Military Service History and Status

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Contributing or Reviewing Work Groups:

FHIR Development Project Insight ID:
Military Service History and Status FHIR Profiles PSS #1607

Scope of coverage:
This project is intended to create profiles (Observation resources) and extensions needed to represent military service, discharge, etc. across a diverse set of use cases: eligibility, self-reported military service information, eprior authorization information, health risks, social determinants of health, etc. The scope of this project is to create a superset "reusable" profiles and extensions similar to Z-segments in V2. These profiles will be included in a US-realm library of profiles (e.g. US Core) such that other acceleration and implementation projects can reuse them. This project will support the ballot process required to include of Military Service History and Status.

Currently there are several US Realm projects that need to use, manage, and collect information about military service, discharge, status, combat, etc. using information provided by patients/Veterans, validated based on service records. This project will help coordinate the effort to create profiles and extensions needed to represent Military Service History, Veteran status, and associated risk factors. The collaboration outlined in this project intended to influence projects in different stages of development and provide a common representation of the data identified related to military service in a way that is consistent with each project's use cases.

Content location:
https://github.com/HL7/fhir-military-service

Proposed IG realm and code:
us
FHIR Core version(s):

4.0.1

Maintenance Plan:

This IG is intended to be implemented by the VA Developer API and other systems that require access to service history. This IG may be updated based on implementers’ feedback.

Short Description:

Supports Military Service History and Status reporting consistent with US regulatory requirements (i.e. Title 38 Veteran Benefits).

Long Description:

This IG is intended to be implemented by EHRs and other community-based systems that require access to military service history and need to validate that a patient is a Veteran. The current VA API uses an ad-hoc verification operation and allows third-party systems to retrieve the military service - including combat episodes. This track will demonstrate how this API can be provided using a standards-based approach that includes FHIR resources and terminology constraints using concepts from LOINC, SNOMED CT, and CDC ODH - as specified in the associated Logica project intended to validate the extensions needed to represent Military Service and Combat Episodes using Observation resource similar to ODH. The current REST API is used primarily to verify veteran status for benefits associated with military service (e.g., insurance coverage, discounts, education assistance, etc.). The enhanced FHIR-based API will make this API readily available for health-related purposes: social determinants of health, risk factors for specific conditions (e.g. health disease, major depressive disorder, suicidal ideation).

In addition to proving the feasibility of FHIR resources to provide equivalent capabilities to the current API, this project will also introduce standards-based concepts in place of local VA terminology for discharge status and separation reason as well as reusing CDC ODH concept to represent the military branch and pay grade of a Veteran.

It fulfills the following use cases:

Request Employment History part of Social History

The clinician is requesting employment information in conjunction with their social history. If the patient is a Veteran, their employment history will include military service information. This was a core requirement of the Occupational Data for Health (ODH) Implementation Guide we analyzed and reused. The current specification expands this use case to specify application (i.e. EHR) capabilities as well as reusable FHIR-based APIs that may be provided by an authoritative organization (e.g. US Department of Veterans Affairs).

Record Military Service History and Status

The social history information reported by the patient - including employment and military service history - is entered in the system of record (i.e. EHR).

Verify Veteran History

The EHR system, acting as a FHIR client, uses a standards-based VA RESTful API (FHIR Observation with profiles and extensions) to verify that the patient is a Veteran and served in the military.

The verification API is triggered by an EHR. Based on the verification result, the EHR may validate the Veteran status and fill in the combat episodes as needed to determine social history risks.

Involved parties:

Department of Veterans Affairs (Lighthouse, Knowledge Based Systems)
Defense Health Agency
CDC NIOSH

Expected implementations:

This is expected to be implemented as a standards-based REST API as a new version of VA Developer API.

Other VA implementations may be used to manage occupational data.
Content sources:

It harmonizes the requirements of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to more easily record this information in support of administrative and clinical workflows and the work and social history of patients who are also Veterans.

- **ZMH** (Military Service History) Z-segment used to represent service and deployment history in HL7 Version 2 transactions. This segment is used to exchange information about
- **ServiceHistoryEpisode** and **Deployment** Schemas for the VA Veteran Verification API (https://developer.va.gov/explore/verification/docs/veteran_verification?version=current)
- **HL7 FHIR Profile:** [odh-CombatZonePeriod](http://hl7.org/fhir/us/odh/) from Occupational Data for Health (ODH), Release 1.0 (Standard for Trial Use)

Example Scenarios:

**Military Service and Veteran Status API**

- **Patient**
  - **Custom operation:**
    - Veteran Status: Operation to return the status of a veteran

**Scenario #1: Veteran Confirmation and Verification**

A Veteran is receiving treatment in the community and invokes the "$veteranStatus" operation using the Veteran's demographics (e.g. fist, last, dob, ssn). If the Veteran is verified then the client application proceed to Step 2.

**Scenario Step 1 : Search the Patient resource to evaluate whether "Sam Share" is a confirmed/validated Veteran based on the VA-specific extension**

**Scenario Step 2: Search the Observation resource for a list of Military Service Episodes: search by "subject" (i.e. Patient/Veteran) and by "patient" and "code" search parameters**

**IG Relationships:**

This IG is a sibling of

- Occupational Data for Health (ODH), Release 1.0 (Standard for Trial Use) (http://hl7.org/fhir/us/odh/)

It defines a new profile "Employment History Episode" that is common across the two IGs and it reuses the pattern followed by ODH in defining a Z-segment based on Observation resource.

**Timelines:**
ASAP, the IG is drafted and ready for ballot: http://build.fhir.org/ig/HL7/fhir-military-service/index.html

FMG Notes