



January 2014



# Veteran Newsletter



General Motors is one of the many national companies who have operations in Ohio, and who believe veterans are a good fit in their workforce. For a listing of these companies, and other employment information important to Ohio veterans, see pages 3 - 5.

*Welcome to 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, [www.ohiovet.gov](http://www.ohiovet.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.

## **Implementation of Executive Order Will Improve Job Situation for Vets...**

A recently-signed bill follows the lead Governor Kasich set last June on veteran employability and education when he issued his Executive Order concerning veteran credit for professional licenses and college credits.

House Bill 98, signed by the Governor in November, is a piece of legislation that begins the process of implementing the Executive Order. The bill requires any state agency that issues a professional license, to include Commercial Driver's Licenses (CDL's), to adopt rules by June 30 of this year that identify what types of military training or experience are equivalent to the training and experience needed to obtain the license.

**Have questions about veterans benefits? Call 1-877-OHIOVET (1-877-644-6838)**



Monthly Update



# Veteran Newsletter

The rules for CDL's, in fact, currently state that veterans with documented military experience and training can already waive the skills-test portion of the Commercial Drivers License process. The new rules and statutes, however, will ensure better prioritization and service for veterans and their spouses.

Rules on college credit, to be determined by the Ohio Board of Regents, are due by August 1.

Executive Order 2013-05K was signed by the Governor on June 11. It directed state boards and commissions, and the Ohio Board of Regents, to start the process of giving veterans credit for military training and experience both for professional licenses as well as in college credits.

"You're driving a truck in Afghanistan and you come back to America, you should be certified to drive a truck," Governor Kasich said in June after signing the order. "If you've been on the battlefield and you're a medic and you're saving people's lives, you ought to be able to be back here with certification as an emergency responder."



The Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation, which is overseeing the implementation of the Executive Order, issued a report in December. This report details the efforts to date, spells specific implementing tasks – including outreach on these efforts by the Ohio Department of Veterans Services – and sets deadlines for state agencies, colleges and universities.

The draft report is at:

[http://www.workforce.ohio.gov/Portals/0/Valuing-Ohio-Veterans-Report\\_dec2013.pdf](http://www.workforce.ohio.gov/Portals/0/Valuing-Ohio-Veterans-Report_dec2013.pdf)

## **Jobs for Veterans Update...**

Below is information we hope that everyone is sharing with other Ohio veterans – the latest information on job-seeking strategies for veterans. There is some new information we share here each month, just as we believe there's also a new veteran each month in need of it.

# Veteran Newsletter

Monthly Update



## **Companies Looking to Hire Veterans:**

Many well-known national companies with Ohio operations are in the market to hire veterans in many different areas of their businesses. These companies include AEP, AT&T, Chase Bank, GE, General Motors, Home Depot, Starbucks, Walmart, Verizon, and Xerox. Information on current jobs is available on the individual company web sites; go to [www.google.com](http://www.google.com) to search by company name and then click on their "employment" or "careers" links.

The Ohio insurance industry has 17,000 new jobs to fill in many different areas.

These jobs are available in insurance companies all around the state.

For more information, see: <http://insurancecareers.org/veterans>

Several state agencies are also currently seeking veterans. Open state jobs can be viewed and applied for at: <http://careers.ohio.gov/>

Please note that the Ohio Department of Veterans Services Facebook and Twitter pages will also post frequent announcements of multiple job openings.

## **Schools and Companies Offering Job Training:**

Job training that could lead to employment in the emerging shale industry and in manufacturing is available throughout Ohio. Stark State College and Eastern Gateway Community College offer training targeted to shale jobs. Cincinnati State College offers training aimed at industrial jobs.

Siemens Corporation offers training geared to engineering manufacturing jobs.

Find out more at the schools' and company's web sites; conduct your search using [www.google.com](http://www.google.com).

## **Finding Jobs Online:**

Veterans can also look for jobs online. "Ohio Means Jobs" is the state's primary job web site, listing the vast majority of both private sector and public jobs which are open in Ohio.

The site is at <https://ohiomeansjobs.com/omj/>, or simply type in "Ohiomeansjobs.com."

The available jobs are posted in the "Job Seekers" area.



# Veteran Newsletter

Monthly Update



Be sure to register and post your resume on the site – and don't forget to indicate that you *are* a veteran. The site automatically posts veterans' resumes first for any job that matches the qualifications they've stated in their resume – so employers who go to the site will see veterans' resumes before they see anyone else's. The resume should be reviewed every month and electronically "updated" – whether any additional information is added or not – to keep it refreshed and at the head of the line for jobs.

This web site also has an area with other resources for veterans, to include translation of military to civilian skills and frequently asked questions about the process.

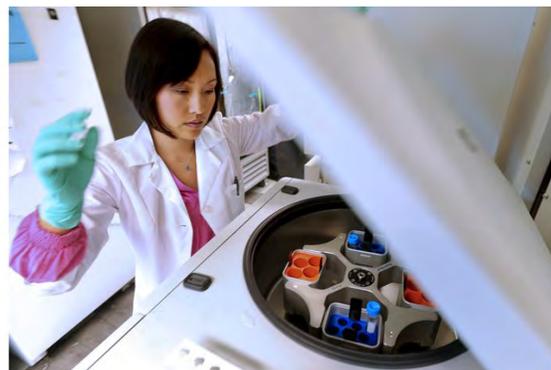
The link is: <http://www.ohiomeansveteranjobs.com/infocenter>

## **Finding Jobs In-Person:**

If you want to start a face-to-face job search, there's in-person assistance available throughout Ohio that knows where the local jobs are.

The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (JFS) is in an active partnership with the U.S. Department of Labor to operate Job Centers regionally around the state.

Contact information can be found online at: <http://jfs.ohio.gov/owd/wia/wiamap.stm>



While the Job Centers are open to all residents, they are also staffed with counselors who specifically assist veterans. Their primary clients are veterans with barriers to employment, of which long-term unemployment definitely qualifies. Counselors can also assist with skills translation and resume preparation – and they know where the jobs are locally. The Job Centers also have resources to assist disabled veterans with qualifying for, finding and keeping meaningful employment.

## **For a Job Fair, or any Employment Event, Be Prepared for Interviews, and Know Your Skills:**

Before you attend any job fair or visit any employer, remember these common tips:

- Have a current resume;
- Have a cover letter that's geared to the type of job being sought;
- Present a professional appearance, e.g., suit and tie, or dress/skirt or pantsuit.



# Veteran Newsletter

Monthly Update



To prepare an effective resume, you have to be able to translate military experience to civilian experience. The Army and the Navy have developed online “cool” web sites that help veterans translate their military skills into terms civilian employers can understand. The sites, which stand for “credentialing opportunities online,” allow a veteran to select their military skill code and then see the types of jobs their training and experience translates to, as well as any certifications that are needed. There is no Air Force, Marine, or Coast Guard “cool” site. However, the Air Force does offer similar resources in its Community College of the Air Force site, at the Credentialing and Education Research Tool (CERT) page; Marine skills are similar to those found in the Army and Air Force; and Coast Guard skills are similar to those found in the Navy.



The “cool” sites are below:

<https://www.cool.army.mil/index.htm>

<https://www.cool.navy.mil/overview.htm>

<https://augateway.maxwell.af.mil/ccaf/certifications/programs/>

## **Help for Employers to Hire Veterans:**

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs is tackling the mission of helping veterans find employment by reaching out to employers. The agency has developed a Veterans Hiring Guide that provides a central location for information about tools to hire veterans and the business incentives that are available for doing so. The VA’s goal is to help employers find job-seeking veterans or to assist employers with their own ongoing efforts at veteran hiring programs. The guide also includes resources for employers seeking to attract military spouses. Development of the guide was a joint effort between the VA, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, and the Departments of Defense, Labor and Education. The Veterans Hiring Guide is available at:

<https://www.vetsuccess.va.gov/public/employers.html>

# Veteran Newsletter

Monthly Update



## Small Business Tax Cut Helps Ohio Businesses...

Veterans who own small businesses, as well as many other small business owners and entrepreneurs across Ohio, got some good news on taxes on January 21...a majority of Ohio small businesses are eligible for a 50 percent tax deduction on the first \$250,000 of their business income. This tax cut is retroactive to January 1 of 2013, and is part of the state budget approved by the General Assembly last June and signed into law by Governor Kasich.



The tax cuts are intended to spur growth in businesses and strengthen the state's position to compete for jobs and increase economic development. They are one component of a comprehensive tax reform package in the state budget. This package also includes an 8.5 percent income tax reduction for all Ohio taxpayers and a sales tax increase of one-quarter percent, both of which took effect last year. The budget also reduces personal income tax rates by an additional half-percent in 2014 and an additional one percent in 2015 to make a total 10 percent tax cut by tax year 2015.

Overall, the tax reform package will cut Ohioans' taxes by \$2.7 billion over three years.

The Ohio Department of Taxation has issued a news release explaining the business tax cuts and including a link to a guide on how to file for the deduction when a business's taxes are filed.

Read the release at:

[http://www.tax.ohio.gov/Portals/0/communications/news\\_releases/  
Ohio Tax Commissioner Issues Alert to All Ohio Small Businesses 1-21-2014.pdf](http://www.tax.ohio.gov/Portals/0/communications/news_releases/Ohio_Tax_Commissioner_Issues_Alert_to_All_Ohio_Small_Businesses_1-21-2014.pdf)

## Human Trafficking is a Problem for Everyone...

Human trafficking may seem one of those problems that's terrible in nature, but not something that concerns everyday Ohioans. But it should – human trafficking is a huge problem right here in Ohio, as well as across the nation.



Monthly Update



# Veteran Newsletter

What human trafficking really means is that it's virtual slavery for young people who are trapped in the sex trade; it also represents others who are trapped in domestic or agricultural work against their will. Governor Kasich is joining forces with legislative, government and community leaders across the state to end this scourge. It's never been more important to eliminate human trafficking, particularly when one considers the sobering statistics below:

- More than 1,000 Ohio children are estimated to be trafficked every year in the sex trade, over 3,000 Ohio youth are at risk of becoming victims.
- Average age of victims is 13 years old.
- Toledo is the fourth largest recruitment site for minor sex trafficking in the country.
- Ohio is ranked 42nd for children's vulnerability to homelessness, which in turn contributes to a higher vulnerability to child sex trafficking.
- Runaway children are the most vulnerable for sex slavery, being approached by a trafficker or recruiter within 48 hours to a little over a week after running away.
- The Ohio Attorney General released a report last week with the following local law enforcement statistics (which do not include federal cases) - in 2013, there were 30 human trafficking investigations, 16 arrests, 7 prosecutions, 9 successful convictions.



What can Ohioans do? Educate ourselves on the problem, and spread that word to others. If we see a situation where it appears human trafficking is occurring, take action to report it to local law enforcement, or call toll-free to the National Human Trafficking Resource Center at **1-888-3737-888**. Learn more at: [humantrafficking.ohio.gov](http://humantrafficking.ohio.gov)



# Veteran Newsletter

Monthly Update



## Ohio Veterans Bonus Still Open for Most Recent Wars...

The deadline for Persian Gulf War era veterans to apply for the Ohio Veterans Bonus passed on December 31, 2013. Even though the Bonus is still open for veterans of the Iraq War and Afghanistan War eras, another major deadline is looming at the end of this year – **the deadline for applications for veterans of the Iraq War era is December 31, 2014.**



The Ohio Veterans Bonus is available to veterans who served anywhere in the world during the time of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Service must have been for more than 90 days active duty, not for training. Eligible veterans must have been Ohio residents at the time of their entry into the service, and must be Ohio residents currently.

Eligibility periods and deadlines are as follows:

- Iraq: eligible period is from March 19, 2003 to December 31, 2011 (**deadline to apply is December 31, 2014**); and
- Afghanistan: eligible period is, from October 7, 2001 through a date to be determined by the President.

The bonus pays \$100 a month to veterans who served in the countries of Afghanistan or Iraq, up to a maximum of \$1,000. For veterans who served anywhere else in the world during the eligible periods, the payment is \$50 a month up to a \$500 maximum. The maximum individual award for all eligible periods of service is \$1,500.

Veterans medically discharged due to injuries sustained in combat can receive \$1,000, 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.



Monthly Update



# Veteran Newsletter

Anyone needing more information or who want to apply can call toll-free to 1-877-OHIO VET (1-877-644-6838) option 2, or see:

[https://veteransbonus.ohio.gov/odvs\\_web/](https://veteransbonus.ohio.gov/odvs_web/)

Veterans can also apply for the Bonus at their local Veterans Service Office in their home county. To find the location of your county office, see the Ohio map and select the appropriate county at:

<http://dvs.ohio.gov/>

Your County Veterans Service Office can also help you determine what other federal and state benefits you're eligible for and help you apply for them.

## The Lessons of a Great Leader...

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day came this year on Monday, January 20, the day set aside in our nation to honor and celebrate the life of the greatest leader in our history in the struggle for civil rights.

A national holiday since 1986, the day marks the Monday closest to his January 15, 1929 birthday. Dr. King fought long and hard for civil rights, but by employing non-violent means. His March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom on August 28, 1963 was a landmark in the civil rights movement, notable for its calls for racial harmony and for equal job opportunity for all races and for racial harmony. Dr. King himself set the tone with his address, the famous "I have a dream" speech delivered on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial. Recognized as one of the great moments of oratory in American history, its most famous words are:



*"I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character. I have a dream today."*



Monthly Update



# Veteran Newsletter

The speech helped spur passage of the Civil Rights Act in 1964. Dr. King continued the struggle until his life was cut short at the age of 39 by an assassin's bullet on April 4, 1968 in Memphis, Tennessee. Although he won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964 and many other accolades during his lifetime and after his death, he was nonetheless a controversial figure because of his opposition to segregation, all forms of racial prejudice, and the Vietnam War.

He left us all a powerful legacy. Today we strive for equality in our workplaces and for respect for the rights of all. We may not be perfect, but there is little doubt that Dr. King's life and example has made our country a better place for everyone to realize the American dream. This way of life is what those who serve our nation in our military and safety forces swear to protect.

One of Dr. King's last sermons contained these words on how he wanted to be remembered:

*“Yes, if you want to say that I was a drum major.  
Say that I was a drum major for justice.  
Say that I was a drum major for peace. I was a drum major for righteousness.  
And all of the other shallow things will not matter.”*