

# Warrior Support News

For National Guard Soldiers and Airmen



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National Guard Bureau  
J1 - Warrior Support Office  
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## USEFUL LINKS:

National Guard Bureau:  
[ngb.army.mil](http://ngb.army.mil)

Office of Reserve Affairs:  
[defenseink.mil/ra](http://defenseink.mil/ra)

Find VA facilities:  
[va.gov/directory](http://va.gov/directory) / 877.222.vets

For OIF/OEF Vets:  
[seamlesstransition.va.gov](http://seamlesstransition.va.gov)

Benefits Info:  
[yba.va.gov](http://yba.va.gov) / 800.827.1000

Get a copy of your DD214:  
[vetrecs.archives.gov](http://vetrecs.archives.gov)

Veterans Employment & Training:  
[dol.gov/vets](http://dol.gov/vets)

Employment info:  
[vetjobs.com](http://vetjobs.com)

Education Benefits:  
[qibill.va.gov](http://qibill.va.gov) / 888.442.4551

Jobs, schools, pay:  
[militaryconnection.com](http://militaryconnection.com)

Wounded Warrior Website:  
[aw2portal.com](http://aw2portal.com) / 800.237.1336

For quality of life info/resources:  
[militaryhomefront.dod.mil](http://militaryhomefront.dod.mil)

For transition services:  
[turbotap.org](http://turbotap.org)

For redeployment info:  
[afterdeployment.org](http://afterdeployment.org)

## TO SUBSCRIBE TO THIS NEWSLETTER:

Email [warriorsupport@ng.army.mil](mailto:warriorsupport@ng.army.mil)

## Have You Received Your Letter From the VA?

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) mailed letters to veterans about the new Post-9/11 GI Bill. Have you received a letter? If not, see page 2 and contact your Transition Assistance Advisor to avoid missing out on important information about this new version of the GI Bill that goes into effect on August 1, 2009. The maximum basic benefit provides:

- ◆ Cost of tuition and fees, up to the most expensive in-state undergrad tuition at a public institution of higher learning in the state you are attending school.
- ◆ Additional funding may be available through VA's Yellow Ribbon program.
- ◆ Monthly housing allowance equal to the basic allowance for housing payable to an E-5 with dependents, in the same zip code as the school.
- ◆ Yearly books and supplies stipend of up to \$1,000 per year.
- ◆ No enrollment fees.
- ◆ Undergrad and graduate degrees, voc/tech training, tutorial assistance, and licensing and certification test reimbursement.

The maximum basic benefit is earned after serving an aggregate of 36 months of active duty service after 9/10/01 or after 30 days of continuous service if you were discharged for a service-connected disability. If you served between 90 days to 36 months of aggregate active duty service, you will be eligible for a percentage of the maximum benefit. Service academy grads or ROTC scholarship awardees may also qualify. Learn more about the new and improved GI Bill at [www.qibill.va.gov](http://www.qibill.va.gov) or call 888.442.4551.

## Wounded Warriors Family Support

The families of wounded, injured, or fallen Service Members suffer in many ways. Some are affected financially, some suffer psychologically, and some are adversely affected in both ways. Wounded Warriors Family Support (WWFS) helps these folks find peace and solace as a family once more, in a family-friendly resort condominium unit that is provided at no cost to the family. The condo units are quiet havens where war-torn families can reunite and strengthen their ties.

Wounded Warriors Family Support, initiated in 2003 by COL John Folsom who serves with the United States Marine Corps Reserves, is a non-profit organization based in Nebraska. WWFS offers a one-week vacation for qualified military families in Orlando, a family pass to Walt Disney World Florida, or The Victorian Resort and Conference Center in Galveston, Texas. Also available are tickets to baseball and football games in Washington, DC and California. Box seats are usually provided and children may have a chance to meet the players before the games.

To qualify, beneficiaries must be the dependent families of those who, while serving in the U.S. Army, Marine Corps, Navy, or Air Force, were wounded, injured or lost their lives while engaged in direct combat operations as defined by the Department of Defense. In order to qualify, Service Members must have dependent children.

For more info or to register, please visit [www.woundedwarriorsfamilysupport.org](http://www.woundedwarriorsfamilysupport.org) or call 402.502.7557.

**TRICARE Launches New Web Page**  
Learn about alcohol abuse and promote responsible drinking.  
[www.tricare.mil/alcoholawareness](http://www.tricare.mil/alcoholawareness)

## Employment Assistance

- ◆ The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has a new program called Veterans Employment Coordination Service (VECS). VA understands the sacrifices Guard and Reserve members have made in defending our country's freedom. VECS was established to attract, recruit, and hire veterans into VA, especially OEF/OIF vets who suffered severe injuries. VECS will ensure that you have the tools for success and access to the resources and networks necessary for a smooth transition to the VA workforce. There are 9 Regional Veterans Employment Coordinators (RVECs) who are dedicated to assisting severely injured vets across the country. More than 150 Local Veterans Employment Coordinators (VECs) are located at every VA human resources office to help vets find jobs. Services include placement assistance, case management, training and development counseling, skills and qualifications assessment, resume review and federal application tips, among others. For more info on career opportunities in VA or to locate the regional coordinator in your area, go to [www.va.gov/VECS](http://www.va.gov/VECS).
- ◆ The Vocational Rehabilitation & Employment (VR&E) Program helps Service Members and veterans who have service-connected disabilities become suitably employed, maintain employment, and/or achieve independence in daily living. Services include assistance with reemployment post deployment in the Guard or Reserves, job readiness and job placement, long-term training leading to employment, self employment, and services to maximize independence in the community. For more info about VR&E Services, visit [www.vetsuccess.gov](http://www.vetsuccess.gov).

## Legal Assistance for You

The Army JAG Corps Legal Information Portal is a website which educates and informs military members on their personal legal affairs. This website allows you to search for a legal office or a private attorney close to you. You can also search for information on various legal issues, including: Tax, Estate Planning, Family Law Matters, Military Matters, Mobilization, Deployment and Demobilization, Reserve Components, Service Members' Civil Relief Act, Wounded Warriors, Advance Directives, Power of Attorney, etc.



It is not necessary for you to understand the meaning of all legal terms - an online legal dictionary is on the website. Log onto [www.jagcnet.army.mil/legal](http://www.jagcnet.army.mil/legal). (Note: The information on this website is not to be considered official legal advice.)

## Military OneSource Increases Counseling Benefits

Military OneSource counseling services are designed to provide help with short term issues such as adjustment to situational stressors, stress management, communication, and parenting issues, among others.

Each eligible Service Member or family member may receive up to twelve sessions, per issue, per counselor at no cost. The twelve sessions must be completed in 120 days. Participants already authorized for six sessions of counseling prior to April 1, 2009 will be authorized on a case-by-case basis when the Network Affiliate Provider requests the additional sessions.

There are three different types of counseling available through Military OneSource. There is face-to-face counseling, telephone consultations, and online consultations. For more information, please call 800.342.9647 or you can also log onto <https://www.militaryonesource.com>.

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](http://www.taapmo.com/TAAProgram.htm) or email [warriorsupport@ng.army.mil](mailto:warriorsupport@ng.army.mil) to locate the TAA in your state.

**Website Especially For Returning OEF/ OIF Returning Service Members**

**Log onto: [www.oefoif.va.gov](http://www.oefoif.va.gov)**