



For Immediate Release  
July 11, 2014

## Mobile App Upgrade Provides Additional Services to Ohio's Veterans

COLUMBUS – The Ohio Department of Veterans Services is expanding its use of the latest technology to communicate with veterans by launching an upgraded mobile app to bring more job and education information to those who've served.

"We're making use of all the tools in the toolbox to reach out to Ohio veterans," Ohio Department of Veterans Services Director Tim Gorrell said. "The app has been a great success so far, and the upgrades we've added make it even more useful as a means to find out about benefits and how to get them."

The app upgrade, officially Version 1.3.0, expands availability of the app to Windows device users. It includes additional resources to veterans looking for work, assistance to student veterans, and news of interest to the veteran community. These resources are added under both existing and new navigational buttons. Specifically, the app –

- Under the current Jobs button, adds an Ohio One Stop Centers (for Ohio Means Jobs) search page that enables the office locations to be found by current location, zip code or county, and provides contact, map and directional information.
- Also under the Jobs button, adds a list of Small Business Development Centers by city for veterans wishing to start their own business; the list also includes contact, map and directional information.
- Under the current Education button, adds a list of Student Vet Centers in Ohio Public Colleges and Universities that includes contact and directional information.
- Adds a button for the Ohio Department of Veterans Services Advisory Committee that contains contact information for the veterans' organizations and affiliated organizations that make up the committee.
- Adds a button that contains current news releases issued by the Ohio Department of Veterans Services.
- Under the existing About button, adds icons and links to the department's social media pages (Facebook, Twitter, Flickr, YouTube).

The department's mobile app was launched in November 2013. It provides an overview of the principal federal and state benefits available to veterans and how to apply for them. One of the app's most important capabilities is the location on every page of an "In Crisis" button, which provides vital information to veterans and family members in difficult circumstances. This button provides direct access to a toll-free, 24/7 hotline or a web site with a live chat feature, operated by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), where veterans can communicate directly with a counselor.

The app also enables a user to find each of Ohio's 88 county veteran service offices by current location, zip code or county. In addition, it provides contact, map and directional information for each office and for VA facilities in the state. Currently, the app has over 6,500 users.

"Simply put, the mobile app puts veterans' benefits in the palm of the hand," Director Gorrell said. "More veterans are downloading it every month and taking advantage of what it offers. It's a great way to connect that we anticipate is only going to get bigger."

The app is available, at no cost, from the Windows, Google Play and iTunes stores, by searching the key words "Ohio veteran." The department's web site, [www.ohiovet.gov](http://www.ohiovet.gov), contains a link to the stores. The app is compatible with Windows, Android and iOS devices.

In addition, the app is also available as a mobile web site at:  
<https://apps.dvs.ohio.gov/mobile/www/index.html>

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