



Ohio Department of Veterans Services

★ *Monthly Update* ★

August 2011

Ohio Veterans Bonus



Have you gotten your bonus yet?

Know anyone who's eligible?

[Click here](#) for more!

Questions about veterans benefits?

Call 1-877-OHIOVET
(1-877-644-6838)



Welcome to the fifth edition of the Ohio Department of Veterans Services e-newsletter! The newsletter is a key source of information about issues of interest to our community of veterans in Ohio.

We thank you for your service to our country. Because you're a veteran, you've earned a number of benefits that you may not be aware of. Most of these benefits originate at the federal level with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). Based on the time you served, you may be eligible for compensation for injuries, health care, educational assistance, home loans or many other benefits. There are also a number of state benefits available to Ohio veterans, to include the Ohio Veterans Bonus as well as direct financial assistance from the county to veterans in need.

The place to find out what you've earned and to apply is your county veterans service office. You can locate yours in the interactive map on our department home page, dvs.ohio.gov, or by calling 1-877-OHIO-VET (1-877-644-6838).

We will continue to provide you this newsletter each month. We hope it's of value to you and your family.

Upcoming Job Fairs....Time Sensitive!

Job fairs next week in two corners of Ohio are aimed at providing veterans with leads for employment.

The Summit County Veterans Service Commission and the AMVETS Career Center are sponsoring a job fair in Akron on Wednesday, August 17 from 1 to 3 p.m. For more information and to register, call 330-564-1492 or see their web site (scroll down to "Job Fair"):

<http://www.vscsummitoh.us/Home/tabid/36/Default.aspx>

For veterans living in northwest Ohio, the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve is hosting a job fair in Lima on Thursday, August 18 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Aimed at veterans, Guard and Reserve members living in the counties of Allen, Auglaize, Defiance, Hardin, Mercer, Paulding, Putnam, and Van Wert, the event features local employers as well as colleges and universities.

For more information, contact:

esgr@bright.net



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Other Ways to Find a Job in Ohio...

We all know what veterans bring to the table in a job search – among them a dedicated work ethic, experience in many different fields, the ability to relate to others, and a host of other qualities. But sometimes, getting a hand over the top of the job search hill is what veterans need to offer their talents to employers in their area.

The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services has several online resources to help in this search. They've dedicated a portion of their web site to guide veterans, listing the top career fields in Ohio and the most veteran-friendly employers in the state. There's also guidance on how to translate military to civilian experience, as well as tips on resumes and interviewing. See what's available at:



<http://my.ohiomeansjobs.monster.com/VetCenter/Home.aspx>

The AMVETS, Department of Ohio and the Ohio National Guard maintain a detailed jobs site called "Ohio Veterans Career Assistance Network" ("Ohio Vets CAN"). The site features job listings and a resume posting service. Take a look at:

<http://www.ohiovetscan.com/>

Information on federal jobs for veterans is at:

<http://www.fedshirevets.gov/>

Free Medical Care for OEF/OIF Vets...

If you're a veteran who's recently left the service or returned from a combat deployment to Operation Enduring Freedom or Operation Iraqi Freedom, did you know that you're eligible for five years of cost-free health care from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)?

Combat veterans of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom can receive free medical care for any condition related to their service in the two theaters for five years after the date of their discharge or release from the service.



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The first step is to get enrolled in the VA health care system. To get assistance with signing up, visit your county veterans service office:

(see the map at <http://dvs.ohio.gov/> or call toll-free to 1-877-OHIO-VET, that's 1-877644-6838), or call the VA toll-free at 1-888-615-9448.

Additional information on VA health care for combat veterans is at:

<http://www.va.gov/healtheligibility/library/pubs/combatvet/CombatVet.pdf>

GI Bill Changes....

You've probably heard it said that education is the key to a good career, and to paraphrase another old military saying, you're your own best career manager.

So if you're a veteran attending school this fall on the Post 9/11 GI Bill – or know someone who is – then you need to know about changes in benefits that take effect October 1. The bill will now cover expenses for training that leads to non-college degrees as well as for on-the-job training and correspondence courses. Also, recipients will be eligible to receive a portion of the national monthly housing allowance rate when they're enrolled in only distance learning courses.

The VA explains these changes here, and includes links to other helpful information:

<http://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=2147>

Important Change to Traumatic Injury Insurance Coverage...

Post 9/11 veterans, don't miss this – an important change to the policy for the Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (SGLI) Traumatic Injury Protection Benefit takes effect Oct. 1.

As of that date, this benefit, also known as TSGLI, will be payable for all qualifying injuries suffered from Oct. 7, 2001 to Nov. 30, 2005, regardless of where they occurred, and regardless of whether the member had SGLI coverage at the time of the injury. The change came about in the Veterans' Benefit Act of 2010, which as of Oct. 1, 2011, removes the requirement that injuries during this period had to be incurred in Operations Enduring or Iraqi Freedom.





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TSGLI provides a payment ranging from \$25,000 to \$100,000 to Servicemembers sustaining certain severe traumatic injuries resulting in a range of losses, including amputations, limb salvage, paralysis, burns, loss of sight, hearing or speech, facial reconstruction, 15-day continuous hospitalization, coma, and loss of activities of daily living due to traumatic brain injury or other traumatic injuries.

Former Reservists and National Guard members who were injured during the retroactive period and suffered a qualifying loss are eligible for a TSGLI payment even if the cause was not related to service, such as a "civilian" automobile accident or severe injury which occurred while working at home.

Additionally, survivors of Servicemembers who died more than seven days after their injuries are also eligible to receive a TSGLI payment if the member had a covered loss.

Current law automatically covers all servicemembers since Dec. 1, 2005. To find out more, read:

<http://www.insurance.va.gov/sqliSite/TSGLI/TSGLI.htm>

Be Sure to Get Your Ohio Veterans Bonus....

If it looks to you like we're repeating this message, you're right. Read the paragraphs below... and if you're eligible for the Ohio Veterans Bonus, then don't forget to apply! If someone in your family, or a friend, or a neighbor, or another veteran, is eligible, please spread the word and tell them to apply! It's tax-free money that can make a real difference to our veterans and their families.

Here's what you need to know:

If you're an Ohio resident who served honorably in the military for more than 90 days of active duty during the period Aug. 2, 1990 through March 3, 1991, or since Oct. 7, 2001, you may be eligible to receive the Ohio Veterans Bonus.



The bonus is \$100 a month to veterans who served during the eligible periods in the Persian Gulf theater, or in the Iraq or Afghanistan theaters, 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 who were 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 a total of \$6,500.



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Application instructions and a list of the documentation required is at:

https://veteransbonus.ohio.gov/odvs_web/Default.aspx.

For more info, call 1-877-OHIO-VET (1-877-644-6838) or visit your County Veterans Service Office.

Women Veterans in Ohio...

Over 60,000 Ohio women have made the selfless sacrifices necessary in military service to protect and defend this nation. They also have unique health and support needs that haven't always been fully addressed.

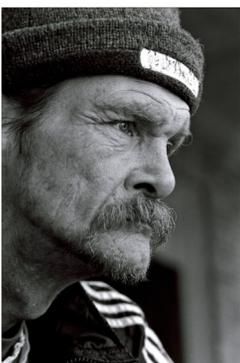
The Ohio Department of Veterans Services is committed to meeting these needs and serving as an effective advocate for this group of veterans. To recognize the service of women and connect them to the benefits they have earned, the department is joining with the VA and the VA Healthcare System of Ohio Network to host the fourth state-wide Women Veterans Conference on October 8, 2011 at the Aladin Shrine Center in Columbus.



The keynote speaker is Janice Nark, a veteran of both Vietnam and Desert Storm. Janis has shared the podium with such dignitaries as General Colin Powell and President Bill Clinton. As a speaker, she has stories of laughter and tears. She knows and relates to stress and change. Her specialty is finding control in chaos and her message is one you will never forget.

To sign up for this year's conference, or to volunteer to help in outreach efforts for women veterans please call (614) 752-8941. For more information about women veterans in Ohio, go to:

http://dvs.ohio.gov/committees/women_veterans_advisory_committee.aspx



Help to Employ Homeless Veterans...

Homeless veterans face major barriers to employment, but it's self-evident that helping them find jobs could also help end their homelessness. Help will be available soon on this front for homeless veterans in Delaware and parts of Licking and Franklin counties, thanks to a \$300,000 grant awarded to Volunteers of America by the U.S. Department of Labor.

According to the Department of Labor, the grant will help enable



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Volunteers of America provide homeless veterans with occupational, classroom and on-the-job training, as well as job search and placement assistance, to include follow-up services.

Both public and non-profit private agencies were awarded the grants on a competitive basis. These agencies are familiar with homeless veterans and the areas to be served, and have also demonstrated that they can administer effective programs.

The grants were awarded by the Labor Department's Veterans' Employment and Training Service (VETS) through the Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program (HVRP). HVRP is the only federal program that focuses exclusively on employment of veterans who are homeless.

To read more about what Volunteers of America is doing to help homeless veterans, see:

<http://www.voago.org/Our-Services/Veterans>

Camp Lejeune Water...

Marines, their families and employees who lived or worked at North Carolina's Camp Lejeune prior to 1987 may have been exposed to contaminated drinking water.

The Marine Corps has established a web site with detailed information about the situation and a registration page to register to receive updates about an ongoing study to determine the effects of exposure to this water. The site also has FAQs related to the issue and possible health effects.

Find out more at:

<https://clnr.hqi.usmc.mil/clwater/home.html>

