

A black and white photograph of a man in a military uniform standing next to a child on a swing set in a park. The man is wearing a camouflage uniform and a beret, and is holding the chain of the swing. The child is sitting on the swing, looking down. The background shows a park with trees, a playground, and a building.

Using Your

VA

Entitlement

TO BUY A HOME



WE SERVE THOSE WHO SERVE

This guide is meant to provide some helpful tips about VA home loans. For more detailed information please be sure to work with a **REALTOR®** and a lender who are familiar with VA loans.

RIVERWATCH
RESIDENTIAL | COMMERCIAL

A photograph of a soldier in camouflage gear holding a young child. The soldier is seen from the side, and the child is looking over their shoulder. The background is blurred, showing an indoor setting with a chalkboard and some papers.

Are you
ELIGIBLE?

RIVERWATCH
RESIDENTIAL | COMMERCIAL

You may be eligible for a VA loan if...



▶ YOU SERVED

90 consecutive days of active service during wartime

▶ YOU SERVED

181 consecutive days of active service during peacetime

▶ YOU SERVED

More than 6 years of service in the National Guard

▶ YOU SERVED

More than 6 years of service in the Reserves

You should always speak with a loan officer about your options and other qualifications to verify that you are indeed eligible for a VA loan.

RIVERWATCH
RESIDENTIAL | COMMERCIAL

VA LOAN BENEFITS

No down payment required

Less money due at the time of purchase

No mortgage insurance required

Lower monthly payments since there is no M.I.

Low interest rate and lenient
credit requirements

Less up front costs AND monthly costs

An architectural floor plan is visible on the left side of the image, showing various rooms, walls, and furniture layouts in a technical drawing style.

ARE YOU READY?

RIVERWATCH
RESIDENTIAL | COMMERCIAL

GET PREPARED FINANCIALLY

Make sure you have some money in the bank for closing costs, home inspections, and the appraisal. It's ideal to have at least 3% of the purchase price readily available to put toward purchasing a home.

A solid credit score shows your ability to repay debt. If your credit score is high your interest rate will be lower.

0%

The #1 reason many vets opt to buy a home with a VA loan is that there is NO DOWN PAYMENT required. The interest rates are often lower as well.



\$0?

So you can buy a house with no money
down at all?

Not exactly. You still need to pay closing
costs, which are usually between 3-4% of
the sales price. Often the seller will pay for
some (or even all) of your closing costs.

You'll also need earnest money and money
for any home inspections.



Funds Needed

Up to 4%

Closing costs are fees involved with processing the loan. The seller can contribute to this.

\$550

Average cost for a whole home inspection - not required but **HIGHLY** recommended

\$450

Cost for the appraisal - ask your lender if you pay up front of if they include it in their closing costs

\$350

Misc other inspections that may be required, like septic, roof, or a property survey (may or may not be required)

Month 1

Begin the preapproval process and start looking for homes.

Month 2

Find the ideal home, write an offer, and go under contract.

Month 3

Your lender typically needs 30-40 days to process your loan.

Month 4

Plan to close 4-6 weeks from going under contract. Congratulations!!!

TIMELINE OF BUYING A HOME

HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE?



RIVERWATCH
RESIDENTIAL | COMMERCIAL



DO ALL HOMES QUALIFY?

RIVERWATCH
RESIDENTIAL | COMMERCIAL

No Fixer Uppers

The VA requires that the homes their veterans buy be safe, clean, and secure. Also requires the house be free of termites.

Owner Occupied

The VA only loans money to buyers who plan to live in the house, not for investment properties.

Condos / Townhomes

Only complexes approved by the VA are eligible

CHOOSING A LENDER

Pick a loan officer that is well versed in doing VA loans and local to the area where you are purchasing. Online lenders attract buyers with low fees but they can often be slow to respond and hard to get a hold of. Your Realtor® can give you several names of good lenders.

RIVERWATCH
RESIDENTIAL | COMMERCIAL





FIND A REALTOR® WHO IS A MILITARY SPECIALIST

Veterans and military members have special needs and requirements. You deserve an agent who understands those needs.

YOUR MILITARY SPECIALIST

RIVERWATCH
RESIDENTIAL | COMMERCIAL



Cortney Blankenship, REALTOR
Military Relocation Professional



Insight into the
military market



In depth knowledge
of the military
relocation process



Knowledge
in VA
financing

Ready to Get Started?

WE WOULD LOVE TO ASSIST YOU

www.riverwatchgroup.com

www.cortneysellsgeorgia.com

706-707-3165



Cortney Blankenship

REALTOR®

cortney@riverwatchgroup.com

706-707-3165

RIVERWATCH
RESIDENTIAL | COMMERCIAL

2580 Trade Center Drive, Suite 5&6
Evans, Georgia 30809