

# General Information

[Veterans' Gateway](#) is the first point of contact for veterans seeking support. It's made up of a number of military charities and can put you in touch with organisations who can help further. [Contact Veteran's Gateway on 0808 802 1212 \(24 hours a day, 365 days a year\)](#)

[RAF Benevolent Fund](#) – The RAF's leading welfare charity, providing practical, financial and personal lifetime support to all members of the RAF family whether serving or veterans and their families.

Provides practical, financial and – in some cases – emotional support to all members of the RAF family, regardless of rank, from childhood through to old age. Support includes:

- Help with top-up care fees
- Adaptations
- Mobility
- Housing assistance
- Financial Need
- Welfare breaks
- "Airplay" Youth Support Project
- Benefits and Money Advice Service
- Help with disability
- Equipment
- Death and Disablement in Service
- Education costs
- Property Repairs
- Support for the serving RAF
- Childcare centres
- Free relationship counselling

[Royal Navy & Marines Charity](#) – Single focus charity for the Naval Service – provides major grants to serving units and to naval charities. Key outputs are (Serving – Dependents, Amenities, Sport and Prizes; Through-life care–Benevolence).

[The Soldiers Charity](#) (also known as the **Army Benevolent Fund** – ABF) provides grants for soldiers and veterans from the British Army, and their immediate families, when they are in need. Each year around 4,500 individuals receive a grant – dealing with half of all cases presented to Regimental and Corps charities. All cases are considered on their merits. Underlying every case is a clearly identified individual case of need which cannot be met by other sources.

[Free Online search for Armed Forces Charities](#) – the Directory of Social Change and Forces in Mind Trust have created this website to map support for veterans in detail, so that potential sources of the right support are easily identifiable. You may want to search for charities offering help in a specific area.

[War Widows Association of GB](#) – pressure group to improve the conditions of War Widows and their dependents, petitioning for improvements in pensions, benefits and other issues.

[Project Nova](#) supports veterans who have been arrested or are at risk of arrest. Operating in four areas of the UK – the East of England, North West, North East and South Yorkshire and Humberside.

Project Nova supports Veterans who have been arrested and enter Police Custody. It also supports Veterans who are referred by specialist Police teams, or other statutory organisations, because they are at risk of arrest. It is delivered as a partnership between RFEA and [Walking With The Wounded](#) (WWTW).

**[The Forces in Mind Trust \(FiMT\)](#)** provides UK-wide support and advocacy for ex-Service personnel and their families to make a successful transition back to civilian life.

FiMT commissions research to provide evidence which can be used to influence and underpin policy making and service delivery – by both the State and Voluntary sectors – to bring about sustainable change.

Their six specific areas of interest are housing, employment, health and wellbeing, finance, the Criminal Justice System and relationships.

### **[Applying for a veterans badge or a medal](#) – online information**

Anyone who has served in any of the UK armed forces can apply for a veterans' badge. There is **no fee** for this.

**Eligibility** – You can apply if you were in the:

- army
- Royal Navy
- Royal Marines
- Royal Air Force (RAF)
- volunteer or regular reserves

You **cannot** apply if you:

- served in the armed forces of another country
- served alongside the UK armed forces, for example in the Canadian Navy or Royal Australian Air Force

You can only apply on behalf of a veteran who's died if you get either:

- a [War Widow's or Widower's Pension](#)
- compensation under the [Survivors Guaranteed Income Payment \(SGIP\)](#)

### **MOD Medal Office – Veterans' Badges**

Freephone (UK): **0808 1914 218**

Telephone (from overseas): **+44 1253 866 043**

Fax: **01452 510 871**