



**For Immediate Release**

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## **Afghanistan Veterans Encouraged to Apply for the Ohio Veterans Bonus**

*Bonus payments range from \$500 to \$1,500*

COLUMBUS – The Ohio Veterans Bonus continues a tradition of awarding bonuses to Ohio veterans that dates back to the Civil War, according to the Ohio Department of Veterans Services (ODVS).

“Ohio veterans answered the call to service when our nation needed them most,” said Chip Tansill, director of the Ohio Department of Veterans Services. “It is an honor to reward these brave men and women who fight for our nation’s freedom.”

The payment is \$100 a month to veterans who served during the eligible periods in Afghanistan up to a maximum of \$1,000. For veterans who served in other parts of the world during these times, the payment is \$50 a month up to a \$500 maximum.

Veterans medically discharged as a result of combat service can receive \$1,000, regardless of how much time they spent in theater, plus up to \$500 for months of service elsewhere.

Family members of those killed in action or who died from disease as a result of their in-theater service can receive a bonus of \$5,000 plus whatever the service member was eligible for, up to \$6,500.

The eligible time period for service in Afghanistan or any location outside Afghanistan is from Oct. 7, 2001 through a date to be determined by the President. Eligible veterans must have been Ohio residents at the time of their entry into the service, and must be Ohio residents at the time they apply.

As of December 10, 2015 the Ohio Veterans Bonus program has paid 89,771 claims, amounting to more than \$73.3 million.

The Ohio Veterans Bonus is not financed with taxes. Ohio voters overwhelmingly approved a constitutional amendment allowing the state to sell bonds to provide a special payment from the Ohio Honors Veterans Fund to servicemen and women.

To apply for the bonus, visit [www.veteransbonus.ohio.gov](http://www.veteransbonus.ohio.gov), or any County Veteran's Service Office (see [www.dvs.ohio.gov](http://www.dvs.ohio.gov) for an interactive map of the county offices). Veterans and military families can also call toll-free to 1-877- OHIO VET (1-877-644-6838).

*The Ohio Department of Veterans Services works to actively identify, connect with, and advocate for veterans and their families. Ohio law gives the department the responsibility to partner with county veteran service commissions and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, in order to "serve those who have served."*

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