



DMVA

North Carolina Department of Military and Veterans Affairs

ON POINT NEWSLETTER

May 2023 Newsletter

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#ICYMI



NC DMVA Secretary

Walter Gaskin Encourages NC Businesses to Hire Veterans & Support Military Families At DANC Event

Business leaders gathered in Cary at the 2023 Defense Alliance of North Carolina (DANC) Annual Chairman's Luncheon to learn more about the opportunities for connecting with veterans and ways they can support military families. The event, held in March at Prestonwood Country Club in Cary, NC brought community, business, and military and veterans resource organizations together for a greater understanding of how the state's military servicemembers and their families are a such a great asset to the state. NC Department of Military and Veterans Affairs Secretary Walter Gaskin was the keynote speaker at the event. Secretary Gaskin shared why military veterans provide NC businesses should consider hiring highly skilled veterans in our state.

"North Carolina is fourth in the nation for military population, with 122,200 active-military members – making it the state's second largest economic sector. More than 82 percent of those exiting the military in the next three years will be 30 or younger," said LtGen Walter E. Gaskin, USMC, Ret., Secretary, NC DMVA. "These individuals have extensive experience in engineering, IT, healthcare, communications, research, and other in-demand fields. Our military community offers a ready and able workforce."

The NC DMVA and The Secretary Gaskin also shared that the DMVA and the Department of Health and Human Services recently announced the Military Child Care in Your Neighborhood Plus Expansion in North Carolina. "As you know, when a person serves, the family serves. So we must support these military families as much as possible," said Gaskin, "MCCYN PLUS is a way to provide support and confidence to our military – to know that your child is receiving the best education and care – especially when you're away training or deployed."

MCCYN PLUS builds on the Military Services' history of providing fee assistance to eligible military families to help offset the cost of childcare in community programs, when on-installation care is not available. Of the more than 67,000 children of active duty servicemembers, 43.4% of them are 5 years old or younger, and 22,000 are between the ages of 6 and 11. North Carolina is one of ten states offering the MCCYN PLUS and families who must use community childcare programs could save on quality care for their children with the maximum benefit reaching \$1,700 per child/month.

"Currently, 294 North Carolina providers participate in MCCYN, but there are

2,500 childcare facilities rated 3-stars and above in the state's counties closest to major military installations," Gaskin said, "This provides a significant opportunity to increase the number of centers and family childcare homes participating in the fee assistance program, and increases the number of quality child care options for military families. And that will help to eliminate barriers to hiring military servicemembers and veterans and will offer additional support to their families."

Secretary Gaskin also reminded attendees that the DMVA's Transition Services Division serves 20,000 active military transitioning to veterans status each year. He also praised the fact that Governor Cooper recently signed into law Medicaid Expansion in North Carolina. "This is a big win for us." Gaskin said, "Medicaid Expansion could help an additional 15,000 North Carolina veteran connected families gain healthcare coverage."

DANC Executive Board Chair, LtGen Mark Brilakis, also encouraged attendees to continue to welcome and offer opportunities for our military and veterans.

"Opportunities for growth and innovation in North Carolina remain strong. We also saw our state make a significant decision to exempt military retirement pay from the state income tax," said LtGen Mark Brilakis, USMC, Ret., DANC Executive Board Chair said, "It is a move that has the potential to either keep them here or encourage the relocation of thousands of military retirees to North Carolina so we can benefit from their talent and commitment for the benefit of our citizens, our businesses and schools, and our economy."

NC DMVA and DANC are committed to ensuring that the military, veterans and their families have all the resources they need to thrive in the state.

Month of the Military Child



State of North Carolina

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

2023

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

A PROCLAMATION

Governor Roy Cooper proclaims April as Month of The Military Child in appreciation of the service and sacrifices of the children and youth of military families.

To support our military children, NC DMVA manages and maintains the Scholarship for Children of Wartime Veterans. The Department also works closely with NC Department of Health and Human Services on launching the Military Child Care in Your Neighborhood-PLUS initiative in North Carolina.

Read the proclamation:

[Click Here](#)

NC DMVA Making a Difference!

Mark,

Enclosed is the coin I sent you in appreciation for your above and beyond help in filing the VA claim for C. Harris on Wednesday. Your Kindness salvaged for use a 4am wakeup and 3 hour drive from Pinehurst, all to help an old friend vet. It would not have happened but for your help... along with your ladies Lisa & Katherine

J. Epting

NC DMVA At Work

DMVA

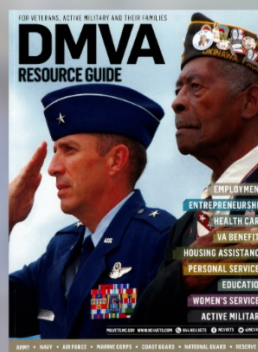
NEW RESOURCE GUIDE 2023/2024

**CALLING
ALL**

VETERANS SERVICE
ORGANIZATIONS
NON-PROFITS
NC STATE &
FEDERAL DEPTS.
SUPPORT SERVICES
& OTHERS



Is your organization in the business of serving veterans across the state? Click the link below, fill out the online form, and email the required information for consideration and inclusion into our biennial publication.



PREVIOUS EDITIONS

WWW.MILVETS.NC.GOV/RESOURCEGUIDE

NC DMVA 23-24 Resource Guide

Click here: [NC DMVA 23-24 Resource Guide Application](#)

Greetings,

The time has come again to assemble North Carolina's most respected military and veterans' compilation of resources.

The North Carolina Department of Military and Veterans Affairs is now accepting entries for possible inclusion into its 2023/24 NC DMVA Resource Guide.

This includes, but is not limited to, entries from: veterans service organizations, non-profit entities, North Carolina State Government and Federal Departments, support services for both active duty and retired military personnel and their families, as well as other supportive assemblies.

We anticipate our new NC DMVA Resource Guide to be better than ever before and look forward to your organization's submission.

[Submit Application Here](#)

NC State Veterans Home Salisbury Recognizes Staff's Call of Duty

The North Carolina State Veterans Home in Salisbury (NCSVH), has a guardian angel on the 2nd Shift Housekeeping Staff.

Recently, Ms. Dellery Bennett's quick reflexes and prompt actions, helped a veteran avoid a potential emergency. She didn't hesitate or think twice about it. Although her *regular* job is housekeeping, she's always thinking about the residents and keeping a watchful eye.

News of Ms. Bennett's quick actions, moved the staff to honor her with special recognition. NCSVH personnel call her caring, fearless, and courageous. Staff gathered recently to honor her dedication and going *above and beyond* to care for the veterans.



Left to right: Salisbury NCSVH Housekeeping Supervisor Shawanna Godfrey, Veteran Service Officer Barry J Cartner, present 2nd Shift Housekeeper Ms. Dellery Bennett (Far right), with an NC DMVA Challenge Coin in recognition of her response to a recent NCSVH Salisbury emergency involving a beloved resident.

*Thank you Ms. Dellery Bennett!
You are the best of the best!*

From your NC DMVA family

Leaderboard

NC DMVA Welcomes Tracie Ruther to the Team



New to the NC Department of Military and Veterans Affairs is Ms. Tracie Ruther. Ms. Ruther joined the NC DMVA family in February, 2023. Ms. Ruther is a native of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and a true Steeler's fan. She graduated from Shaw University located in the Capital city. In Tracie's spare time, she enjoys traveling to NC beaches, gardening, and reading.

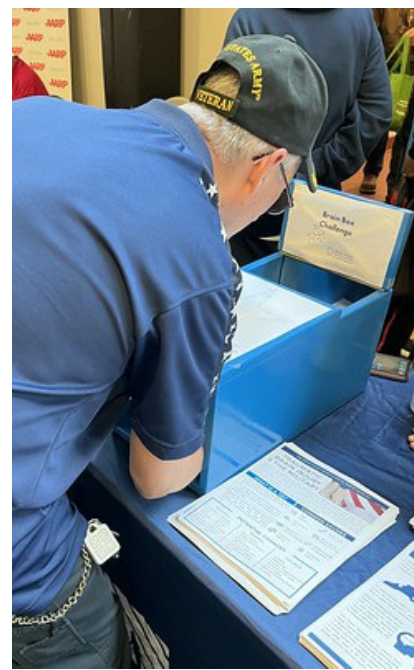
Welcome to the DMVA Family!

Veterans Benefits Live VA In My Town Cary NC

Veterans and their families had a face-to-face opportunity with representatives of the VA and other service-related organizations in March in Cary, NC. The three day event called "Veterans Benefits Live," held at the Herbert Community Center, enabled Veterans from Wake County and surrounding communities to



to get questions answered, learn about their benefits, seek assistance with claims, and gain a better understanding of the PACT Act, and how it may impact them. The open house event allowed veterans and their families to drop in, navigate through the myriad of resources available for them, and have peer-to-peer consultations.



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



Visit Website

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

- Accounting Technician III (Raleigh, NC)
- Veterans Services Officer (Charlotte, NC)



Visit Website

Coming in May... Mental Health Awareness Month



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

MAY IS MENTAL HEALTH MONTH

TODAY I AM
PROUD

... because I've worked hard to find a healthy balance.

Hear Laura's Story
A U.S. Navy Veteran



MakeTheConnection.net/MHM

Veterans Share How Mental Health Support Helped Shape Who They Are Today

With the support of their loved ones, communities, and care teams, countless Veterans have learned to manage their mental health symptoms and thrive. Veterans often come through mental health treatment with a renewed sense of self, purpose, and hope. But not every Veteran seeks the care that could help them heal, manage their symptoms, or adjust to the new reality of civilian life.

To encourage Veterans to reach out for support, during Mental Health Month every May, VA amplifies its messages that therapy can work and that it's OK to

seek help. As part of this year's observance, visitors to [MakeTheConnection.net/mental-health-month](https://www.MakeTheConnection.net/mental-health-month) will find stories of Veterans who are proud of the advances they have made through mental health treatment.

Each featured Veteran's story completes the thought, "Today I Am ..." For example: Today, Laura, who served in the Navy, is proud that with personal dedication and professional care, she gained a clear perspective to address her eating disorder, substance misuse, and sexual trauma.

"My sobriety today means ... I can wake up with a clear head — that I can be proud of myself," [Laura](#) says.

Another Veteran, [Mike](#), tried to handle the effects of his trauma alone after serving in the Marines. When that didn't work, he started therapy, where he found a supportive and healing community among fellow Veterans. Since then, Mike earned a master's degree in social work so he can help Veterans and first responders. Today, he is part of something meaningful and bigger than himself.

"There's a lot of us out here who've been through this," Mike says. "And there's a lot of us who've gotten to the other side."

During Mental Health Month, visit [MakeTheConnection.net/mental-health-month](https://www.MakeTheConnection.net/mental-health-month) to hear real Veterans tell their stories about what made the difference in their mental health journeys and how treatment has changed their lives and outlooks.

VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Office of Rural Engagement

VA waives copayments for eligible Native American/Alaska Native Veterans

WASHINGTON — Today, the Department of Veterans Affairs announced that eligible American Indian and Alaska Native Veterans are no longer required to make copayments for health care and urgent care received through VA. The Biden-Harris administration and VA are proud to implement this [rule](#), which is estimated to impact approximately 25,000 American Indian and Alaska Native Veterans.

Under this new policy, VA will reimburse copayments paid on or after Jan. 5, 2022 and waive future copayments for eligible American Indian and Alaska Native Veterans.

As of Tuesday, April 4, Veterans can submit documentation to qualify for the copayment exemption. Eligible Veterans include any Veteran who [meets the definitions of "Indian" or "urban Indian"](#) under the Indian Health Care Improvement Act – including Veterans who are members of an American Indian Tribe, certain Veterans who are descendants of Tribe members, Alaska Native Veterans, and [more](#).

“American Indian and Alaska Native Veterans deserve access to world-class health care for their courageous service to our nation,” said VA Secretary Denis McDonough. “By eliminating copays, we are making VA health care more affordable and accessible — which will lead to better health outcomes for these heroes.”

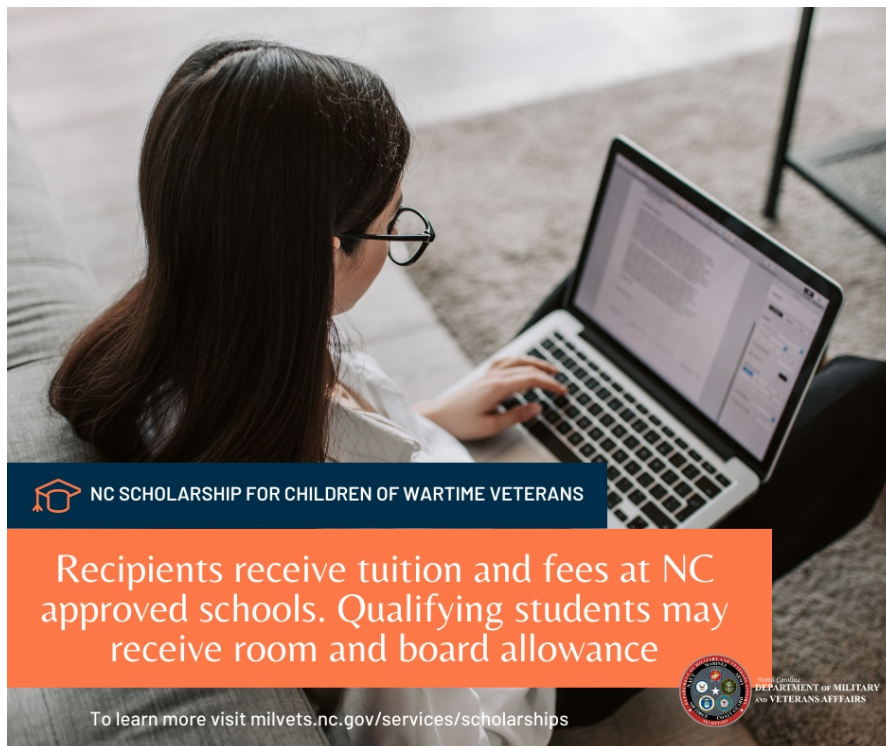
To receive this financial relief, eligible Veterans should mail 1) a completed [VA Tribal Documentation Form \(VA Form 10-334\)](#), and 2) a copy of official tribal documentation demonstrating that they meet the [definitions of “Indian” or “urban Indian”](#) to PO Box 5100, Janesville, WI 53547. For more information on copayment waivers for Native American and Alaska Native Veterans, visit [here](#).


VA posted a [final rule for public inspection](#) in the Federal Register today establishing the waiver and process for Veterans to submit documentation to have their VA copays waived. This rule implements Section 3002 of the [Johnny Isakson and David P. Roe, M.D. Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2020 Public Law 116-315](#), signed into law Jan. 5, 2021.

Learn more [about copayment exemptions for Native American and Alaska Native Veterans](#) and [VA benefits and programs for American Indian and Alaska Native Veterans](#).

###


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



DEPARTMENT of MILITARY and VETERANS AFFAIRS

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](#)

VA and NIH Launch Comprehensive Study of Gulf War Illness

Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the National Institutes of Health (NIH) have launched a five-year comprehensive study to gain a better understanding of the chronic symptoms of Gulf War Illness. The disease affects multiple systems in the body and includes chronic symptoms such as fatigue, headache, memory and cognitive difficulties, joint and muscle pain, poor sleep, and problems with gastrointestinal and respiratory function. ***Currently, between 175,000 and 210,000 of the nearly 700,000 men and women who served in the Persian Gulf during operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm have experienced this disease.***

Nearly 75,000 men and women servicemembers stationed in North Carolina served in the Persian Gulf War. VA researchers will do in-depth screenings of eligible 1990-91 era Gulf War veterans through the Miami VA Medical Center and the Washington, DC and California sites of the VA's [War Related Illness and Injury Study Center](#)

Potential study participants will then be referred to the [NIH Clinical Center](#) for up to two weeks of comprehensive testing. NIH hopes to gain more insight into Gulf War Illness. Researchers will seek to identify how the illness presents in each participant and in ways that can be measured and observed. Researchers will focus on the immune and autonomic nervous systems, as well as the body's energy-production pathways.

Eligible veterans can volunteer to be a part of this study by visiting:

<https://research.ninds.nih.gov/patients/va-nih-project-depth>

VA researchers will also maintain a data repository of participants, oversee veterans' overall experience in the study, and help to communicate individual participants' study findings to their VA care providers as appropriate.

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](#).

The Department of Veteran Affairs has **extended the presumptive period for qualifying chronic disabilities resulting from undiagnosed illnesses in Persian Gulf War Veterans to Dec. 31, 2026.**



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 May

May 05, 2023:

Union County: NCWorks Career Center Union County,
1125 Skyway Dr. Monroe NC 28110

May 09, 2023

Cumberland: AJC NCWorks Career Center
Fayetteville, NC

May 10, 2023

Gastonia: NCWorks Career Center

1391 Bessemer City Rd. Gastonia NC 28052

May 12, 2023

Transformation Village
30 Olin Haven Way, Ashville NC 28806

May 15, 2023

Butner: Veterans Life Center
Butner, NC

May 16, 2023

Wake: AJC NCWorks Center
Raleigh, NC 27610

May 17, 2023

Cabarrus County: NCWorks Career Center
845 Church St. N. Concord NC 28025

May 24, 2023

Charlotte NC Career Works Center
8601 McAlpine Park Dr.
Charlotte, NC 28211

May 31, 2023

Cabarrus County Career Center
845 Church St. N
Concord, NC 28025



**Patriots Path Presents
Military & Corporate "Speed Networking" and
Reception**

**May 16, 2023 | 5:00-7:30pm | Truist Center, Charlotte,
NC**

Veterans and Military Spouse Job Seekers

Practice your networking skills through quick, one-on-one interactions with leading employers. This fun and fast paced event is your chance to practice what you learned in the Patriots Path course with corporate volunteers offering great feedback and advice. Plus, you will be getting some great exposure in the job market!

Executives and Talent Acquisition Specialists

Do you want to connect with Veterans and Military Spouses as they explore new career opportunities? Be one of our Corporate Networking Volunteers and share your networking expertise with our transitioning students.

Registration in advance is required

Military & Corporate Speed Networking

LOCATION

Truist Center, 214 N Tryon St, Charlotte, NC 28202

DATE AND TIME

05/16/23 5:00pm - 05/16/23 7:30pm US/Eastern

Veterans, MilSpouses, and active duty military personnel practice their networking skills with a succession of corporate professionals.

Job Seekers - Register as a Veteran/MilSpouse
Recruiters & Executives - Register as a Corporate Volunteer

Brought to you by our generous corporate sponsor and host

Visit us at Patriots-Path.org

Career coaching & job search support uniquely tailored for those who have served



FLOWERS of REMEMBRANCE DAY

ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY



Come memorialize
our nation's fallen

Sunday,
**MAY
28**

9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Pay homage to the first
official Decoration Day,
now known as Memorial
Day, by placing a flower
at the Tomb of the
Unknown Soldier

With a history talk by
ANC HISTORIANS
10 a.m. to noon

Located in the center of
the Memorial Amphitheater

*An optional walking tour
will follow the talk.*



ANC will provide
flowers for all
visitors.



Bring water and
stay hydrated while
in the cemetery.



Be respectful
and remember
the fallen.



Follow our social
media for updates.
[@arlingtonnatl](https://twitter.com/arlingtonnatl)

Join us as we continue this new day of remembrance.

For more information, visit our website at www.arlingtoncemetery.mil or call 877-907-8585.

VETERAN APPRECIATION DAY

Join us for an afternoon celebrating Veterans

VBH VETERANS BRIDGE HOME
AMERICAN HEROES for NORTH CAROLINA

June 3rd 2023
11AM - 4PM

Carolina Field of Honor – Triad Park
19652 Mountain Street
Kernesville, NC 27284

- Kids Activities
- Veteran Services
- Food Trucks
- Live Music
- Military Displays

VETERANS CEREMONY AT NOON

Community Calendar

May 2023

May 8-12 [Patriots Path Workshop](#)

May 8 [Military Spouse Roundtable, Ft Bragg](#)

May 11 [Mega Hiring Event, Ft Bragg](#)

May 13 [Military, Veteran & Family leisurely walk & socialization event, Southern Pines](#)

May 13 [Military Appreciation & Jeep Rally, High Point](#)

May 16 [VBH Veterans Coffee, Cary](#)

May 18-20 [Veterans Benefits Live, Kill Devil Hills](#)

May 19 [AMVETS 2nd Annual Honoring Veterans Golf Tournament, Laurinburg](#)

May 20 [Heroes 5K Run - Family Fun Walk, Huntersville](#)

May 29 [Memorial Day Ruck Remember & Honor 5K Ruck March, Mooresville](#)

May 31 [VBH Employer Lunch & Learn, Fayetteville](#)

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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