

VHIC cardholders authorized to sponsor family members aboard NAS Jacksonville

Commissary, Navy Exchange (NEX) and Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) retail facility privileges are now extended to certain eligible veterans and their caregivers. Purple Heart recipients, former POWs, or veterans who have a service-connected disability, and designated primary family caregivers of eligible veterans, are permitted to use these facilities.

All veterans with a Purple Heart, former POW or a VA-documented service-connected disability with ratings of 0-90 percent who possesses a Veteran Health Identification Card (VHIC) from the VA can sign up for access to Naval Air Station Jacksonville (NAS Jax). The VHIC must display the veteran's eligibility status. The designated primary family caregiver of an eligible veteran who has an official caregiver letter from the VA can also sign up.

Those approved to visit the station can also sponsor individuals per the following guidelines:

1. They must stop at Pass & ID and have those being sponsored conduct a background check.
2. Once the background check is approved, they will be issued a 1-day pass. Background checks must be conducted EVERY time they come aboard the installation.
3. The VHIC cardholder MUST stay with the person they are sponsoring at all times.

To obtain a VHIC card, go to: <https://www.va.gov/healthbenefits/vhic>. All VHIC cardholders MUST stop at the NAS Jax Visitor Control Center (VCC) to enroll in the Defense Biometric Identification System (DBIDS) before entering the station the first time. Primary family caregivers can present their letter of eligibility from the VA at the VCC and enroll in DBIDS for installation access. VHIC cardholders will need to bring their VHIC card, and a picture ID (i.e. driver's license, U.S. Passport or any other REAL ID). For more information on how veterans can obtain a Real ID compliant identification card at <https://www.dhs.gov/real-id>. DBIDS authorization must be renewed each year. Veterans must visit the VCC at all bases they wish to access.

The NAS Jax VCC is expecting a significant increase of eligible veterans requesting access to the installation. Veterans are encouraged to make an appointment by calling 542-0389 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., Monday through Friday. The VCC is located in Building 9 before the NAS Jax Main Gate on the right.