

Serving Veterans: Resources and Tools

The Department of Defense has developed the Transition Assistance Program (TAP). All Service members are required to go through TAP before separation from military service. A redesign of TAP was unveiled in 2012; therefore, not all Veterans may be aware of the resources and benefits available to them. The following list of resources is intended to connect Veterans and their families to the most relevant resources as they transition from military to civilian life.

Transition Services

Department of Defense Transition Assistance Program

<https://www.dodtap.mil/>

- The Transition Assistance Program (TAP) website is the official Department of Defense website that provides Service members and their spouses tools and information for a successful transition into civilian life. Tools and information provided on the TAP website focus on assistance with obtaining education, employment, and starting a business.

Career One Stop

<http://www.careeronestop.org/militarytransition/>

- This U.S. Department of Labor sponsored website assists Veterans during the transition process. The Veteran and Military Transition Center provides information on employment, training, and financial help.

Benefits

Department of Veterans Affairs

<https://www.va.gov/>

- The Department of Veterans Affairs website contains information on the benefits available to Veterans. Each area covers what the benefit is, who is eligible, and how to apply.

Department of Veterans Affairs and Department of Defense eBenefits

www.ebenefits.va.gov

- The eBenefits website is a restricted website that requires Veterans to register and use a DS LOGON in order to apply for benefits and retrieve verification letters and certificates. The website also allows Veteran access to military files, such as his or her DD Form 214 (i.e., the form that validates the Service member's military service and type of discharge).

Jobs Assistance

VA Vets.gov

<https://www.vets.gov/employment/>

- This website is in association with the Department of Labor and provides Veterans with assistance in different aspects of their job search such as career advice and building résumés.

Troops to Teachers

www.proudtoserveagain.com

- Troops to Teachers is a program developed to help transitioning Service members and Veterans start a new career as teachers in public, charter, and Bureau of Indian Affairs schools. Veterans can receive counseling, referral services, and assistance with education and licensing requirements.

My Next Move

<http://www.mynextmove.org/vets>

- This website assists Veterans in searching for careers, identifying careers that match the skill set they have trained for and performed in the military, and understanding what qualifications and training are needed for different career fields.

Credentialing Opportunities On-Line

The following websites provide Credentialing Opportunities On-Line. They assist Veterans in obtaining credentials for skills they gained during military service.

- Army-
<https://www.cool.army.mil>
- Marines-
www.cool.navy.mil/usmc/index.htm
- Navy-
<https://www.cool.navy.mil>
- Air Force-
<https://afvec.langley.af.mil/afvec/Public/COOL/Default.aspx>

USA Jobs

<http://www.usajobs.gov/>

- This is an official U.S. Government job search website. Veterans preference may apply. Applicants will be required to produce their DD Form 214.

Department of Labor (Apprenticeships)

<https://doleta.gov/oa/veterans.cfm>

- This Department of Labor website is dedicated to assisting Veterans in finding apprenticeships.

Department of Defense Transition Assistance Program

www.dmdc.osd.mil/tgps

- The Department of Defense TAP website can be used to access Verification of Military Experience & Training (VMET) documents and requires a DS LOGON.

Department of Labor (Gold Card)

<http://www.dol.gov/vets/goldcard.html>

- The Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration (ETA) and the Veterans' Employment and Training Service (VETS) worked together to provide the Gold Card initiative that offers unemployed post-9/11 era Veterans services to compete in today's job market.

Feds Hire Vets

<http://www.fedshirevets.gov>

- This website provides information on Federal jobs for Veterans .

Office of Personnel Management

<https://www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/hiring-information/veterans-authorities/>

- This website outlines special hiring authorities for Veterans with regard to federal jobs.

Education and Training

Department of Veterans Affairs Education and Training

<http://www.gibill.va.gov>

- Provides information about Veteran educational benefits and explains how to apply for benefits.

Institute for Veterans and Military Families

<https://ivmf.syracuse.edu/>

- The Institute for Veterans and Military Families delivers programs in career, vocational and entrepreneurship education and training.

Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support

<http://www.dantes.doded.mil/index.html>

- The Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support (DANTES) website assists Service members and Veterans with their educational goals. DANTES also assists Veterans earn degrees or certifications after their service.

Joint Service Transcript

<https://jst.doded.mil/smart/>

- The Joint Service Transcript website allows Veterans to retrieve transcripts of courses completed while in military service (registration required). Veterans can use this transcript to potentially receive college credit towards their degree.

Community College of the Air Force

<http://www.au.af.mil/au/ccaf/index.asp>

- The Community College of the Air Force website allows Veterans to retrieve transcripts of courses completed with the Community College of the Air Force. Veterans can use this transcript to potentially receive college credit towards their degree.

Student Veterans of America

<http://www.studentveterans.org/>

- This is a 501(c)(3) organization that supports student Veterans with local chapters and funds scholarships.

Entrepreneurial Opportunities

Small Business Administration

www.sba.gov

- The Small Business Administration (SBA) website has information for the new entrepreneur to the most seasoned one. This website is not Veteran specific; however, the SBA has a Boots to Business program specifically for Veterans (see below).

Boots to Business

<http://boots2business.org/>

- Boots to Business is an entrepreneurial education and training program that provides information to Veterans on steps for evaluating business concepts, the foundational knowledge required to develop a business plan, and SBA resources. This program is offered by the SBA as part of the Department of Defense's TAP.

Department of Veterans Affairs Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization

<https://www.va.gov/osdbu/entrepreneur/>

- The Veteran Entrepreneur Portal (VEP) is part of the Department of Veterans Affairs Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (VA OSDBU). VA OSDBU provides Veterans with information and resources on best practices related to entrepreneurship.

Finances

Defense Finance and Accounting Service

<http://www.dfas.mil>

- The Defense Finance and Accounting Service website gives Veterans information about their final pay and ability to retrieve their W-2. Logon is required.

Department of Veterans Affairs Home Loans

<http://www.benefits.va.gov/HOMELOANS/index.asp>

- This website provides information about Veterans Affairs home loans and explains how to apply.

Thrift Savings Plan

www.tsp.gov

- The Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) website allows Veterans access to information about money they have contributed to the TSP. Veterans may also transfer funds or close accounts through this website.

Health Care

Health.mil

<https://health.mil/I-Am-A/Veteran>

- This is the official website of the Military Health System and the Defense Health Agency, and it provides Veterans, depending on their status, with links on available health care options.

Department of Veterans Affairs Health Benefits

www.va.gov/healthbenefits

- This website outlines health benefits for Veterans and discusses how to apply.

Health Care.gov

www.healthcare.gov/veterans

- This website contains information on health care options for Veterans and their dependents.

TRICARE

www.tricare.mil

- This website contains health care information for retired Service members and family members of those whose Service member died on Active Duty or while retired.

Department of Veterans Affairs Vet Center Program

<https://www.vetcenter.va.gov/index.asp>

- The Vet Center Program provides quality readjustment counseling to Combat Veterans and services to Veterans who experienced military sexual trauma.

Department of Veterans Affairs PTSD: National Center for PTSD

<http://www.ptsd.va.gov/>

- The National Center for PTSD utilizes research and education related to trauma and PTSD in helping Veterans exposed to trauma.

Veterans Crisis Line

1-800-273-8255 (or text to 838255)

- Veterans Crisis Line is part of the national suicide prevention lifeline. To access Veteran specific counselors, press 1 after calling. This crisis line provides free, confidential support for Veterans in crisis and their families and friends.

Mentorship

American Corporate Partners

<http://acp-usa.org/>

- American Corporate Partners' Mentoring Program is for post-9/11 Veterans. Corporate professionals serve as mentors for Veterans as they are job searching or newly employed.

Service Mentorship Programs

The following links provide information on each of the Services' mentorship programs.

- Army Mentorship Program-
http://myarmybenefits.us.army.mil/Home/Benefit_Library/Federal_Benefits_Page/Army_Mentorship_Program.html
- USMC Mentorship Guidance/Information-
<http://www.marines.mil/Portals/59/Publications/NAVMC%20DIR%201500.58.pdf>
- Navy Mentorship Program-
http://www.public.navy.mil/bupers-npc/support/21st_Century_Sailor/diversity/mentoring/Pages/default2.aspx
- Air Force Mentorship Guidance/Information-
<https://www.au.af.mil/au/awc/awcgate/awc-prof.htm>

Clearinghouse for Military Family Readiness

The Pennsylvania State University

Email: Clearinghouse@psu.edu

Website: <http://www.militaryfamilies.psu.edu>

Live Chat: <http://www.militaryfamilies.psu.edu/assistance/live-chat>

Phone: 1-877-382-9185

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