

Warrior Support News

For National Guard Soldiers and Airmen

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 3

AUGUST 2008



National Guard Bureau
J1 - Warrior Support Office
1411 Jefferson Davis Hwy.
Arlington, VA 22202
703.607.0180

USEFUL LINKS:

National Guard Bureau:
ngb.army.mil

Office of Reserve Affairs:
defenseink.mil/ra

Find VA facilities:
va.gov/directory / 877.222.vets

For OIF/OEF Vets:
seamlesstransition.va.gov

Benefits Info:
vba.va.gov / 800.827.1000

Get a copy of your DD214:
vetrecs.archives.gov

Veterans Employment & Training:
dol.gov/vets

Employment info:
vetjobs.com

Education Benefits:
gibill.va.gov / 888.442.4551

Jobs, schools, pay:
militaryconnection.com

Wounded Warrior Website:
aw2portal.com / 800.237.1336

For quality of life info/resources:
militaryhomefront.dod.mil

For transition services:
turbotap.org

For redeployment info:
afterdeployment.org

TO SUBSCRIBE TO THIS
NEWSLETTER:

Email warriorsupport@ng.army.mil

Use Your Dental Benefit

Have you used your dental benefit at the VA? If you are an OIF/OEF vet and your DD214 shows that you did not receive dental services within 90 days of discharge OR that dental treatment was not completed, then you have 180 days from REFRAD to apply for VA dental care. Even if you said that you had no need for a dental appointment at the demob station during your out-processing, you are still entitled to this benefit. This does not mean that you must have your dental appointment within the 180 days; it just means you must schedule the VA dental exam within 180 days of your REFRAD date.

VA uses the latest dental procedures and pain control methods in state-of-the-art clinics. Services may include cleanings and x-rays, fillings, crowns, bridges, dentures, oral surgery, etc. Going to the dentist can be quite expensive, so take advantage of this no-cost benefit that you have earned before 180 days go by.

Moving or traveling? No excuse. Your healthcare benefits are portable throughout the entire VA system. To make your appointment, call 1-877-222-8387 or ask your Transition Assistance Advisor (TAA). Even if you do not have your DD214, your TAA can help you take advantage of this great benefit at VA.

The New Post 9/11 GI Bill

A new GI Bill has been signed into law and will take effect on August 1, 2009. Details are still being worked out, but in simplified terms the benefits include that you are entitled to a percentage (as determined by the length of your active duty service) to payment for tuition, books, fees, and BAH. This new bill is very different from the existing GI Bill and new information is continually being added to the VA website (www.gibill.va.gov). Highlights include:

- To be eligible, you must have served a total of at least 90 consecutive days on active duty since 9/11/01.
- To receive full (100%) benefits, you must have 3 years active duty service after 9/11 OR have been discharged due to a service-connected disability. Benefits will be prorated for SMs with less than 36 months of active duty service.
- If you are already enrolled in the existing GI Bill and also meet the criteria for the new GI Bill, you can transfer your remaining benefits from the existing GI Bill to the new GI Bill.
- Unlike the existing GI Bill, there is no enrollment fee.
- Up to \$1000 per year may be paid to you for books and supplies.
- Up to 36 months of benefits are available. You will be eligible for benefits for 15 years from your last period of active duty of at least 90 consecutive days.
- Even if you are not using the existing GI Bill, you can still use the new GI Bill.
- No benefits will be paid for any training or education completed before 7/31/09.
- The new GI Bill pays for your tuition up to the cost of full-time tuition at the most expensive state university in the state in which you are enrolled. On average, this will translate into a benefit of more than \$6,000 per year.
- You may be paid a housing allowance equal to BAH for E5 with dependents (average \$1100 per month). Housing allowance is not payable to SMs getting voc/tech training at half time or less, or for distance learning.
- The new program includes undergrad and graduate degrees, voc/tech training, tutorial assistance (up to \$1200), and licensing and certification test reimbursement (up to \$2000).
- Service academy grads or ROTC scholarship awardees may also qualify for the new GI Bill.
- → **For more info, call the VA at 1.888.GIBILL-1 or 1.888.442.4551.**

NATIONAL CRISIS HOTLINE AVAILABLE TO ANYONE 24/7/365 - - -
1.800.273.TALK (8255)

Retroactive TSGLI Payments

More than 1600 severely disabled vets could receive retroactive traumatic injury insurance payments as a result of a newly released review of how benefits have been paid in the past. A review of payments was conducted and recommendations were made to expand the definitions of traumatic injury for insurance purposes, but no payments can be made until the final regulations are issued. However, the new definitions would apply to new injuries and also retroactively to injuries since 10/7/01. Payments ranging between \$25,000 - \$100,000 could be paid as early as this fall. Contact your Transition Assistance Advisor for more information.

What Do You Think About the System?

The Department of Defense Military Health System is asking Servicemembers and their families to take the online Military Health System Poll. The poll is designed to help DoD understand which areas within the health system need improvement. Go to www.health.mil to participate and have your opinion count.

Offers for Warriors

Discounted Welcome Home Signs for Troops

Buildasign.com is selling 10,000 welcome home banners to military families at 50% off the retail price. Ten thousand banners have already been given out free of charge in support of returning troops. To design and order your banner, go to www.buildasign.com/troops.

Dog Tags for Military Children

Dog Tags for Kids is a grassroots project which enables Servicemembers to send engraved dog tags to your children. The dog tags are provided free and are sent directly to the Servicemembers and then you can personally send them to your children at home. The dog tags are engraved with "With Love From Dad/Mom" and include your branch of service, deployment location, and the year. To donate to the project or to request a dog tag for your children, go to www.dogtagsforkids.com.

New Website

After Deployment (www.afterdeployment.org) is a brand new interactive website aimed at common concerns of Servicemembers. Family members, friends, and vets are all welcome to visit this user-friendly website. All types of resources including podcasts, videos, blogs, expert advice, self-checks, facts, personal stories, self-help workshop, are there for you.

Warrior Support Office at NGB

Welcome to the third edition of *Warrior Support News* from the Joint Forces office at the National Guard Bureau in Arlington, Virginia. The newsletter is published bimonthly for Air and Army National Guard members who have served in the Global War on Terrorism. If you'd like to receive the newsletter via email or regular mail (if you do not have an email address), please phone 703.607.0180 or send your request to warriorsupport@ng.army.mil.

Have you contacted the Transition Assistance Advisor (TAA) in your state or territory to help guide you through the benefits and entitlements you have earned or would you like to learn more about them? Call 703.607.0180 or go to www.taapmo.com/TAAProgram.htm or email warriorsupport@ng.army.mil to locate the TAA in your area.

Myth or Fact?

MYTH: After I return from OIF/OEF, I need to have my dental work (as part of my VA benefit) completed before the end of the 180 day period.

False. FACT: The 180 day period refers to enrolling in the VA and making the dental appointment within 180 days of the REFRAD date, but you are NOT required to have all of your dental work completed before 180 days!

Contact your Transition Assistance Advisor for more information on obtaining your dental benefit.