

QUESTIONS ARISING from the VETERANS OPEN FORUM on Armed Forces Day June 2010

Q. Why can't spouses of Veterans have a VIAP?

A. The conditions of a VIAP, as laid down by the Minister for Veterans, is that the VIAP can only be issued to the Veteran. Agreement has been sought that widows and widowers of Veterans may apply providing they have not re-married. The VIAP allows the Veteran plus 4 to access amenities and facilities. If the policy on this changes, it will be advertised on BFGnet.

Q. I am a disabled Veteran, can my spouse use my VIAP?

A. The Veterans Initiative will consider such cases on a "case by case" basis". Please contact the Veterans Initiative <http://www.bfgnet.de/BFGVets.html> with more details including your e-mail address and telephone number so that we can discuss the matter further with you.

Q. I am concerned that I get taxed on my Army pension yet I cannot vote if I have no UK address.

A. Veterans living overseas may be able to vote in the UK. Veterans are advised to visit <http://www.aboutmyvote.co.uk/> and follow the link for Overseas Voters

Q. Why do I have to book my car into camp every time I visit?

A. We are sure that all Veterans will understand that security is of the utmost priority and therefore appreciate that each camp has their own policy regarding the issue of car passes. If a Veteran uses one camp on a regular basis, they should speak with the guardroom regarding that camp's policy on car passes. Please note, that this HQ can not override any decisions made locally regarding security and car passes.

Q. Why can I not buy a stamp or send a letter from BFPO?

A. The BFPO system is only available for entitled Members of the Force and their dependants. Under the SOFA agreement, non entitled personnel are not eligible to use BFPO and therefore this system is not available for Veterans.

Q. Can a VIAP be applied for by post?

A. All VIAPs have to be applied for in person. This allows the Pass Office to check all the correct documentation and ensures that the Veteran always retains their original documentation. Opening hours for Pass Offices varies and Veterans are advised to always book an appointment in advance to avoid any unnecessary travel.