



DMVA

North Carolina Department of Military and Veterans Affairs

ON POINT NEWSLETTER

March 2023 Newsletter

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#ICYMI

**NC DMVA Secretary
Walter Gaskin and Veterans
Transitions Director
Andrea Allard Talk About
NC Women Milvets Summit**

This year's 2023 NC Women Milvets Summit is in the books and one of the Department's highlights of the year.

Secretary Walter Gaskin and Director of Transition Services, Andrea Allard, appeared on the My Carolina TV show produced by CBS 17, to promote the Department and the Women's Summit. Almost 300 participants



registered for the event.

Featured above, NC DMVA Director of Transition Services and veteran, Andrea Allard, and NCDMVA Secretary LtGen Walter Gaskin.

The biennial event was on March 7th at the NC State, McKimmon Center.

[View the full segment here](#)

NC Women Milvets Summit Provides Information on VA Healthcare, Inspiration, Hope, and Employment Options to Women Military Service Members, Veterans, and Their Families



Above NC Governor Roy Cooper greets NC DMVA Secretary Walter Gaskin in between opening remarks from both dignitaries.

Approximately 300 women military servicemembers, veterans, military spouses, reserves, National Guard, families and caregivers participated in the 2023 NC Women MilVets Summit on Tuesday, March 7th. The event was hosted at the NCSU McKimmon Center in Raleigh. Governor Roy Cooper and LtGen Walter E. Gaskin, USMC, (Ret.), Secretary of the NC DMVA welcomed participants to the event.

“Your journey wearing the uniform or being connected to someone who has, is not a mistake and it has not gone unnoticed,” said CSM Tonya Sims, of the 82nd

Airborne Division Sustainment Brigade, who delivered words of inspiration to event participants. As part of the activities, representatives from the VA, state, and municipal organizations presented a multitude of options for the military community. There were also workshops and discussions around vocational rehabilitation, resume writing, employment options, and interview tips.

To see an assortment of photos from the biennial women's Milvets event, visit the link below.

[See Photos Here](#)

The Women MilVets Summit is a biennial event given by the North Carolina Department of Military and Veterans Affairs' Women Veterans Program.

It was an empowering, educational, and engaging conference for women active duty servicemembers, veterans, military spouses, National Guard and Reserves, families, and caregivers.

With subject matter experts in the areas of VA women's healthcare, mental health, benefits, Vocational Rehab, and Employment programs; State benefits and Art expression; and an emphasis on employment connections with Breakout Sessions covering Employment options, a Resumé workshop, and Interviewing tips. Over **50 Vendors** supplied information for resources and services for all aspects of the military and veteran lifestyles during the event.

It is a all part of NC DMVA's mission to educate the public about the challenges active duty women servicemembers may face, and information about available resources to assist veterans and their families.

[More Photos](#)



North Carolina
DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY
AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

Present

Women Milvets Summit

2023 NC Women Milvets Summit

Women

- Servicemembers
- Veterans
- Military Spouses
- Reserves
- National Guard
- Caregivers

7

March

McKimmon Center at NCSU
1101 Gorman St. Raleigh

10a -2p
Free Catered Lunch

Information & Resources

VA Women's Healthcare, Benefits,
and Vocational Rehab &
Employment, NC State Benefits,
Employment Options, Resumé
Writing, Interview Tips, Mindfulness
and Mental Health, Art Expression

Sponsors



North Carolina
DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY
AND VETERANS AFFAIRS



NC DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES

Over 30 Vendors

Offering Services and
Resources

Please Register:

milvets.nc.gov/2023ncwms

JOIN US!

Registration Required
for lunch count

Contact Person:

Andrea.Allard

More Information:

Andrea.Allard@milvets.nc.gov

NC DMVA Making a Difference!

*Outstanding service! Timely [responses], and
expertise - answered all questions.*

Highly capable services!

Thank you!

Gene W.

**Wilmington NCDVA Customer Service Satisfaction Survey*

Secretary Gaskin Helps

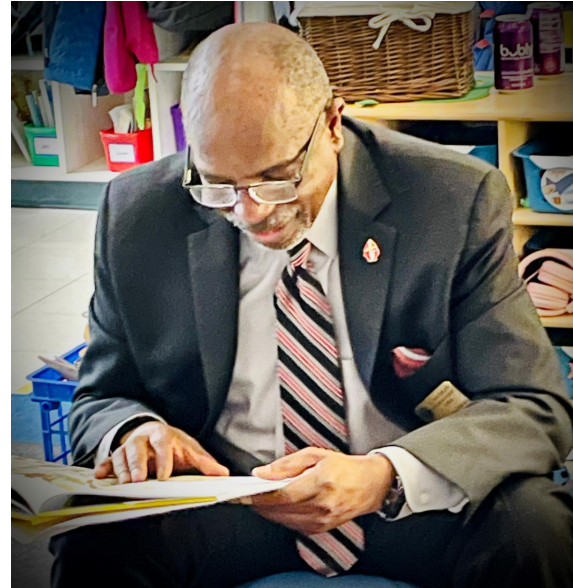
Second Graders See Why It's So Important to Recognize and Take Chances in Life

Second graders at Hunter GT/AIG Basics Magnet Elementary in Raleigh got a special visit this month. NC DMVA Secretary, Walter Gaskin stopped by to meet with the students and share some of his experiences in the Marines and other life events.

As part of **Read Across America Day**, Secretary Gaskin read the story, *“What Do You Do With a Chance?”* written by Kobi Yamada and Illustrated by Mae Besom. In this story, a child is visited by his first chance and unsure what he should do with it, and he lets it go. Later on, when a new chance arrives, he reaches for it, but this time he misses and falls. Embarrassed and afraid, he begins ignoring each new chance that comes by, even though he still wants to take them. He has to figure out how to overcome fear so he can make the most of any other chance that might come his way. While this story is geared toward children, it holds a message that is an important reminder for adults, too.

Secretary Gaskin and the children posed for photos and he taught the children how to salute during the visit, too.

Read Across America Day is an annual event celebrated on or near March 2nd, which is the birthday of children's author Dr. Seuss. In 1987, the National Education Association (NEA) created the nationwide reading celebration to promote literacy and encourage a love of reading among children. It is now a week-long celebration



to encourage children and teens to read to promote language skills, but also to enhance every part of their learning experiences.

NC DMVA Honors 108-Year-Old NC World War II Veteran and Montford Point Marine

Cosmas D. Eaglin, Sr. served during World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War eras

NC DMVA Secretary, LtGen Walter Gaskin, USMC (Ret.), paid tribute to an original Montford Point Marine and World War II Veteran, Cosmas D. Eaglin, Sr. of Fayetteville, NC, with a certificate of appreciation and the Department's challenge coin. Mr. Eaglin's family was present for the intimate congratulatory gathering where the 108-year-old veteran was delighted to receive the recognition of his service.

Born January 12, 1915, Eaglin joined the United States Marine Corps when he was 27. He completed training at Camp Montford Point, in Jacksonville, NC, and was one of the first 300 Black recruits to break the Marine color barrier after President Franklin Roosevelt issued an Executive Order establishing the Fair Employment Practices Commission in 1941. Eaglin served two years in the Solomon Islands campaign during the Pacific War of World War II. After WWII, Eaglin left the Marine Corps but returned to active-duty service and earned his paratrooper wings once joining the U.S.



Army during the Korean War era. He was assigned to Fort Bragg, NC in 1951. He also served two tours in the Vietnam War in the 1960's.

“When I learned of Mr. Eaglin and his service to our country, I found it truly admirable and an inspiration,” said Gaskin, “As an original Montford Point Marine, he endured unimaginable obstacles in the segregated Marine Corps. Because he was a Marine, I am able to be a Marine. His contributions to the nation and the Marine Corps will be remembered and his legacy will live on for generations to come.”

Eaglin has 6 children, 7 grandchildren, and 12 great-grandchildren. He and his family have been part of the St. Ann Catholic Church community in Fayetteville for 72 years. NC DMVA Secretary Walter Gaskin, and Eaglin's beloved family, gathered in the North Carolina State Veterans Home in Fayetteville to honor this man who has never stopped giving to his family, community, and country. We admire his strength, resilience, and honor his service to our country with appreciation for the inspiration he instills in all of us.



ROTC Cadets Learn Valuable Life Lessons From African American Military Leaders at NC ROTC Roundtable

Over 200 ROTC cadets from Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and other secondary institutions, along with JROTC from high schools across North Carolina learned some valuable life lessons and inspiration from some African American military leaders at an event in Raleigh last month.

The cadets gathered with the Falcon Battalion and schools from many areas around the state at St. Augustine's University in Raleigh as part of the 3rd Annual North Carolina ROTC Roundtable and the African American Military and Veterans Lineage Day. The NC Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (NC DMVA), the Division of Archives in the NC Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, St. Augustine's University, and the Association of the United States Army (AUSA) partnered to teach, coach, and mentor cadets about the important contributions Black military men and women made throughout history. This event also shows that Black military members continue to lead and serve in US Armed Forces. The distinguished panelists at the ROTC Roundtable included:

- LtGen Walter E. Gaskin, USMC, (Ret.), Secretary of the NC Department of Military and Veterans Affairs
- Major General David Wilson, Commanding General of the U.S. Army Sustainment Command
- Colonel Wendy Rivers, Division Chief, Dept. Army Inspector General
- Colonel Michael G. McLendon, Army Professor of Military Science The Citadel Military College
- BG Arnold N. Gordon-Bray, US Army, (Ret.) ANBG Consulting LLC, NC Military Affairs Commission
- Command Sergeant Major Robert T. Craven, 26th Command Sergeant Major
- US Corps of Cadets, US Military Academy, WestPoint

The event helped to showcase North Carolina's African American service members who broke the color barrier and the glass ceiling, rising high within all branches of the Armed Forces.

Be sure to view [pictures from the event](#) by clicking the button below.



See Photos from Event

NC DMVA At Work



DoD Selects North Carolina for Initiative to Expand Access to Quality Child Care for Military Families

As one of only 10 states to offer this program, North Carolina is now granting wider access to quality child-care providers, outside of military installations. The [Military Child Care in Your Neighborhood-PLUS](#) (MCCYN-PLUS) initiative, recently launched in North Carolina to make it easier for military families to access and afford quality child care from community providers. The program is funded by the U.S. Department of Defense and critical in our state as North Carolina is home to the fourth largest military presence in the nation.

NC DMVA Secretary LtGen Walter Gaskin recently discussed the initiative to expand access to quality child care for military families being a community issue as much as it is a military concern and issue.

**Video credit: WTVD ABC11*

[See Story Here](#)

NC State Veterans Home in Kinston: Recreational Room Serves Veterans Well

NC DMVA State veterans home in Kinston received a new pool table to accommodate an already provided space in the facility. This space helps to make its residents' experience a more enjoyable day-to-day stay. The pool table was donated by the Elks Lodge.



Above: Kinston NC State Veteran Home resident, Joe Lewis, plays a game of pool as a way of light exercise, keeping his mind sharp, and something fun he used to enjoy when in the service.

Leaderboard

NC DMVA Welcomes Ms. Jacqueline Bond to the Team

New to the NC Department of Military and Veterans Affairs is Ms. Jacqueline Bond. Ms. Bond has been employed with the State of North Carolina, for more than 18 years and continues to serve her State in the new role with the Department as Accounting Technician. Her finance background and proficiency in bookkeeping, management, and reckoning will allow the Department to continue budget maintenance and standard operating procedure development. In Jacqueline's spare time, she enjoys cooking/grilling, travel, and cycling.

Welcome to the DMVA Family!



Happy Birthday U.S. Coast Guard Reserve

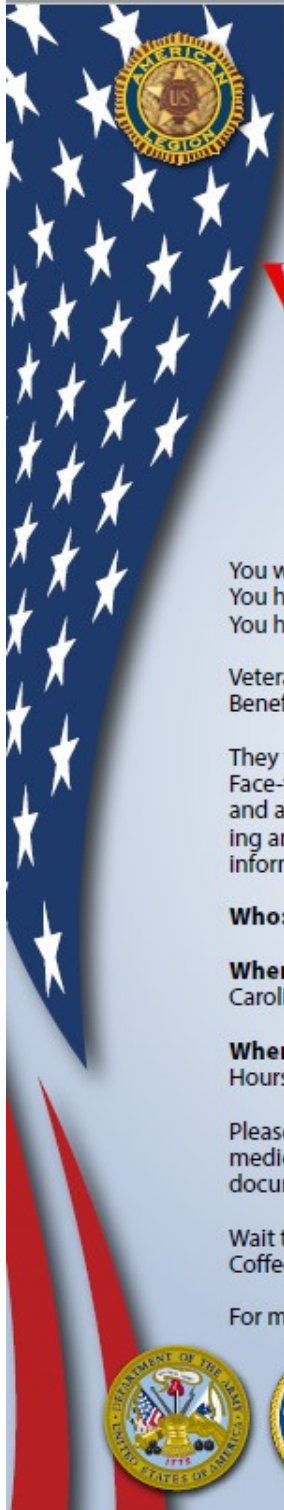
The U.S. Coast Guard Reserve celebrated its 82nd birthday on February 19th. To all those who have served or are currently serving, **we salute you!**

Happy Birthday

U.S. Coast Guard Reserve



**Veterans Benefits Live
VA In My Town Cary NC**



VETERANS BENEFITS LIVE VA IN MY TOWN CARY, NC

YOU CANNOT AFFORD TO MISS THIS EVENT
Should any of the following apply :

You would like to file a new claim with the VA.
You have questions about VA appeals or benefits to which you may be entitled.
You have questions about VA healthcare.

Veterans and dependents will be assisted by a combined team including Veterans' Benefits and Health Administrators, Vet Center, and Veterans' Service Officers.

They will assist with the following:
Face-to-face explanation and assistance facilitating and expediting existing claims and appeals, filing new claims, and accepting all claims-related evidence for processing and providing information regarding benefit related VA programs. Updated information on the PACT Act will be available.

Who: All veterans and family members of veterans

Where: Herbert Young Community Center, 101 Wilkinson Avenue, Cary, North Carolina 27513

When: 23th, 24th, 25th of March 2023.
Hours on Thursday and Friday from 9 am to 3pm, and Saturday 8 am to 2 pm.

Please bring with you the proper documentation about your case: DD 214, all medical records about your disability both military and civilian, and dependency documents if new or not already provided to the VA.

Wait times may be long, please be patient.
Coffee, water, and snacks provided free of charge.

For more information contact Richard Spyrison at CaryVEAC@gmail.com



We Wanted to Fight Exhibit Now at the Wayne County Museum

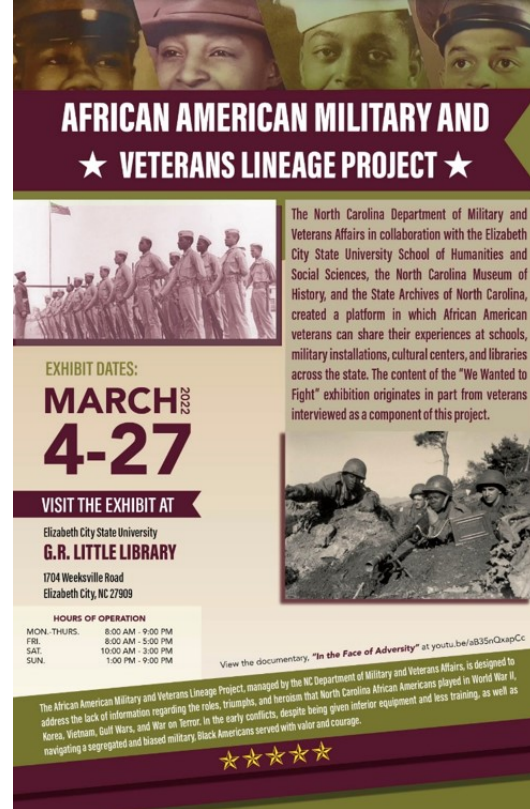
"We Wanted to Fight" traveling Exhibit is now in Goldsboro's Wayne County Museum of History. The North Carolina Department of Military and



Veterans Affairs, in conjunction with the North Carolina Museum of History and the NC Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, has continued scheduling and installing the exhibit across the state.

The exhibit was designed to travel and be displayed at various cultural sites, institutions, schools, and military bases across the state throughout the year. With the goal of reaching a broad audience, the intriguing and insightful, seven panel display continues to move from one place, to the next.

[Click here](#) to Learn more behind this project including the African American Military & Veterans Lineage Project



AFRICAN AMERICAN MILITARY AND VETERANS LINEAGE PROJECT

The North Carolina Department of Military and Veterans Affairs in collaboration with the Elizabeth City State University School of Humanities and Social Sciences, the North Carolina Museum of History, and the State Archives of North Carolina, created a platform in which African American veterans can share their experiences at schools, military installations, cultural centers, and libraries across the state. The content of the "We Wanted to Fight" exhibition originates in part from veterans interviewed as a component of this project.

EXHIBIT DATES:
MARCH 2022
4-27

VISIT THE EXHIBIT AT
Elizabeth City State University
G. R. LITTLE LIBRARY
1704 Weaverville Road
Elizabeth City, NC 27909

HOURS OF OPERATION
MON. THURS. 8:00 AM - 9:00 PM
FRI. 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM
SAT. 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM
SUN. 1:00 PM - 9:00 PM

View the documentary, "In the Face of Adversity" at youtu.be/t4835vQaupC

The African American Military and Veterans Lineage Project, managed by the NC Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, is designed to address the lack of information regarding the roles, triumphs, and heroism that North Carolina African Americans played in World War I, Korea, Vietnam, Gulf Wars, and War on Terror in the early conflicts, despite being given inferior equipment and less training, as well as navigating a segregated and biased military. Black Americans served with valor and courage.

☆☆☆☆☆

Visit Website

Dedication Ceremony to Take Place in Goldsboro NC Remembering the Service of the Men of the 135th United States "Colored" Infantry

After several years of research, the descendants, community leaders, and historians both local and regional have been able to place Goldsboro as the home for the 135th United States "Colored" Troops, the only Black regiment who paraded in Washington D.C. at the conclusion of the war.



CWT Goldsboro 2: Donald and Cheryl Harmon (left), Leonard Paul Sherrod Jr. (second from right), and Lt. Col. (retired) Deborah Jones (right) help place the new interpretive sign which overlooks the site where the men of the 135th Regiment, many of whom were formerly enslaved, paraded past the U.S. Headquarters building on March 27th, 1865. Courtesy Civil War Trails, Inc.

The stakeholders, many of them veterans themselves who have been working on this have inspired the research. In downtown Goldsboro, within eyeshot of the new sign is where these Black men took their oath of allegiance to the United States, jumping from formerly enslaved men to US servicemen. It's a unique place and story.

The new sign marking history is part of the Civil War Trails program which connects visitors to over 1,400 sites just like the one featured. Across six states, each Civil War Trails site enables travelers to stand in the footsteps of historic events or people of the past.

For more information about the 158th anniversary to be held on March 27th please contact Visit Goldsboro at 919-734-7922. Inspired to help the '135th USCT Research Team? Visit 135usct.org. Check out visitgoldsboronc.com to begin planning your trip and be sure to post your #signselfie @civilwartrails when you visit this site.

For more information about Civil War Trails, call 757-378-5462.



Deborah Jones (left), Leonard Paul Sherrod Jr. (second from left), Cheryl Richards Harmon (second from right), and Donald Harmon (right) from the 135th Research Group, Inc. pose with the Civil War Trails directional sign which helps marks the new site located at 201 S. Center Street, Goldsboro, North Carolina. Courtesy Civil War Trails, Inc.

Public Service Announcements

WE ARE HIRING!!!

Are you passionate about helping our deserving North Carolina veterans and their families?

Looking for career opportunities with the State of North Carolina?

Come join our team!

WE ARE HIRING

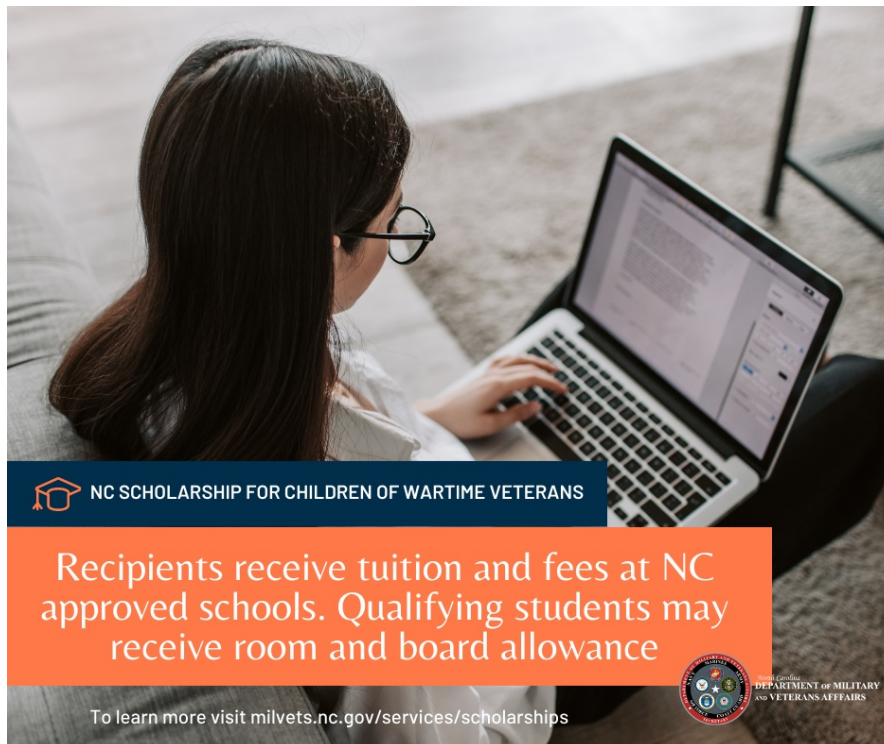
OPEN POSITION


- Grounds Worker I (Fort Bragg)
- Maintenance/ Construction Technician I (Black Mountain)
- Maintenance/ Construction Technician II (Black Mountain)



[Visit Website](#)


NC Scholarship for Children of Wartime Veterans



 NC SCHOLARSHIP FOR CHILDREN OF WARTIME VETERANS

Recipients receive tuition and fees at NC approved schools. Qualifying students may receive room and board allowance

To learn more visit milvets.nc.gov/services/scholarships



[More information](#)



Camp Lejeune Water Contamination

From at least 1953 through 1985, Marines and personnel of any branch of the armed forces and their families stationed at Camp Lejeune's main base, barracks, family, temporary housing, Tarawa Terrace and Hadnot Point may have consumed, and bathed in, water contaminated with toxins at concentrations from 240 to 3400 times levels permitted by safety standards.

Monetary relief may be provided for those injured by exposure to the Camp Lejeune base and its toxic water by^[45] 30 days of "living" or "working" or "otherwise" being exposed between 1953 and 1987 is the prerequisite for compensation. For more information contact your local veteran service office or click below to learn more from the U.S Department of Veterans Affairs.

[Learn More Here](#)

VA



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

Join VA's Education Network

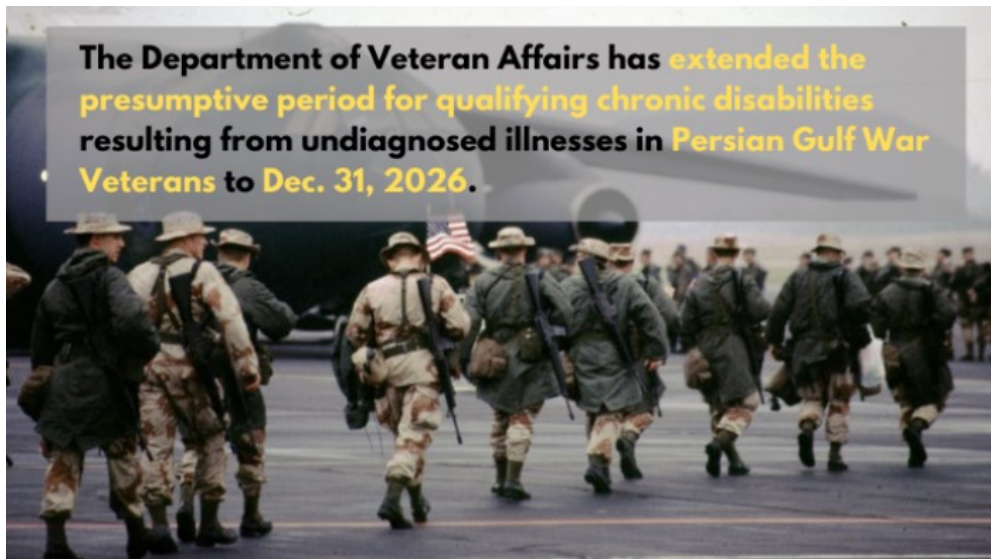
Join VA's GI Bill® network by applying for education benefits!
You'll gain access to tools and funding that help you pursue your educational and career goals, no toggling or troubleshooting needed.

[Connect with your benefits by clicking the button below.](#)

More Information

Extension of Gulf War Presumptive Period

The Department of Veterans Affairs has extended the presumptive period for qualifying chronic disabilities resulting from undiagnosed illnesses in Persian Gulf War Veterans to December 31, 2026. To learn more about VA and Gulf War Veterans, [click here](#).



To learn more about VA and Gulf War Veterans, click the button below.

More information

You are not alone! Connect with Care Now.



VA's top clinical priority is preventing suicide among all Veterans — including

those who do not, and may never, seek care within the VA health care system. As a Veteran, you can play a role in fulfilling this mission, and VA can equip you with tools to do your part. You can explore [suicide prevention resources](#) to build networks of support among community-based organizations, Veterans Service Organizations, health care providers, and other members of your community that strengthen protective factors for Veterans.

More information

Save the Date



OFF-BASE TRANSITION > TRAINING

Employment-focused training for veterans, including those veterans currently serving in the Reserve Component (National Guard and Reserve members), and their spouses.

Off-Base Transition Training (OBTT) is an extension of the Department of Labor's (DOL) Transition Assistance Program. OBTT workshops are short, educational modules to help participants meet their employment-preparation needs.

Job Search Techniques - Resume Essentials - Interview Skills - Federal Hiring - LinkedIn - Employment Rights - & more!



FREE WORKSHOPS
FLEXIBLE SCHEDULES
IN-PERSON OR ONLINE
REGISTER ONLINE AT
DOL.GOV/OBTTWORKSHOPS

OBTT workshop dates thru April

March 28, 2023:

Durham: AJC NCWorks Career Center Orange County,
100 Europa Dr. #101, Chapel Hill, NC 27517

April 4, 2023

Fayetteville: NCWorks Fayetteville Career Center
490 N McPherson Church Rd. Fayetteville, NC 28303

Community Calendar

March 2023

[Mar 20-21 HOH Camp Lejeune Career Summit](#)

[Mar 21 USDOL Off Base Transition Training, Salisbury](#)

[Mar 22 Fort Bragg Soldier Recovery Unit Career and Resource Fair](#)

[Mar 22 Hickory Metro Virtual Career & Internship Event](#)

[Mar 22 VBH Veterans Coffee, Cabarrus County](#)

[Mar 23 Save Cedar Grove, Charlotte](#)

[Mar 23 Department of Labor Off-Base Transition Training, Triad Region](#)

[Mar 23 Heroes Center 2nd Annual Salute to Women Veterans, High Point](#)

[Mar 24-25 Addiction Medicine Conference, Asheville](#)

[Mar 25 Off-Road Outreach, Fayetteville](#)

[Mar 28 Department of Labor Off-Base Transition Training, Triangle Regi](#)

[Mar 29 Veterans Appreciation Breakfast, Greensboro](#)

[Mar 30 2023 Battle of the Bull Career Expo](#)

[Mar 30 Veterans Appreciation Breakfast, Burlington](#)

[Mar 30 Department of Labor Off-Base Transition Training, Triad Region](#)

Want to be included in a future issue?

To recommend content, news, and resources for future issues or to find more information, please connect with us at publisher@milvets.nc.gov.
You can view previous issues [here](#).

Share your news



North Carolina
**DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY
AND VETERANS AFFAIRS**

The North Carolina Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (NCDMVA) supports both active and reserve uniformed military personnel and their families; military installations and communities; and military veterans and their families in North Carolina. The Department seeks to provide timely and responsive engagement to enhance North Carolina's current military and veteran friendly environment. In addition, the department also seeks to foster and promote business, technology, transportation, education, economic development, and healthcare for the above communities. Lastly, the Department works to accomplish these services by providing assistance and coordination between the Federal Government, the State of North Carolina, its political subdivisions, and collaborative and supporting agencies.

Let's Get Social!

Connect with us on social media for more news, updates, issue reports, action calls, and time sensitive items of note.



NC DMVA | www.milvets.nc.gov

NC Department of Military and Veterans Affairs | 413 N. Salisbury Street, Raleigh, NC 27603

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