the other Federal land management agencies in implementing a program to honor military veterans and Gold Star Families in a similar manner that active duty service members are currently honored, through free admittance to Federally managed recreation lands that charge an entrance fee. The following implementation guidance will be followed for Veterans and Gold Star Family members.

2. Veterans. Veterans will now be honored with the same privileges as active duty military service members by simply showing one of four forms of identification. For the purposes of this initiative, the term "veterans of the United States Armed Forces" shall mean those individuals who have served in the United States Armed Forces, including the National Guard and Reserves, and where honorably discharged.

a. Veterans must be able to present, at a minimum, one of the following forms of identification:

- (1) Department of Defense Identification Card (DoD ID – CAC Card)
- (2) Veteran Health Identification Card (VHIC)
- (3) Veteran ID Card (VIC)
- (4) Veteran's designation on a State-issued driver's license or identification card

b. Any veteran who presents any one of the four forms of identification will be admitted free of charge to all USACE managed recreation areas that charge a fee.

3. Gold Star Family Members. Gold Star Families will also be honored with the same privileges as active duty military service members and Veterans and may obtain a free *Gold Star Family Free Access Voucher*. Currently, the voucher is ONLY available on-line at:

<https://www.nps.gov/playourvisit/veterans-and-gold-star-families-free-access.htm>.

Field sites are prohibited from printing vouchers to issue on-site. After downloading and printing the voucher, the Gold Star Family member must check the self-certification box and the voucher must be signed in the area provided in order to validate the voucher. A valid photo ID is required when using the voucher and must match the name on the voucher. The voucher is valid from the date of issuance through 31 December 2021.

a. "Gold Star Families" shall mean individuals who are eligible next of kin (NOK) of a member of the United States Armed Forces who lost his or her life in a "qualifying situation," such as a war, an international terrorist attack, or a military operation outside of the United States while serving with the United States Armed Forces, as identified in sections 3.2<sup>1</sup> and 3.3<sup>2</sup> of Department of Defense Instruction 1348.36 (see footnotes for details).

b. For the full DoD Instruction 1348.36, visit:

<https://www.esd.whs.mil/Portals/54/Documents/DD/issuances/dodi/134836p.pdf?ver=mN9Jeg1LSLWwc52VRIjhdQ%3D%3D>

4. Guidelines. The following guidelines will be followed when honoring Veterans and Gold Star Family members.

a. The implementation date for these two initiatives will be Veteran's Day, November 11, 2020. This program change will be in effect until amended, suspended, or revoked.

b. Veterans and Gold Star Family members should present one of four approved forms of Veterans identifications or the Gold Star Voucher (Documentation) at USACE managed recreation areas that charge a fee.

c. Electronic versions of the Documentation will not be accepted.

d. Field staff may use the Documentation to issue an interagency AtB Military pass which will be marked to expire one year from the date of issuance. When the Gold Star Voucher is used to obtain the Military pass, the voucher will be retained by the issuing office for record keeping and statistical purposes. Vouchers will be retained until further guidance is issued.

e. If stocks of the Military pass become depleted, the Documentation may be used for free access to public recreation lands in lieu of the Military pass.

f. All USACE managed recreation areas will honor the Documentation/Military pass.

g. The Documentation/Military pass is NOT valid at recreational lease areas or other areas at USACE water resource projects not managed by USACE, unless the managing agency chooses to honor the Documentation. It is also not valid for fees for specialized facilities (e.g., group picnic shelters) and events.

h. This benefit for veterans and Gold Star Family members does NOT apply to camping or camping related services, no discount is available.

i. When using recreation areas that do not have a staffed entrance station and where a fee is charged, the Documentation/Military pass should be displayed on the dashboard of the vehicle in lieu of proof of payment.

j. All rules and guidelines of the interagency Military Pass program apply to all pass holders. Nothing herein supersedes these rules.

#### Footnotes.

1. Section 3.2. QUALIFYING SITUATIONS. This benefit may be issued to the NOK, as listed in Paragraph 3.3., of a Service member who lost his or her life:

a. During World War I (April 6, 1917 to March 3, 1921), World War II (September 8, 1939 to July 25, 1947, at 12 o'clock noon), or any subsequent period of armed hostilities in which the United States was engaged before July 1, 1958.

b. After June 30, 1958:

(1) While engaged in an action against an enemy of the United States;

(2) While engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing foreign force; or

(3) While serving with friendly foreign forces engaged in an armed conflict in which the United States was not a belligerent party against an opposing armed force.

c. After March 28, 1973, as a result of:

(1) An international terrorist attack against the United States or a foreign nation friendly to the United States that is recognized as such an attack for award of the Gold Star Lapel Button (GSLB) by the Secretary of the Military Department concerned, or jointly by the Secretaries of the Military Departments concerned, if members from more than one Military Department are wounded or killed in the attack. The determination to award the GSLB for such an attack will be consistent with the decision of whether to authorize award of the Purple Heart for the attack, pursuant to Executive Order 11016 and Volume 3 of DoD Manual 1348.33; or

(2) Military operations while serving outside the United States (including the commonwealths, territories, and possessions of the United States) as part of a peacekeeping force. This includes, but is not limited to, those personnel assigned to a force engaged in a peacekeeping operation authorized by the United Nations Security Council.

2. Section 3.3. ELIGIBLE NOK. The widow (remarried or not); widower (remarried or not); each parent (mother, father, stepmother, stepfather, mother through adoption, father through adoption, and foster parents who stood in loco parentis); each child; each sibling; each half-sibling; each stepsibling; each stepchild; and each adopted child of Service members who are killed in one of the qualifying situations detailed in Paragraph 3.2. is entitled to this benefit.