



**American  
Red Cross**

## **COMMUNITY RESOURCE GUIDE**

*for Service Members, Veterans,  
and their Families  
in the*

**American Red Cross  
Central Lower Michigan Region**

**(888) 827-4357**  
[www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org)

*Serving Clare, Clinton, Eaton, Gladwin, Gratiot, Jackson, Hillsdale,  
Ingham, Isabella, Livingston, Mecosta, Midland, Osceola, Saginaw, and  
Shiawassee Counties*



*Dear Service-Member, Veteran, or Service-family Member,*

*We have compiled this resource guide to help you meet a variety of needs, from everyday family and parenting services to occupational and financial support. While many of the agencies listed operate on a national level, we have focused specifically on resources that are available to service members, veterans, and families in the Central Lower Michigan Region. If you are aware of any helpful resources that are not included in this guide, please let us know, and we will add them to future editions!*

*We hope that you find this guide a useful addition to our other Red Cross military services, and that you continue to call on us for your emergency needs. Thank you for your service.*

*Sincerely,*

*Services to Armed Forces  
American Red Cross  
Central Lower Michigan Region*



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### EACH PROGRAM IS CODED AS FOLLOWS FOR THE AUDIENCE(S) IT SERVES:

**AD – Active Duty, including deployed/activated National Guard and Reserve**

**E – Everyone**

**NG – National Guard**

**RV – Reserve**

**RT – Retiree**

**V – Veteran**

**WI – Wounded/Injured/Ill**



# **COMMUNICATIONS**



## **Deployment News**

[www.DefenseLINK.mil](http://www.DefenseLINK.mil)

[www.defendamerica.mil/profiles.html](http://www.defendamerica.mil/profiles.html)

AD

The Department of Defense provides many excellent resources that support deploying personnel and their families, including a comprehensive list of Department of Defense websites and the latest deployment news.

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## **Emergency Communications**

[www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org)

(877) 272-7337

AD

The American Red Cross links members of the U.S. Armed Forces with their families during a crisis. Twenty-four hours a day, 365 days a year, the Red Cross quickly sends emergency communications to deployed service members on behalf of their family. Military members can have peace of mind knowing that when they are on a mission, in training or stationed far from home—and leaving cell phones and emails behind—they are still connected to home.

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## **HooahMail**

[www.hooahmail.us](http://www.hooahmail.us)

AD

The Army's HooahMail program makes it possible for friends and family members to put a paper letter and photograph into the hands of their loved ones in Afghanistan, in some cases, on the same day it's sent. The pilot program makes use of the Internet—combined with physical mail delivery—to create a hybrid mail system that can get letters into the hands of Soldiers in remote locations much faster than regular mail delivery alone. Family and friends of deployed Army Personnel in Afghanistan only can send a HooahMail letter to be downloaded, printed, and ready for delivery, usually within 24 hours. This service is free, private, and secure.

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## **VFW Operation Uplink**

Free Call Day Schedule:

[www.vfw.org/PR/NMS/OperationUplink/2010FCDSchedule.pdf](http://www.vfw.org/PR/NMS/OperationUplink/2010FCDSchedule.pdf)

AD

The premiere calling program for deployed service members that provides free phone time to active-duty military personnel and hospitalized veterans.

At least one designated day each month, deployed service members making calls to the U.S. from their local Morale Welfare & Recreation (MWR) center are greeted by a recording which states their call will be free courtesy of VFW Operation Uplink™. The program began working through 191 internet cafes abroad and is now offered through more than 866 locations.

Members of VFW and Ladies Auxiliary VFW Posts, as well as other caring citizens generously support the program. VFW Operation Uplink™ works exclusively with DRS Technical Services, Inc. to provide the Free Call Day program — the only program of its kind.

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# **EDUCATIONAL AID AND SCHOLARSHIPS**



**Adrian College - Operation Education**

[www.adrian.edu/news/6\\_08op\\_ed2.php](http://www.adrian.edu/news/6_08op_ed2.php)

(517) 265-5161 ext. 4326

V, WI

Operation Education will offer a disabled American veteran, who was injured during combat in Afghanistan or Iraq after September 11, 2001, a full scholarship toward earning his or her college degree. This scholarship will be given to a deserving veteran each year. The scholarship will accompany each student throughout their education at the College until they graduate. The Operation Education Scholarship Program is designed to provide the extra support, specifically financially, that is typically needed beyond that provided by the Veterans Affairs and GI Bill benefits. Application available online.

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**Alma College**

[www.alma.edu/about/offices/financial\\_aid/veterans](http://www.alma.edu/about/offices/financial_aid/veterans)

(989) 463-7111

V

Alma College is one of the more than 1,000 colleges and universities across the nation that have joined the Yellow Ribbon Program, a federal effort to help military veterans attend college.

Under the program, qualified veterans who meet Alma College's admissions requirements are able to attend tuition-free, plus receive stipends for books and living expenses.

Veterans who have served at least 36 months of active duty following Sept. 10, 2001 are eligible for the funding provided by the program. Also eligible are veterans who were honorably discharged for a service-connected disability and served 30 continuous days after Sept. 10, 2001.

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**Central Michigan University U.S. Armed Forces Award**

[www.cel.cmich.edu/finances/scholarships.html](http://www.cel.cmich.edu/finances/scholarships.html)

(877) 268-4636

V

Established to honor severely injured military personnel who have incurred injuries while serving in combat on behalf of the United States or the spouse of a severely injured service member. All military veterans who have been honorably discharged from the military within the last 4 years and are pursuing a degree through CMU's Off-Campus Programs are also encouraged to apply for this award. Scholarship eligibility, criteria, procedures and application: [www.cel.cmich.edu/finances/US-Armed-Forces-Award.pdf](http://www.cel.cmich.edu/finances/US-Armed-Forces-Award.pdf).

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**Children of Veterans Tuition Grant**

[www.michigan.gov/dmva/0,1607,7-126-2362-137641--,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/dmva/0,1607,7-126-2362-137641--,00.html)

(517) 373-7120

V

The Children of Veterans Tuition Grant Act is designed to provide undergraduate tuition assistance to certain children older than 16 and less than 26 years of age who have been Michigan residents for the 12 months prior to application. To be eligible a student must be the natural or adopted child of a Michigan veteran. The veteran must have been a legal resident of Michigan immediately before entering military service and did not later reside outside of Michigan for more than two years; or the veteran must have established legal residency in Michigan after entering military service. For more information, and to apply online, visit [www.michigan.gov/osg](http://www.michigan.gov/osg).

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### **Concordia University - Credits Earned During Military Service**

[www.cuaa.edu/Catalogs/2228.html](http://www.cuaa.edu/Catalogs/2228.html)

(888) 734-4237

V

Veterans may receive appropriate credit for education preparation and experience acquired while in the armed forces by submitting a copy of their DD form 214 and an official military transcript.

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### **Eastern Michigan University**

[www.emich.edu/veterans](http://www.emich.edu/veterans)

(734) 487-3119

V

Eastern Michigan University is an accredited four-year university that is home to one of the largest veteran student populations in the state of Michigan. Our mission is to assist student veterans in meeting the requirements to receive their educational benefits. We are also knowledgeable in many other veteran-related areas and strive to do our best to assist the EMU community.

Our office provides services to a diverse community of students. Whether you were just released from active duty, currently on active duty, in the National Guard or Reserves, or a spouse or dependent of a disabled veteran, we would like to help you with your transition and academic goals.

EMU is a proud member of the Service-members Opportunity Colleges (SOC). As a SOC member we agree to a reasonable transfer of military credit for training.

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### **eKnowledge Free SAT and ACT Prep Software**

[www.eKnowledge.com/military](http://www.eKnowledge.com/military)

(951) 256-4076

E

Through a special donation program sponsored by the Department of Defense and National Football League players, eKnowledge Corporation is offering FREE SAT and ACT test preparation software worth \$200 to military service members and their families. eKnowledge Corporation, a leading provider of interactive learning software products has extended its donation of FREE SAT & ACT test preparation software to America's military

service members, veterans and their families for the fourth consecutive year. To date, eKnowledge has donated over 100,000 FREE SAT/ACT programs worth \$20 million to military service members and their dependants. This gift represents one of the largest private donations to America's service families in U.S. history. Military families interested in receiving the FREE SAT/ACT PowerPrep™ software should visit the following website for details:  
[www.eKnowledge.com/military](http://www.eKnowledge.com/military).

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**Ferris State University**

[www.ferris.edu/admissions/financialaid/vetcontact.html](http://www.ferris.edu/admissions/financialaid/vetcontact.html)

(231) 591-3944

V, NG, RV

Ferris State University provides financial aid assistance to veterans, National Guard members, and Reservists. The Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid - Veterans Administration is available to assist you with questions you may have about your educational benefits. We will also certify your enrollment to the Department of Veterans Affairs once you have enrolled in one of our colleges. Please visit the school website for more information.

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**GI Bill Website**

[www.gibill.va.gov](http://www.gibill.va.gov)

(800) 827-1000

V

Begin the process of applying for Veterans Affairs (VA) educational benefits at the VA website. This website provides detailed information regarding your eligibility of veterans' benefits.

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**Jackson Community College**

[www.jccmi.edu/student-services/veterans](http://www.jccmi.edu/student-services/veterans)

(517) 796-8425

NG, RS, V

The mission of JCC Veteran Services is to support veterans and their dependents in the pursuit of academic achievement and personal excellence. We provide resources and assistance to reach your professional and academic goals. JCC welcomes all veterans, their dependents and spouses, Guards and Reservists to use their benefits at JCC.

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**Lansing Community College**

[www.lcc.edu/veteran](http://www.lcc.edu/veteran)

(800) 644-4522

V

The Veterans Services staff is available to assist you with questions you may have about your educational benefits. We will also certify your enrollment to the Department of Veterans Affairs once you have enrolled in courses included in one of the approximately 600 degree and transfer programs offered at Lansing Community College.

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**Michigan Department of Career Development—Occupational and Vocational Education**  
[www.michigan.gov/mdcd/0,1607,7-122-1679\\_1818\\_25219-67896--,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/mdcd/0,1607,7-122-1679_1818_25219-67896--,00.html)

V

Veterans have gained valuable skills and experiences as a result of training received while serving in the military. Documenting those experiences may allow veterans to earn academic credit for their military education from civilian colleges and universities. This site provides links to other sites and information on options for financing school.

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**Michigan State University (MSU) Disabled Veteran's Assistance Program**

[www.finaid.msu.edu/veterans.asp](http://www.finaid.msu.edu/veterans.asp)

(517) 353-5940

WI

Beginning Fall Semester 2009, new and returning undergraduate veterans with a military-related disability who are Michigan residents and working on their first baccalaureate degree will qualify for an aid package that covers full costs without loans. The student must document his or her status as a disabled veteran with MSU. The student will be awarded a combination of federal, state, and MSU gift funds, combined with veteran's educational benefits and Michigan Rehabilitation Services benefits (if eligible), along with a work component. If the student cannot work due to the disability, the work component will be omitted in favor of additional grant funding.

Expenses covered—tuition and fees, room and board, books, health insurance, and personal and miscellaneous costs of attendance. The cost of supporting a spouse or dependents is not covered with these funds, although federal and/or private student loans may be available on a case-by-case basis.

Students must apply for federal aid using the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Students are also expected to apply for Veteran's Educational Benefits if eligible. For more information, see the MSU Veterans' Certification Office website:  
[www.reg.msu.edu/ROInfo/VeteranInfo.asp](http://www.reg.msu.edu/ROInfo/VeteranInfo.asp).

For more information on this program, see the document Quick Facts about Disabled Veteran's Assistance: [www.finaid.msu.edu/read/qfDisabledVeteran.pdf](http://www.finaid.msu.edu/read/qfDisabledVeteran.pdf).

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**Michigan State University (MSU) Student Veterans**

[www.msu.edu/~msusva/index.html](http://www.msu.edu/~msusva/index.html)

V

The MSU Chapter of Students Veterans of America recognizes the role that U.S. service members hold in the defense of our nation and the protection of our shared freedom. MSU-SVA is committed to providing a welcoming atmosphere for veterans affiliated with Michigan State University. MSU-SVA is a non-political organization that brings people together through our shared respect, and desire to help our nation's heroes; many of whom are our friends and classmates.

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**Michigan Technological University**  
[www.mtu.edu/registrar/students/veterans](http://www.mtu.edu/registrar/students/veterans)  
(906) 487-2319  
V

Michigan Technological University maintains a full-time Veteran Services Office to coordinate services available to incoming and presently enrolled veterans. To inquire about what services are available to veterans, please call (906) 487-2319.

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**The Pat Tillman Foundation Scholarship**  
[www.patillmanfoundation.org/tillman-military-scholars.aspx](http://www.patillmanfoundation.org/tillman-military-scholars.aspx)  
(480) 621-4074  
E

The Pat Tillman Foundation is inviting service members, veterans, and their families to apply for the Tillman Military Scholarship. The Pat Tillman Foundation is dedicated to supporting educational opportunities for service members and their families.

Eligibility requirements:

- Veteran and active service members of both pre- and post-9/11 service
- Service members who wish to start, finish, or further their education:
  - Those whose benefits have run out or do not meet their needs
  - Those enrolled as a full-time student at an U.S. institution of higher learning
- Service members of all branches of the U.S. Armed Forces: Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, National Guard, and Reserve
- Service members pursuing undergraduate, graduate, post-graduate, 2-year, 4-year, public, private, vocational, and trade degrees or certifications
- Dependents of service members (children under the age of 30 or spouses):
  - Those whose benefits are not transferable from their mother/father/husband/wife
  - Those who are survivors of a service member
  - Those whose transferable benefits are not sufficient

To obtain an application or to learn more information go to [www.patillmanfoundation.org](http://www.patillmanfoundation.org).

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**Saginaw Valley State University**  
[www.svsu.edu/veterans.html](http://www.svsu.edu/veterans.html)  
(989) 964-4085  
V

SVSU would like to thank the armed services for their commitment and sacrifices. We are dedicated to providing outstanding services to help veterans, service members, or eligible family members of disabled veterans achieve their academic and personal goals.

This site can help you find the following information:

- Types of Benefits
- How to Apply for Educational Benefits
- University and VA Forms
- Support Services
  - Individual readjustment counseling
  - Group readjustment counseling
  - Referral for benefits assistance
  - Liaison with community agencies
  - Marital and family counseling referral
  - Community education
  - Job counseling and placement
  - Bereavement counseling for families of active duty veterans killed in line of duty

The Office of the Registrar is the certifying office for SVSU and is available to assist you with any questions you may have regarding your educational benefits.

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### **Scholarships for Military Children**

[www.militaryscholar.org](http://www.militaryscholar.org)

AD, NG, RV, RT

The scholarship program is administered by Fisher House Foundation, a nonprofit organization that provides assistance to service members and their families. Dependent, unmarried children, younger than age 21 (age 23 if enrolled as a full-time student at a college or university) of active duty personnel, Reserve, Guard and retired military members, survivors of service members who died while on active duty, or survivors of individuals who died while receiving retired pay from the military may apply for a scholarship.

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### **Tutor.com**

[www.tutor.com/military](http://www.tutor.com/military)

(800) 411-1970

AD

The Department of Defense (DoD) has launched a free, online tutoring service for service members and their families. The site [www.tutor.com/military](http://www.tutor.com/military) offers round-the-clock professional tutors who can assist with homework, studying, test preparation, resume writing and more. Active-duty service members, National Guard and Reserve personnel on active duty in a deployed status, DoD civilians in a deployed status and their dependents are eligible to participate. Along with test preparation, the site is open to students of any age – from kindergartners to high school seniors – for one-on-one help in math, science, social studies and English. [Tutor.com's](http://www.tutor.com) network includes more than 1,800 professional tutors and career specialists; each tutor is certified through the site, and all sessions are recorded for quality control.

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**University of Michigan**

[www.vets.umich.edu](http://www.vets.umich.edu)

(734) 764-6413

V

The veterans and military members living, working, and receiving their education at the University of Michigan are a valued and vital component of our campus community. We recognize and honor their sacrifices and value their life experiences as they broaden the diversity of our staff, faculty and student body. The mission of Student Veterans Assistance Program at the University of Michigan is to assist veterans, guardsmen, reservists, and others receiving US military benefits in making a successful transition into the UM community.

Located within the Office of New Student Programs, the Student Veterans Assistance Program helps students make the transition from active military duty to UM, and from UM to active military duty. Whether you are a new student who has completed your service, a student who interrupted your education to serve and are now returning, or a student who began your studies elsewhere and are transferring here, we will help guide you to the resources you need to make the most of your UM experience. This web site is your first stop for information for student veterans.

In addition to the Office of New Student Programs, the Registrar's Office assists eligible students to apply for their VA education benefits. Both offices are located in the lobby of the Literature, Science and Arts (LSA) building.

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**Wayne State University**

[www.omveb.wayne.edu](http://www.omveb.wayne.edu)

(313) 577-9180

NG, RV, V

The Wayne State University Office of Military and Veteran Education Benefits is dedicated to providing high quality and comprehensive support to student veterans in an environment that fosters respect, commitment, and academic excellence. We provide direct and liaison services for all education and administrative matters pertaining to our student veterans, their families, and the military community at large.

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**Western Michigan University**

[www.wmich.edu/registrar/veterans-services](http://www.wmich.edu/registrar/veterans-services)

(269) 387-4115

V

Western Michigan University Veterans Affairs services for students includes active duty policy and procedures, information and procedures for students returning from active duty, veteran tuition assistance, required forms, certification procedures, enrollment status certification, and information and standards of progress.

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**Yellow Ribbon Program**

[www.gibill.va.gov/GI\\_BILL\\_Info/CH33/Yellow\\_ribbon.htm](http://www.gibill.va.gov/GI_BILL_Info/CH33/Yellow_ribbon.htm)

(800) 827-1000

V

The Yellow Ribbon GI Education Enhancement Program (Yellow Ribbon Program) is a provision of the Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2008. This program allows institutions of higher learning (degree granting institutions) in the United States to voluntarily enter into an agreement with VA to fund tuition expenses that exceed the highest public in-state undergraduate tuition rate. The institution can contribute up to 50% of those expenses and VA will match the same amount as the institution.

For a complete list of participating colleges and universities in Michigan, visit

[www.gibill.va.gov/gi\\_bill\\_info/CH33/YRP/states/mi.htm](http://www.gibill.va.gov/gi_bill_info/CH33/YRP/states/mi.htm).

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# **EMPLOYMENT**



### **American Corporate Partners**

[www.acp-usa.org](http://www.acp-usa.org)

V

American Corporate Partners is a nationwide mentoring program which is matching employees from some of the largest corporations and universities in the country with Iraq and Afghanistan veterans for the purpose of mentoring, networking and career counseling. ACP is dedicated to helping veterans transition from the Armed Services to private enterprise.

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### **Department of Energy, Labor and Economic Growth Bureau of Workforce Transformation**

[www.michigan.gov/mdcd](http://www.michigan.gov/mdcd)

(517) 202-1416

V

This bureau's site contains information on lifelong learning opportunities that veterans may utilize. See the department's web site at [www.michigan.gov/mdcd](http://www.michigan.gov/mdcd) under "Inside Career Development" or call 517-202-1416 for more information.

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### **Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve**

[www.esgr.org](http://www.esgr.org)

Michigan Committee for ESGR  
2500 South Washington Avenue  
Lansing, MI 48913  
(517) 483-5639  
NG, RV

ESGR is a Department of Defense sponsored all-volunteer committee of business, community, and military leaders dedicated to assisting our nation in fielding strong, prepared, and valued National Guard and Reserve forces. ESGR committees work with employers, reservists, and military leadership to build and maintain a strong base of support for the role of the National Guard and Reserve.

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### **Feds Hire Vets**

[www.fedshirevets.gov](http://www.fedshirevets.gov)

(202) 606-5090

V

Information on federal employment for veterans, transitioning service members, and their families.

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## **Federal Jobs for Veterans – Office of Personnel Management**

[www.opm.gov](http://www.opm.gov)

[www.usajobs.opm.gov](http://www.usajobs.opm.gov)

(202) 606-2525

V

Certain veterans, principally those who are disabled or who served in a hostile area, are entitled to preference for federal civil service jobs filled by open, competitive exams. This preference includes five or ten points added to passing scores on examinations.

Preference is also provided for certain widows and widowers of deceased veterans who do not remarry, and for mothers of military personnel who died in service; spouses of service-connected disabled veterans who are no longer able to work in their usual occupations; and mothers of veterans who have permanent and total service-connected disabilities. Individuals interested in federal information should contact the personnel offices of the federal agencies in which they wish to be employed, or contact any Office of Personnel Management (OPM) Service Center. The centers are listed in telephone books under U.S. Government, or you can visit the web site at [www.opm.gov](http://www.opm.gov). Federal job opportunities can be found at [www.usajobs.opm.gov](http://www.usajobs.opm.gov).

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## **Good to Go**

[www.areyoug2g.com](http://www.areyoug2g.com)

AD, V

Good to Go is a tool for returning service members sponsored by the Center for Military Recruitment, Assessment and Veterans Employment, in concert with the Helmets to Hardhats program. Service members can create and customize a checklist of suggested tasks to help ease their transition to home life. The checklist covers everything from work to housing to setting goals for the future.

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## **Helmets to Hardhats**

[www.helmetstohardhats.org](http://www.helmetstohardhats.org)

AD, V

Helmets to Hardhats is a free program that helps transitioning military, guardsmen, and reservists find great careers. The program, which is funded by Congress, works with building and construction trade unions and qualified employers to list construction careers and all other types of careers in the construction industry. Here you can list your skills online to be viewed by potential employers and view employment and training opportunities throughout the U.S. Visit the web site at [www.helmetstohardhats.org](http://www.helmetstohardhats.org).

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## **Hire a Hero**

[www.hireahero.org](http://www.hireahero.org)

(866) 447-3243

V

Provides free employment services to returning service members and their families. Hire A Hero was created as an online professional networking site that provides employment services specifically geared towards meeting the employment needs of returning military members and their families.

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**Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program (HVRP) – Volunteers of America**

[www.voa.org](http://www.voa.org)

(800) 899-0089

V

A comprehensive employment and training program with wrap-around supportive services designed to address employment barriers by establishing a coordinated case management system with a strong aftercare component.

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**Michigan Veterans' Employment Services**

[www.michigan.gov/mdcd/0,1607,7-122-1679\\_1818---,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/mdcd/0,1607,7-122-1679_1818---,00.html)

(800) 455-5228

V

Provides veterans and their dependents with information and links to employment, workforce development, credentialing, specialized job placement, transitioning from welfare to work and dislocated workers assistance programs. Call 1-800-455-5228 to speak with a Veterans Employment Specialist.

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**Michigan Works! Veterans Question Hotline**

<http://michiganworks.org/home/information-for-veterans>

(800) 455-5228

V

Veterans Employment Representatives Located at Michigan Works! Service Centers, in 100 locations, provide locally designed and operated services to meet local labor market needs. Employers seeking workers can post their job listings on the nation's first Internet-based public labor exchange. Veterans can post their resumes for review by employers who are recruiting workers. The Michigan Works! system is open to everyone for information gathering, local and state labor market information, and self-serve career information, including necessary skill levels for good jobs. Special attention is given to meeting the needs of veterans and people with disabilities. Each Michigan Works! Service Center has a Veterans Employment Representative or Disabled Veterans Outreach Worker responsible for assisting veterans with their employment needs. The labor market exchange component is called the Michigan Talent Bank. The Talent Bank can be accessed by calling 1-800-285-9675, online at [www.michiganworks.org](http://www.michiganworks.org), or at any of the Michigan Works! Service Centers throughout Michigan.

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**REALifelines**

<http://hirevetsfirst.dol.gov>

(800) 872-5627

V

The Department of Labor provides specialized employment counselors and assistance for veterans and disabled veterans.

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### **Retirement**

[www.armyg1.army.mil/retire](http://www.armyg1.army.mil/retire)

(800) 452-0923 (Michigan)

RT

Army Retirement Services, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff, G-1, Headquarters, Department of the Army (HQDA), provides information on benefits and entitlements to active duty soldiers and families preparing for retirement and to retired soldiers and families through Army installation Retirement Services Officers (RSO). In accordance with AR 600-8-7, Army Retirement Services develops Army policy and procedures for the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) program; publishes the HQDA bulletin for the retired soldier *Army Echoes*; develops policy for the operation of the Army installation Retirement Services Program; and administers the Army Chief of Staff's (CSA) Retiree Council.

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### **Troops to Teachers - Michigan**

[www.proudtoserveagain.com](http://www.proudtoserveagain.com)

(866) 801-0007

AD, NG, RT, RV, WI

The Michigan and Indiana Troops to Teachers program provide advisory services that assist eligible military personnel to transition to a new career as classroom teachers in K-12 public schools. The Troops to Teachers Program is available to:

- Military retirees
- Members on active duty who are within one year of their retirement date
- Members of the National Guard and Selective Reserves with ten or more years of creditable service
- Members transitioning from active duty with at least six years of active duty and who commit for three years of service in the National Guard or Selective Reserves
- Separated due to physical disability after 8 January 2002. Must register within 4 years of separation

Counseling assistance related to teacher certification requirements and limited job placement assistance is provided. Financial support is also offered to certain eligible participants.

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### **Unemployment Compensation**

[www.michigan.gov/uia](http://www.michigan.gov/uia)

(866) 500-0017

V

Recently discharged veterans with 365 days or more of continuous active service (unless

separated earlier because of a service-related disability) and who have been discharged under conditions other than dishonorable may be eligible for unemployment compensation of up to 26 weeks. Benefits are paid from federal funds to eligible veterans who are able and available for work but are unable to find employment. Extended unemployment benefits may be available to those who exhaust their basic eligibility.

Recently discharged persons may not be eligible if they are already receiving a retirement pension, certain educational assistance, or vocational subsistence allowances from the USDVA.

#### How to File Your Claim -

By Internet: To file your new unemployment claim or to reopen an established claim through the Internet, visit [www.michigan.gov/uia](http://www.michigan.gov/uia) weekdays from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

By Phone: To file your new claim or to reopen a claim through a toll-free telephone number, call 1-866-500-0017 using a touch-tone telephone.

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#### **U.S. Federal Programs Transition Assistance Program**

[www.dol.gov/vets/programs/tap/main.htm](http://www.dol.gov/vets/programs/tap/main.htm)

(800) 455-5228

AD, V

The Transition Assistance Program (TAP) is available to service members (and their spouses) who are scheduled for separation from active duty. The program provides employment and training information to service members within 12 months of their separation or 24 months of retirement from the military. Three-day workshops to help begin the transition from military to civilian employment are conducted at military installations. TAP offers information on how to write resumes, prepare for job interviews, negotiate credits at schools, and obtain certificates or licenses. Additional information is available on the Internet at [www.dol.gov/vets/programs/tap/main.htm](http://www.dol.gov/vets/programs/tap/main.htm), or call the Veterans Question Hotline at 1-800-455-5228. You may wish to use CareerOneStop at [www.acinet.org/acinet/moc](http://www.acinet.org/acinet/moc) to translate military occupations to civilian counterparts.

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#### **Verification of Military Experience and Training**

[www.dmdc.osd.mil/appj/vmet/loginDisplay.do](http://www.dmdc.osd.mil/appj/vmet/loginDisplay.do)

(800) 455-5228

V

The Verification of Military Experience and Training (VMET) Document, DD Form 2586, helps service members verify previous experience and training to potential employers. VMET documents are available only through Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps Transition Support offices and are intended for separating or retiring service members who have at least six months of active duty service. Service members should obtain VMET documents from their Transition Support office within 12 months of separation or 24 months of retirement. Call the Veterans Questions Hotline at 1-800-455-5228.

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**VetBiz Central**

<http://vetbizcentral.org>

(866) 716-8387

V

Programs and services for veterans and members of the military wishing to establish or expand - small businesses.

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**Veteran's Business Development Officers in Michigan**

[www.sba.gov/aboutsba/sbaprograms/reservists/businessdev/ngr\\_mi.html](http://www.sba.gov/aboutsba/sbaprograms/reservists/businessdev/ngr_mi.html)

(313) 226-6075 ext. 221

V

Contact information for Veteran's Business Officers in the Small Business Administration (SBA) Michigan offices who can help veterans prepare and plan to become entrepreneurs.

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**The Veterans Division of the Department of Energy, Labor and Economic Growth Labor Exchange System**

[www.michigan.gov/veteranjobs](http://www.michigan.gov/veteranjobs)

(800) 455-5228

V

The Veterans Division of the Department of Energy, Labor and Economic Growth promotes a labor exchange system focused on identifying and serving veterans separating to Michigan for employment opportunities that match their qualifications and career interests, while simultaneously meeting the staffing needs of the business community in our state. The division provides returning veterans with detailed information about rights, benefits, and privileges to which veterans are entitled in the state and federal government. Veteran Service Specialists are available to assist with employment, education, and training needs and to help with licensing and credentialing.

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**Veterans' Employment Specialists**

[www.michigan.gov/mdcd/0,1607,7-122-1679\\_1818\\_2772---,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/mdcd/0,1607,7-122-1679_1818_2772---,00.html)

(800) 455-5228

V

Provides contact information for employment specialists in locations throughout Michigan.

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**Veteran Job Fairs & Events in Michigan**

[www.michigan.gov/mdcd/0,1607,7-122-1679\\_1818-97935--,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/mdcd/0,1607,7-122-1679_1818-97935--,00.html)

(800) 455-5228

V

Provides information about upcoming job fairs and events throughout Michigan.

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**Wounded Warrior Support**

[www.Military.com/support](http://www.Military.com/support)

WI

Career support for combat wounded and disabled veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan.

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# **FAMILY READINESS AND SUPPORT**



**Armed Forces Crossroads**

[www.afcrossroads.com](http://www.afcrossroads.com)

AD, NG, RV

A website designed to support the military community and their families with information on topics such as deployment, parenting, relocation, and teens & youth.

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**Army Long Term Family Case Management**

[www.hrc.army.mil/site/active/tagd/cmaoc/altfcm/programs.htm](http://www.hrc.army.mil/site/active/tagd/cmaoc/altfcm/programs.htm)

(866) 272-5841

WI

Losing a loved one in combat is one of the most difficult things a family member can go through. The (ALTFM) connects those who have lost loved ones with people who can help them maintain the strength they need to move forward.

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**Blue Star Mothers**

[www.bluestarmothers.org](http://www.bluestarmothers.org)

E

A group for mothers who now have, or have had, children honorably serving in the military. A non-profit (501[c]3) veterans service organization supporting our military children while promoting patriotism.

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**Coast Guard Work Life Program**

[www.uscg.mil/worklife](http://www.uscg.mil/worklife)

(202) 475-3654

AD, RV

The objective of this website is to support the well-being of active duty, reserve and civilian employees and family members in the Coast Guard community. Topics include health promotion, child care, financial management, spouse clubs, and more.

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**Deployment Health & Family Readiness Library**

<http://DeploymentHealthLibrary.fhp.osd.mil>

AD

Fact sheets, articles, guides, handbooks, checklists and multi-media resources for deployers and their stay-behind families.

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**EX-POSE**

[www.expose.org](http://www.expose.org)

(703) 941-5844

AD

EX-POSE is a national, non-profit, volunteer organization funded by membership dues and contributions. Its mission is to educate members and the public on issues pertaining to separation and divorce from military members.

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**Free “Welcome Home” Banner**

[www.BuildASign.com/Troops](http://www.BuildASign.com/Troops)

(800) 330-9622

AD

BuildASign.com offers free “Welcome Home” banners to the friends and family of members of the Armed Services coming home from overseas. All banners can be customized in full color, including pictures; the customer pays shipping and handling fees.

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**GreenCare for Troops**

<http://projectevergreen.com/gcft>

(877) 758-4835

AD

GreenCare for Troops is a nationwide outreach program coordinated by Project EverGreen that connects local green industry professionals with men and women serving our country in the armed forces away from home. GreenCare is in the process of helping hundreds of volunteers provide free lawn and landscape services for thousands of military families nationwide.

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**Guardian Angels for Soldiers’ Pets**

[www.guardianangelsforsoldierspet.org](http://www.guardianangelsforsoldierspet.org)

AD

Guardian Angels for Soldiers’ Pets is a volunteer organization that helps men and women in any branch of the armed forces find temporary homes for pets. It is one of several pet foster programs which offer such free help to military personnel. This program is designed to provide an alternative to the unwanted surrender of beloved pets of our deploying military Service members. Guardian Angels for Soldiers’ Pets operates by recruiting and qualifying volunteer foster homes who are willing to open their homes to provide a loving and safe environment for these pets until they can be reunited upon their owners' return. Beyond preparing for veterinary care and basic food/supply needs, this service is provided at "no cost" to the military service member.

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**Guard Family Programs**

[www.GuardFamily.org](http://www.GuardFamily.org)

NG

Family Readiness Assistant (FP)

Lansing, Michigan

(517) 481-7528 or

(517) 481-8071

Family Readiness Assistant (FP)

Jackson, Michigan  
(517) 990-1135

Vision is to enhance quality of life for National Guard members, their families, and the communities in which they live. Mission is to establish and facilitate ongoing communication, involvement, support and recognition between National Guard families and the National Guard in a partnership that promotes the best in both.

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**Guard and Reserve Family Program**

<http://ra.defense.gov/html/familyreadiness.html>

NG, RS

Family Readiness is a critical issue for the Department of Defense. Quality of life and family matters are priority issues for the Secretary and the Services. The Department's ability to assist service members and their families to prepare for separations during short and long term deployments is paramount to sustaining mission capabilities and mission readiness. The Reserve components have worked closely with their parent services to develop seamless, integrated family readiness and support programs that provide information and services to all members, regardless of the parent service or component of the member-Active, Guard or Reserve.

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**Keeping Your Marriage Strong (National Military Family Association)**

[www.militaryfamily.org/your-benefits/marriage-divorce/marriage-enrichment](http://www.militaryfamily.org/your-benefits/marriage-divorce/marriage-enrichment)

(703) 931- 4600

E

Engaged couples, newlyweds, and those celebrating many years of marriage can all benefit from marriage enrichment programs. Marriage enrichment programs are available through the Services as well as local communities. Some programs are tailored to couples in crisis and others offer general tips for effective communication, understanding money, and renewing your marriage commitment. Take some time to research programs and find a good match for you and your spouse or spouse-to-be.

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**Marine Corps Community Services (MCCS)**

[www.usmc-mccs.org/installation](http://www.usmc-mccs.org/installation)

AD, RT

Website for Marine Corps service members and families with information on topics such as military life, family life, retiree life, and recreation/fitness.

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**Michigan National Guard Family Program**

[www.mi.ngb.army.mil/family](http://www.mi.ngb.army.mil/family)

(517) 481-8362 or

(517) 481-8357

NG

Provides assistance to military members as needed. This can be during times of deployments or when the soldier/airman is unable to provide necessary information to the family.

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### **MilitaryHOMEFRONT**

[www.MilitaryHOMEFRONT.dod.mil](http://www.MilitaryHOMEFRONT.dod.mil)

AD, NG, RV

MilitaryHOMEFRONT is the Department of Defense's web portal for official Quality of Life (QOL) policies, programs, resources and event information. Information is provided for service and family members, command leaders and service providers. Two additional embedded portal features include:

- **MilitaryINSTALLATIONS**  
[www.MilitaryINSTALLATIONS.dod.mil](http://www.MilitaryINSTALLATIONS.dod.mil)  
Locator for on-base support services.
  
  - **Joint Family Resource Center (JFRC)**  
<http://jfsap.mhf.dod.mil/request>  
1-888-256-9920  
“On-demand” request system for Command Leaders to request supplemental staff and educational materials for their deployment support programs and Financial Readiness Challenge Events.
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### **Military OneSource**

[www.MilitaryOneSource.com](http://www.MilitaryOneSource.com)

(800) 342-9647

E

No-cost, private, real-time support services are provided by the Department of Defense's Military OneSource Call Center. Counselors provide relationship, communications, life skills and mental health support. Credentialed financial counselors and planners provide financial assistance. Child and youth behavioral specialists assist with child related issues. Information and referrals to trusted sources of local on and off base community providers on “any topic” are provided by Call Center specialists.

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### **Military Personnel Locators**

[www.defense.gov/faq/pis/pc04mltr.html](http://www.defense.gov/faq/pis/pc04mltr.html)

E

Requests for Military Mailing Addresses:

Responsibility for military personnel records falls within the jurisdiction of the military departments, not the Office of the Secretary of Defense. Therefore, requests for military addresses should be sent to the respective service of the individual whose address is being sought. There is no comprehensive source for e-mail addresses. Even if there were, military regulations and the Privacy Act of 1974 do not permit the military departments to provide home

addresses or telephone numbers of service personnel. Moreover, regulations do not permit random dissemination of listings of names and addresses of service personnel. These regulations have been established to protect individual service men and women from commercial exploitation and to respect their right of privacy. Because of the large volume of requests that each service locator receives, please allow four weeks processing time for written requests.

The following information is needed for all requests for all locator services:

Give as much identifying information as possible about the person you wish to locate such as full name, rank, last duty assignment/last known military address, service number, and Social Security number.

The locator service is free to immediate family members and government officials. Other family members, civilian friends, businesses and others must pay \$3.50. The check or money order must be made out to the U.S. Treasury. It is not refundable.

United States Army:

Commander  
U.S. Army Enlisted Records & Evaluation Center  
ATTN: Locator  
8899 East 56th Street  
Fort Benjamin Harrison, IN 46249-5301  
(866) 771-6357

The Army will help you locate individuals on active duty only.

United States Air Force:

HQ AFMPC/RMIQL  
550 C Street, West, Suite 50  
Randolph AFB, TX 78150-4752  
(210) 652-5775

The Air Force can locate active duty personnel, as well as retirees, reservists and guardsmen. This information is not available for those who have separated from the Air Force or are Army Air Corps retirees. Information on individuals stationed overseas or in a sensitive position will not be released. However, the locator service will forward mail to that person for up to 90 days, as long as the correct postage is on the envelope and any required fee has been paid. Parents, spouses, and government officials may call 1-210-652-5774 for a recorded message or 1-210-652-5775 for non-recorded service.

United States Marine Corps:

Commandant of the Marine Corps  
Headquarters, USMC  
Code MMSB-10  
Quantico, VA 22134-5030  
(703) 640-3942

The Marine Corps can provide the duty station for active duty personnel and reservists. For retired individuals, the locator service can provide the city and state, but not an address. The service will provide the service member's current rank and unit address; however, due to the locator's staffing, the office cannot forward mail except in special cases. Telephonic requests to 1-703-640-3942/43 are free of charge to immediate family members and government officials calling on official business. In addition, telephonic service will be provided at no cost to any individual, business or organization, if the Marine locator decides the information would benefit the individual.

United States Navy:

World Wide Locator

Bureau of Naval Personnel

PERS 312F

5720 Integrity Drive

Millington, TN 38055-3120

(901) 874-3388

The Navy's locator service helps locate individuals on active duty and those whose service ended less than a year ago. In addition, the Navy will forward letters as long as the correct postage is affixed to the envelope. You can call the locator service at 1-901-874-3388. Unless you are active military, local or federal government, or a family member, the fee for researching an address is \$3.50 per address. Fees are retained in cases resulting in an unsuccessful search or for un-releasable addresses. Mail your correspondence with your fee, check or money order payable to UNITED STATES TREASURER.

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**Military Youth on the Move**

<http://apps.mhf.dod.mil/pls/psgprod/f?p=MYOM:HOME:2822149227705594>

AD

This site is a resource that assists military youth with creative ways to cope with issues that arise in the face of relocation, such as transitioning to a new school, saying goodbye to friends, and getting involved in a new community.

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**My Child My Military**

<http://mychildmymilitary.com>

AD

[MyChildMyMilitary.com](http://MyChildMyMilitary.com) is an interactive website designed to provide military families with a real-time platform to share books and activities with their children. [MyChildMyMilitary.com's](http://MyChildMyMilitary.com) activities are geared towards children of all ages, interests and educational levels, with books for pre-readers, advanced readers and struggling readers on a broad range of topics. Thanks to grant funding, the website's service is currently offered free to military families.

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### **The National Military Family Association**

[www.militaryfamily.org](http://www.militaryfamily.org)

(800) 260-0218

E

This user-friendly website serves as a valuable resource for military families, whatever their needs may be. It also allows military family supporters to learn more about the needs of the military families in their community and what they can do to help. Information on the website is organized in six subject areas: Get Info, Speak Up, Participate, Your Benefits, Our Programs, and Publications. Provides benefits information, scholarships, retreats, camps and mental health resources.

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### **Navy Fleet and Family Service Centers (FFSC)**

[www.nffsp.org](http://www.nffsp.org)

E

The Fleet and Family Support Program (FFSP) “provides unified, customer-focused, consistent, and efficient FFSP programs and services to support sustained mission and Navy readiness.” Provides services to strengthen personal and family competencies to meet the unique challenges of the military lifestyle. Informational areas include deployment readiness, personal finances, transition assistance, and family advocacy.

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### **Operation Homefront**

[www.operationhomefront.net](http://www.operationhomefront.net)

(800) 772-6098

AD, WI

Operation Homefront provides emergency and morale assistance for our troops, the families they leave behind and for wounded warriors when they return home. A nonprofit 501(c)(3), Operation Homefront leads more than 4,500 volunteers in 30 chapters nationwide and has met more than 105,000 needs of military families.

Michigan Chapter:

P.O. Box 25

Grand Ledge, MI 48837

(517) 925-8714 or

(800) 692-0956

Who Qualifies for Assistance - Many programs are open to all active military families.

However, some are restricted to military families coping with deployment and injury recovery (from trauma through successful transition back to civilian life). Primarily serves E-6 and below but exceptions can be made on a case by case basis.

All Military Families:

- vision care (glasses for family members)
- furniture and household items (as available)

- donated vehicles (as available)
- food assistance
- various morale and holiday programs

Deployed and Injured Only:

- emergency financial assistance
- home and appliance repair
- vehicle repair
- moving assistance
- computers for families
- laptops with voice activation software for wounded

See website for application and application guidelines.

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**Operation Love Reunited**

[www.Oplove.org](http://www.Oplove.org)

AD

Operation Love Reunited is a photography organization offering free photography sessions to deploying, deployed, and reuniting military families. Each family gets 2 free sessions, whether it be one before deployment with their military member, during deployment of home front spouse and children, and a homecoming session or post-deployment session. The photographers have agreed to send albums to deployed military members at no cost. The photographers have to meet strict requirements to be accepted. Their website, [www.Oplove.org](http://www.Oplove.org), is designed to help families find photographers using the military member's zip code.

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**Our Military Kids**

[www.ourmilitarykids.org](http://www.ourmilitarykids.org)

(866) 691-6654

AD, WI

Our Military Kids provides tangible support to children of deployed National Guard and Reserve personnel as well as to children of severely injured service members through grants for enrichment activities and tutoring. Such activities help these children cope with the stress of having a parent in a war zone or recovering from injury at home. Our Military Kids grants are made to honor the sacrifices that military families make and to ensure that their children have access to sports, fine arts, or academic tutoring programs.

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**The Parent Review**

[www.theparentreview.com/DoD](http://www.theparentreview.com/DoD)

AD

The Military Community and Family Policy Family Advocacy Program is working with *THE PARENT REVIEW* in providing customized email newsletters for new and expectant military parents that provide information on child development, from pregnancy through age 3, tailored to the individual child's birth date. Because these newsletters are delivered electronically, service

members anywhere in the world, including forward deployed locations, can keep current with their child's development. The newsletters are available at no cost to parents, grandparents and other interested parties. Most are customized to include information provided by the Military Treatment Facility serving the family; a universal version is available for parents receiving medical care at non-participating hospitals.

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### **Project Blue Star**

[www.michigan.gov/homeland/0,1607,7-173-23612\\_34175---,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/homeland/0,1607,7-173-23612_34175---,00.html)

E

Project Blue Star is the Governor's Military Family Support initiative that will lend a helping hand to families of Michigan soldiers serving overseas. This program will identify and catalogue all services available to military families in one convenient on-line location. The Governor is encouraging organizations throughout Michigan to offer a variety of services and assistance to military families in need.

Organizations can register on line and identify the services they are able to provide. Families can search for services and be matched with volunteer organizations.

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### **Sesame Street Videos and Workshops for Military Families**

[www.sesameworkshop.org/initiatives/emotion/tlc](http://www.sesameworkshop.org/initiatives/emotion/tlc)

Sesame Workshop, the nonprofit organization behind Sesame Street, is continuing its recent highly successful and award winning efforts to provide resources and emotional support to military families with young children. Talk, Listen, Connect: Deployments, Homecomings, Changes is a bilingual (English and Spanish), multimedia outreach program designed to help support military families with children between the ages of 2 and 5 experiencing deployments, multiple deployments or when a parent returns home changed due to a combat related injury.

Overall Project Goals:

Reduce the level of anxiety children may experience during homecomings after multiple deployments.

Help families with ways to cope with multiple deployments.

Help young children gain an age-appropriate understanding of a parent's injury by including them and the entire family in the rehabilitation process.

Reassure children that they are loved and secure, and together with their families, can learn new ways of being there for one another and have hope for the future.

The Need

Today, military families are demonstrating a level of heroism unlike any other period in history. Dedicated service members, their spouses, and children are experiencing new and different challenges through deployments that are both lengthier and more frequent. And while military families are strong and resilient, multiple deployments have a tremendous impact on the family, particularly in those families with young children. The inherent danger of deployed service members adds to children's stress while the parent is gone.<sup>1</sup> Thus, when a parent is deployed, the whole family is deployed.

Transitions from multiple deployments are even more complicated when a parent returns home with an injury. Children's lives are disrupted as the family may have to travel or relocate near

treatment centers. Moreover, there is a lot of uncertainty. Parents' own level of adjustment or grief impacts their abilities to relate to their children and care for their emotional needs. 2 Injuries can create great strain in family functioning and changes in parenting practices. Under these circumstances, children have a greater chance of developing emotional, behavioral or cognitive problems. Military families coping with a parent who returns with an injury need the extra support to reach a "new normal". Unfortunately, there are scant developmentally appropriate resources for military families with young children to confront these issues in a way that provides security and comfort, while also engaging the entire family.

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### **Sittercity**

[www.sittercity.com/dod](http://www.sittercity.com/dod)

(888) 748-2489

AD, NG, RV

Military families now have free access to an online network of quality caregivers who can assist with everything from babysitting to dog walking. Sittercity is the nation's largest online source for local babysitters, nannies, elder care providers, dog walkers, housekeepers and tutors, and contains more than a million caregiver profiles. The Sittercity Corporate Program, funded by the Department of Defense (DoD), offers military families - including active duty, Guard and Reserve - with a paid membership to the site. The paid membership enables military families entry to a custom-built DoD website portal where they can match up caregivers to their situation; gain instant access to caregiver profiles that include background checks, references and reviews; and find military-certified care providers as well as caregivers who are military-subsidized and authorized access to a military installation. The site will help meet the unique needs of military families as they face deployments, long hours at work and assignments to remote locations. Military members and their families can activate their membership by going to [www.sittercity.com/dod](http://www.sittercity.com/dod). While the membership is free, service members will be responsible for the hiring and payment of caregivers.

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### **Spouse BATTLEMIND**

[www.memphis.va.gov/spousebattlemind](http://www.memphis.va.gov/spousebattlemind)

(800) 636-8262 ex7485

AD

Spouse BATTLEMIND Telephone Support Groups are available now! These support groups are for the spouses of service members who have been deployed at least one time to Iraq or Afghanistan. Free confidential telephone support groups are one hour, one time a month for 12 months. Spouses learn ways to manage stress and solve problems related to reintegration and receive education about post traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injury, and other common problems.

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### **Spouse Club Hubs**

[www.CinCHouse.com](http://www.CinCHouse.com)

AD, NG, RV

Spouse Club Hubs are free websites for spouse club and FRG leaders to help ease their burden of communicating the most current information to their members. The hub will also allow group leaders to market and encourage participation, manage their member database, and coordinate newsletters.

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### **Time to Talk**

[www.timetotalk.org/military](http://www.timetotalk.org/military)

AD, NG, RV

This web site is a joint effort by the National Military Family Association, the Partnership for a Drug Free America, and the National Association of School Nurses. Among other tools, the site offers a guide for military parents on how to talk to their children during transitions such as a move or a deployment of a parent. The site also contains information for parents on talking about substance abuse with their children. And, it has information on how to educate members of the civilian sector, such as teachers, who are not used to dealing with problems unique to military families. But mostly, the site simply helps to initiate conversations that can help parents address difficult topics during difficult times.

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### **TSA Accommodations for U.S. Military Personnel and Families**

[www.tsa.gov/travelers/airtravel/assistant/editorial\\_1880.shtm](http://www.tsa.gov/travelers/airtravel/assistant/editorial_1880.shtm)

(866) 289-9673

AD

The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) permits the airlines to offer a gate pass to family members of arriving or departing U.S. service members so they may accompany a service member being deployed to the boarding gate, or greet them [as they return] from deployment at the arrival gate. Family members must request the passes from the respective airline. The final decision regarding issuance of gate passes rests with the airlines. Families interested in obtaining a gate pass need to check with the airline before arriving at the airport to determine the exact rules and procedures.

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### **VFW Post #2406 Family Assistance Center**

695 Lansing Road

Charlotte, MI 48813

(517) 543-1719

AD

The center helps to reach out and support families of deploying soldiers. The center has a communication center that includes three laptops equipped with cameras. These laptops are available to family and friends of military personnel for many reasons, including but not limited to communication with loved ones overseas and employment and benefits research. The center also has a resource center that includes material on benefits, PTSD, budgeting, employment, deployment stress and many others. There is a children's area that includes toys, board games, movies and books.

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**Websites for Heroes**

[www.WebsitesForHeroes.org](http://www.WebsitesForHeroes.org)

(888) 400-4376

AD

This non-profit organization allows military families of deployed service members to apply for a free website through Websites For Heroes. Easy to use templates allow participants to post photos, videos, audio files, messages, contact information, and calendar of event information to keep each others engaged in daily and family life.

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# **FINANCIAL SUPPORT**



**Air Force Aid Society**

[www.afas.org](http://www.afas.org)

(800) 769-8951

AD, RT

The Air Force Aid Society, Inc. (AFAS) is the official charity of the United States Air Force. Its three-pronged charter promotes the Air Force mission by providing worldwide emergency assistance to members and their families, sponsoring educational assistance programs, and offering a variety of base community enhancement programs that impact member/family welfare.

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**Armed Forces Foundation**

[www.armedforcesfoundation.org](http://www.armedforcesfoundation.org)

(202) 547-4713

AD, WI

A national nonprofit organization dedicated to providing solace to members of the Armed Forces community during their time of greatest need. Programs include family assistance, injured support services, career counseling, and more.

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**Armed Forces Reserve Family Assistance Fund (AFRFAF)**

[www.afrfaf.org](http://www.afrfaf.org)

(800) 964-4454 ext. 21

RV

When a Reservist gets deployed, the family left behind has to cope as best they can without the income and the presence of the missing member. For the families of deployed Reservists, life goes on, and occasionally bad things happen. These may be unfortunate minor accidents or emergencies of many kinds, typically not covered by insurance, that the deployed Reservist would normally be expected to handle or provide for. The Armed Forces Reserve Family Assistance Fund (AFRFAF) is available to help. If the oil burner breaks, or the roof leaks, or the car breaks down, if a relative is hospitalized out of town, or a family member needs to go on a school trip, AFRFAF can be there for you. AFRFAF can help with a demonstrated need that can be handled by a referral to a craftsman or professional willing to provide a needed service, or through a direct grant of funds to affect a repair, make a trip or buy a birthday present. Please note, AFRFAF can help with emergencies, but does not and cannot provide long-term financial assistance or income supplementation.

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**Army Emergency Relief (AER)**

[www.aerhq.org](http://www.aerhq.org)

(866) 878-6378

AD, RT

AER is the Army's own emergency financial assistance organization and is dedicated to "Helping the Army Take Care of Its Own". AER provides commanders a valuable asset in accomplishing

their basic command responsibility for the morale and welfare of soldiers.

AER funds are made available to commanders having AER Sections to provide emergency financial assistance to soldiers - active & retired - and their dependents when there is a valid need.

AER funds made available to commanders are not limited and are constrained only by the requirement of valid need.

For these reasons, the AER assistance program is conducted within the Army structure by major commanders and their installation/organization commanders through AER sections and other related organizations.

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### **Coast Guard Mutual Assistance**

[www.cgmahq.org](http://www.cgmahq.org)

(800) 881-2462

AD, RV, RT

Coast Guard Mutual Assistance (CGMA) is the official relief society of the U.S. Coast Guard. CGMA is a non-profit charitable organization established to provide financial aid to the entire Coast Guard family. While CGMA works closely with the U.S. Coast Guard, it is an independent corporation. Its mission is to promote the financial stability and general well being of Coast Guard people through interest-free loans, grants, and financial counseling.

CGMA provides essential financial aid to the entire Coast Guard family, primarily through interest-free loans, grants, and financial counseling. Established and operated by Coast Guard people for Coast Guard people, CGMA provides a way to extend compassion to one another in times of need. It serves as a vital financial safety net, promoting financial stability and general well being, fostering high morale and encouraging a sense of loyalty to the Coast Guard.

The central purpose of Coast Guard Mutual Assistance is to assist our clients during their time of financial need. In general, assistance is provided through counseling, short-term interest-free loans, financial grants, referrals, and other related means. Assistance is provided under a large variety of conditions and situations usually involving everyday essentials including emergency, housing, and medical needs that are beyond the individual's ability to meet at the time assistance is requested. Coast Guard Mutual Assistance should be used to supplement, not replace other forms of available assistance.

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### **The Injured Marine Semper Fi Fund**

[www.semperfifund.org](http://www.semperfifund.org)

(760) 725-3680

The Injured Marine Semper Fi Fund is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization established to provide financial aid and quality of life solutions to:

- Marines and Sailors as well as members of the Army, Air Force and Coast Guard who have

served in support of Marine forces, when they become injured in post 9-11 combat or training, and their families

- Help defray the expenses incurred during hospitalization, rehabilitation and recovery
- Assist with the expenses associated with the purchase of specialized equipment, adaptive vehicles and home modifications
- Educate the public about the special needs of our wounded service members and their families

Our mission, since May of 2004, has remained constant: to serve those who preserve our freedom and, with your support, we hope to continue increasing awareness and financial support for these brave men and women.

How we help:

- Provide immediate financial aid and support to service members and their families
- Offer swift and relevant assistance. The type of assistance varies and is determined on an individual basis.
- Offer financial relief for needs that arise during hospitalization and recovery, such as childcare, travel expenses for families and other necessities.
- For perpetuating needs we facilitate the purchase of adaptive transportation, home modifications and specialized equipment, such as wheelchairs, audio/visual equipment for the blind, and software for traumatic brain injuries.
- Help service members and their families transition back to their communities by assisting with education, job placement and therapeutic programs.

In addition to financial assistance, our staff and volunteers act as advocates for the needs of service members and their families and provide encouragement and comfort during difficult times.

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### **Michigan National Guard Family Fund**

[www.mi.ngb.army.mil/family/FinAsst.asp](http://www.mi.ngb.army.mil/family/FinAsst.asp)

(517) 481-8362 or

(517) 481-8357

NG

The Michigan National Guard Family Fund, Inc. provides for up to a \$500 grant to soldiers and airmen and their family members who encounter financial hardships as a result of deployments, military injuries, or just hard times. The Michigan National Guard Family Fund was created to assist Air and Army National Guard families who experience financial difficulties with temporary emergency financial assistance, and to fund programs and training to maintain and improve the quality of life of our Michigan National Guard families.

What constitutes a need - Emergency loss of income through activation for military duty, inability to maintain employment due to injury or sudden illness, or job loss; unexpected medical expenses; pay problems; or the accumulation of legitimate bills (e.g. rent, mortgage, electric, oil, gas, etc.). Inability to pay for basic needs: food, shelter, utilities, clothing, medical bills, and

transportation due to unforeseen circumstances. Applications are required to be submitted with the necessary documentation.

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**Michigan Veterans Trust Fund (MVTF)**

[www.michigan.gov/dmva](http://www.michigan.gov/dmva)

(517) 373-3130

V

State of Michigan Veterans Trust Fund Emergency Grant Program financial aid is available to Michigan veterans with at least 180 days of active duty in a wartime period who were discharged under other than dishonorable conditions to meet sudden, temporary, unforeseen needs.

Examples of such needs include delay in unemployment benefits or other income, unexpected hospitalization not covered by insurance, finding or keeping shelter, and costs involved in attending family funerals. Contact your county V.A. office or call 517-373-3130 or visit their web site at [www.michigan.gov/dmva](http://www.michigan.gov/dmva).

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**Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society**

[www.nmcrs.org](http://www.nmcrs.org)

(877) 272-7337 (24/7 help through the American Red Cross)

AD, RT

The Society can help:

- Active duty and retired active and reserve component Sailors and Marines
- Eligible family members of active duty and retired active and reserve component Sailors and Marines who died
- Reservists on extended active duty greater than 30 days
- Indigent widows and mothers (65 years or older) of deceased service members who have limited resources and no family to provide for their welfare
- Ex-spouses who have not remarried and whose marriage to a service member lasted for at least 20 years while the service member was on active duty.

The Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society can provide interest-free loans or grants to help with ***emergency needs*** such as:

- emergency transportation
- funeral expenses
- medical/dental bills (patient's share)
- food, rent, and utilities
- disaster relief assistance
- child care expenses
- essential vehicle repairs
- unforeseen family emergencies

The mission of the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society is to provide, in partnership with the Navy and Marine Corps, financial, educational, and other assistance to members of the Naval Services

of the United States, eligible family members, and survivors when in need; and to receive and manage funds to administer these programs.

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### **Operation Homefront**

[www.operationhomefront.net](http://www.operationhomefront.net)

(800) 722-6098

AD, WI

Operation Homefront provides emergency and morale assistance for our troops, the families they leave behind and for wounded warriors when they return home. A nonprofit 501(c)(3), Operation Homefront leads more than 4,500 volunteers in 30 chapters nationwide and has met more than 105,000 needs of military families.

Michigan Chapter:

P.O. Box 25

Grand Ledge, MI 48837

[www.operationhomefront.net/Chapter\\_root/chapter\\_familyassistance.asp?Chapter\\_ID=5](http://www.operationhomefront.net/Chapter_root/chapter_familyassistance.asp?Chapter_ID=5)

(517) 925-8714 or

(800) 692-0956

Who Qualifies for Assistance - Many programs are open to all active military families. However, some are restricted to military families coping with deployment and injury recovery (from trauma through successful transition back to civilian life). Primarily serves E-6 and below but exceptions can be made on a case by case basis.

All Military Families:

- vision care (glasses for family members)
- furniture and household items (as available)
- donated vehicles (as available)
- food assistance
- various morale and holiday programs

Deployed and Injured Only:

- emergency financial assistance
- home and appliance repair
- vehicle repair
- moving assistance
- computers for families
- laptops with voice activation software for wounded

See website for application and application guidelines.

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### **Pentagon Federal Credit Union Foundation**

[www.pentagonfoundation.org](http://www.pentagonfoundation.org)

(703) 838-1239

E

The Pentagon Federal Credit Union Foundation is a nonprofit organization working to ensure that those who selflessly devote their lives to the defense of our country have the resources they need for a secure financial future.

- **The Military Heroes®** program provides support to those wounded in the war against terrorism, and their families that the Defense Department cannot offer due to budgetary and regulatory restrictions. These unmet needs — identified by military Command, the Military Severely Injured Center, and others — include a variety of activities, including the following:
  - Wireless laptops in Fisher Houses at military hospitals
  - Child care for the families of hospitalized soldiers
  - Emergency financial support for families of the wounded facing crises
  - A hospice room and a patient and family lounge in the Walter Reed Army Medical Center
  - A short-term outpatient housing facility for severely wounded military personnel and their families
  - Support for military families and retirees rebuilding their lives after natural disasters such as Hurricanes Katrina and Rita
- **Dream Makers** assist first-time homebuyers of modest means, who work in our country's national security, with grants of up to \$5,000 for down payments and closing costs. (Application available on website.)
- **The Asset Recovery Kit (ARK)** offers low-cost alternatives to payday lending while assisting military personnel and their families with money and debt management.

Pentagon Federal Credit Union created the Foundation in December 2001 because of concerns that too many fighting men and women faced financial difficulties while serving in the military.

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### **Rebuild Hope**

[www.rebuildhope.org](http://www.rebuildhope.org)

(650) 321-4930

WI

Provides transitional financial assistance through an online financial network. Assistance is up to \$2,400 for a 12 month period and is meant for help during transitional times, not emergency requests. Examples include: extra \$200 a month towards apartment rent or childcare.

Eligibility: Veterans and active members of the regular military, Reserves and National Guard who suffer from physical and/or non-physical injuries that occurred since September 11, 2001. Injuries need not be combat-related but must be severe enough to lead, or have lead to a service medical discharge.

Application process: Download application from website and submit either by mail or fax.

Documents required:

- DD214 or confirmation of Medical Hold status
- 3 personal references from individuals that know the current situation (ex: physicians, case managers, counselors, veterans' services officer, social workers, etc.)
- Copy of either retirement income or VA service-connected compensation letter

Works with the military, the Veterans Affairs (VA) and private sector military support organizations to identify and qualify beneficiaries.

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### **VFW Unmet Needs Program**

[www.unmetneeds.com](http://www.unmetneeds.com)

(866) 789-6333

AD

With the help of corporate sponsors, the VFW Foundation receives funding to establish, administer and promote the Unmet Needs Program.

#### Eligibility Criteria:

- The service member has to have been active duty or discharged from active duty within 36 months prior to applying
- Can receive funds only once every 18 months
- The hardship must be primarily due to deployment or military service
- Hardships caused by civil, legal or domestic misconduct are not eligible for the grant
- Hardships caused by financial mismanagement by self or others, or due to Bankruptcy are not eligible for the grant. Applicants with these situations will be provided with resource information and referrals to other agencies
- The applicant must be the service member, or the applicant must be currently listed or eligible to be listed as a dependent of the service member under DEERS

Funds from donations are available to the five branches of service (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and Coast Guard), as well as members of the Reserves and National Guard. Funds awarded by the program are offered in the form of grants—not loans—so recipients don't need to repay them. As they are typically less than \$2,500, there is little chance that they will affect the recipient's taxes.

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# GENERAL



## **2-1-1 Information and Referrals**

[www.211.org](http://www.211.org)

2-1-1

(866) 561-2500

E

2-1-1 is the health and human service equivalent of 9-1-1 to give or get help spearheaded by United Way. 2-1-1 is currently active in Allegan, Berrien, Branch, Calhoun, Cass, Clare, Clinton, Eaton, Gladwin, Gratiot, Hillsdale, Ingham, Isabella, Kalamazoo, Kent, Jackson, Lenawee, Livingston, Macomb, Manistee, Mason, Midland, Monroe, Muskegon, Oakland, Oceana, Ottawa, St. Joseph, Van Buren, Washtenaw, and Wayne Counties and across the Upper Peninsula. It can be reached via landline, wireless, or VOIP. Calls are free to the user, answered 24/7/365 by professional Information and Referral specialists—translation service is available for non-English speaking callers. The 2-1-1 database is comprehensive and up-to-date; for example, current Michigan 2-1-1 data bases maintain information on over 8,000 agencies with more than 35,000 public, non-profit and faith based health and human service programs.

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## **Air Force Palace HART**

(888) 774-1361

WI

The Air Force Palace Helping Airmen Recover Together (HART) program follows Air Force wounded-in-action until they return to active duty or are medically retired. The program then provides post-injury follow-up assistance for five to seven years. The Air Force works to retain injured service members on active duty when possible. If the airman is unable to return to active duty, it attempts to employ the individual as an Air Force civilian employee. The Air Force also provides counseling on potential benefits available from the Defense, Veterans Affairs and Labor departments.

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## **American Red Cross**

[www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org)

(877) 272-7337

E

- **Assistance to Veterans** - Available via individual chapters and National Headquarters [*see “Resources for Veterans” section*]
- **Coping With Deployments** - Psychological First Aid for Military Families. The course, offered free of charge by chapter offices, is open to military family members of active duty, Reserve and National Guard forces, as well as veterans and their families
- **Counseling** – Confidential service available through Red Cross chapters and offices on military installations
- **Emergency Communications** – Links service members with their families back home in the event of a family emergency such as a birth, death, or illness [*See “Resources for Active Duty/Deployed Service Members” section*]
- **Financial Assistance** – Coordinates assistance through the Military Aid Societies for emergency needs of service members

The American Red Cross links members of the U.S. Armed Forces with their families during a crisis. Twenty-four hours a day, 365 days a year, the Red Cross quickly sends emergency communications to deployed service members on behalf of their family. Military members can have peace of mind knowing that when they are on a mission, in training or stationed far from home-and leaving cell phones and emails behind-they are still connected to home. While providing service to 1.4 million active duty military personnel and their families, the Red Cross also reaches out to more than 1.2 million members of the National Guard and Reserves and their families living in nearly every community in America.

Red Cross workers in hundreds of chapters and on military installations briefed 974,573 departing service members and their families regarding available support services, and explained how the Red Cross may assist them during the deployment. Both active duty and community-based military can count on the Red Cross to provide emergency communications that link them with their families back home, access to financial assistance in partnership with the military aid societies, information and referral and assistance to veterans. Red Cross personnel form a global network in 700 U.S. chapters, military installations worldwide and in forward deployed locations in Kuwait, Afghanistan and Iraq.

The purpose of American Red Cross Service to Veterans is (a) to provide assistance and information in preparing, developing, and obtaining sufficient evidence to support claims for veterans' benefits and (b) to assist claimants appealing to the Board of Veterans' Appeals (BVA). American Red Cross staff at the BVA, together with a network of state Work-Share Representatives, act on behalf of the Red Cross to assist claimants.

There are several types of claims that may be appealed to the BVA, including claims for compensation, pensions, loans, and medical benefits. Red Cross staff and volunteers assist veterans with claims by requesting independent medical evaluations, reviewing remanded claims from the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims, researching decisions handed down by the Court, and explaining BVA decisions to veterans, their widows and dependents. In addition, Red Cross staff members review veterans' claims folders for errors in BVA decisions, submit informal presentations on behalf of veterans and their families, provide status reports to Red Cross chapters, state representatives and veterans, represent veterans and claimants at hearings, respond to congressional inquiries, file reconsiderations and provide many other types of guidance.

The American Red Cross Board of Veterans' Appeals  
811 Vermont Avenue N.W.  
Lafayette Building, Room 378  
Washington, DC 20420  
(202) 565-4119

To locate your local chapter visit [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org).

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**The Army Wounded Warrior Program (AW2, formerly DS3)**

[www.armyDS3.org](http://www.armyDS3.org)

(800) 833-6622

WI

Provides the most severely disabled soldiers and their families with a holistic system of advocacy and follow-up. AW2 links the Army with other organizations, such as the Department of Veterans' Affairs and many of the Veterans Service Organizations (VSOs), which stand ready to assist. One key goal is to provide a network of resources to severely disabled soldiers, no matter where they relocate and regardless of their status (active, Reserve or National Guard). Through these effective partnerships, AW2 provides a much-needed cushion for the transition to civilian life.

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**Blinded Veterans Association**

[www.bva.org](http://www.bva.org)

(202) 371-8880

WI

The Blinded Veterans Association (BVA) is an organization of blinded veterans helping blinded veterans. Through service programs, regional groups, resources, and advocacy before the legislative and executive branches of government, they hope to make life better for blinded veterans, and to be there with encouragement and support. There is no charge for any BVA service and membership is not a prerequisite to obtain help. All legally blinded veterans are also eligible for BVA's assistance whether they become blind during or after active duty military service.

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**Buddy-to-Buddy**

[www.buddytobuddy.org](http://www.buddytobuddy.org)

(888) 822-8339

V

The Buddy-to-Buddy Volunteer Veteran program was designed to help returning Michigan OEF/OIF veterans deal with the many challenges they may face when readjusting to civilian life. Behind the program is a simple concept: military service is unlike any other human experience. No one knows more about the issues facing a veteran – in combat or on the home front – than another veteran. This program was developed by a team of military service members, veterans, veteran advocates and healthcare professionals from the University of Michigan and Michigan State University. Our objective: to train Michigan vets to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with other veterans, serving as their first line of defense with peer-to-peer support and help in connecting to resources.

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### **Clare County Veterans Services**

[www.clareco.net/Vetrans/home.htm](http://www.clareco.net/Vetrans/home.htm)

225 W. Main St.

P.O. Box 438

Harrison, MI 48625

(989) 539-3273

V

To assist veterans and their dependents in filing claims for benefits with local, state and federal agencies they may be entitled to receive and to assist them in any other way that we can with our abilities and resources.

The County Veterans Service Officers are available to provide services and assistance to those distinguished men and women who have honorably served and protected our country. Whether you served your country during war or peacetime, your sacrifice and commitment are appreciated. Therefore, it is our privilege to ensure that you receive and are informed of all benefits to which you and your dependents may be entitled.

The Clare County Veterans Service Officers are in comradeship with the State and National service Officers of the congressionally chartered veterans organizations. Together they work for your rights and make sure that you will get the benefits that maybe entitled to you or your dependents.

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### **Clinton County - Ingham County Department of Veterans Affairs**

*Serving Clinton & Ingham Counties*

[www.ingham.org/va](http://www.ingham.org/va)

5303 S. Cedar St.

Lansing, MI 48911

(517) 887-4331

V

Veterans Affairs provides Clinton and Ingham County veterans and their families efficient and timely services to ensure maximum delivery of benefits to veterans and their families. Our accredited counselors assist veterans and their families with every veteran benefit to include emergency financial assistance, burial, compensation, pension, education, medical, home loan, and life insurance. Our transportation program provides local veterans access to complete medical services at the VA Health Care System in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Veterans Affairs also provides office space for psychologists from the Vet Center who provide individual and group counseling for war veterans.

In addition to medical treatment, the VA provides free (or possibly an \$8 co-pay) prescriptions. Assistance and counseling on substance abuse programs at VA facilities is available. All veterans with a 10% or more service connected disability are entitled to care for their disability, including medications. There is a handicapped accessible 14 passenger van to take veterans to their appointments at the VA Medical Centers in Ann Arbor Monday-Thursday. Reservations are

required to guarantee a seat. Transportation is also available from Lansing to Battle Creek Veterans Affairs Medical Center Tuesday-Thursday. Eligibility: Determining eligibility is based on several issues. Service Officers from the department can advise on eligibility for VA medical care and/or prescriptions.

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### **Combat-Related Special Compensation**

[www.dtic.mil/whs/directives/infomgt/forms/efoms/dd2860.pdf](http://www.dtic.mil/whs/directives/infomgt/forms/efoms/dd2860.pdf)

WI

The recently passed National Defense Authorization Act allowed permanent medical retirees to be eligible for this benefit. The link has information on how to submit a claim.

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### **Deployment Health Support Directorate**

<http://fhpr.osd.mil>

(800) 497-6261

V, WI

Addresses deployment-related health threats to service members and ensures that medical lessons learned from previous conflicts and deployments are integrated into current policy, doctrine and practice. The Directorate operates a direct hotline number where staff members assist callers in finding answers concerning current and past deployments, locating lost medical records and providing contact information in the Department of Veterans Affairs.

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### **Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Department of Michigan**

[www.davmembersportal.org/mi/default.aspx](http://www.davmembersportal.org/mi/default.aspx)

(586) 415-8610

V, WI

Provides a variety of services to veterans, including help with filing VA claims for disability compensation, appealing claims decisions and transportation to VA medical appointments.

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### **Eaton County Community Veterans Service Office**

[www.eatoncounty.org](http://www.eatoncounty.org)

1045 Independence Blvd.

Charlotte, MI 48813

(517) 543-5616

V

The Eaton County Veterans Service Office serves as an advocate for county veterans as they are tasked with being the communication medium between veterans and the benefits they have a right to receive like service connected disability claims, pension claims, burial benefits, the GI Bill or other benefits offered by the Federal Department of Veterans Affairs. Furthermore, the establishment of a county veteran service office creates a one stop shop where veterans can be connected with the many other services provided by the county like low-moderate income housing rehabilitation assistance, low-moderate income home purchase assistance and local non

county services like food pantry, clothing banks, volunteer services, employment services, elder care, etc...

Eligibility: Veterans and their spouses and/or children in certain cases.

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### **The Given Limb Foundation**

[www.givenlimb.org](http://www.givenlimb.org)

WI

The Given Limb Foundation is a non-profit organization established to help improve the lives of persons with amputations or diminished use of their limbs. The foundation seeks to support amputees throughout the world, from the members of our military who have given limbs in service to our country to victims of land mines in under-developed countries.

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### **Gladwin County Veterans Affairs Office**

[www.gladwinco.com](http://www.gladwinco.com)

401 W. Cedar Avenue

Gladwin, MI 48624

(989) 426-4891

V

Provides assistance to veterans and dependants to access benefits provided to veterans by county, state, and federal agencies.

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### **Gratiot County Veterans Affairs**

[www.co.gratiot.mi.us](http://www.co.gratiot.mi.us)

114 South Main Street

Ithaca, MI 48847

(989) 875-5258

V

Gratiot County Veterans Affairs provides assistance to veterans and dependants to access benefits provided to veterans by county, state, and federal agencies. NO FEES -- all services provided by Gratiot County Veterans Affairs are free of charge.

Services:

Veteran and spouse burial benefits, Government headstones or markers, Soldiers Relief funds for emergency assistance, V.A. Compensation, pensions, medical assistance, V.A. Home Loan, and others.

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### **Heroes to Hometowns**

[www.legion.org/heroes](http://www.legion.org/heroes)

(202) 861-2700 ext. 5761

WI

In coordination with the Department of Defense, the American Legion helps severely injured veterans return to hometowns across America and assists them in getting the special support services and adaptive resources they need for success.

Heroes to Hometowns can provide a welcome-home celebration; temporary financial assistance; pro-bono financial planning; housing assistance; home and vehicle adaptation; government claims assistance; entertainment options; and family support.

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**Hillsdale County Department of Veterans Affairs Office**

[www.co.hillsdale.mi.us/Veterans-Affairs.htm](http://www.co.hillsdale.mi.us/Veterans-Affairs.htm)

61 McCollum - Courthouse Annex, Rm 200

Hillsdale, MI 49242

(517) 437-3630

V

This office serves all veterans (war and peacetime) in filing for all federal, state and county veterans benefits. Veterans should have a copy of their 'DD-214' discharge on file with our office for future filing of veterans claims.

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**Ingham County Department of Veterans Affairs**

*Serving Clinton & Ingham Counties*

[www.ingham.org/va](http://www.ingham.org/va)

5303 S. Cedar St.

Lansing, MI 48911

(517) 887-4331

V

Veterans Affairs provides Clinton and Ingham County veterans and their families efficient and timely services to ensure maximum delivery of benefits to veterans and their families. Our accredited counselors assist veterans and their families with every veteran benefit to include emergency financial assistance, burial, compensation, pension, education, medical, home loan, and life insurance. Our transportation program provides local veterans access to complete medical services at the VA Health Care System in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Veterans Affairs also provides office space for psychologists from the Vet Center who provide individual and group counseling for war veterans.

In addition to medical treatment, the VA provides free (or possibly an \$8 co-pay) prescriptions. Assistance and counseling on substance abuse programs at VA facilities is available. All veterans with a 10% or more service connected disability are entitled to care for their disability, including medications. There is a handicapped accessible 14 passenger van to take veterans to their appointments at the VA Medical Centers in Ann Arbor Monday-Thursday. Reservations are required to guarantee a seat. Transportation is also available from Lansing to Battle Creek Veterans Affairs Medical Center Tuesday-Thursday. Eligibility: Determining eligibility is based on several issues. Service Officers from the department can advise on eligibility for VA medical care and/or prescriptions.

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**Isabella County Veterans Affairs**

[www.isabellacounty.org/va/index.html](http://www.isabellacounty.org/va/index.html)

Isabella County Building  
200 N. Main Street  
Mount Pleasant, MI 48858  
(989) 772-0911 ext. 235  
V

The office of Veterans Affairs provides services for veterans of Isabella County, Michigan, and their family members. Our mission is to assist our county veterans in filing for County, State and Federal Veterans Benefits. Our goals include obtaining the maximum benefits available, simplifying the process for the client and referring those who need other services to the appropriate agencies.

We strongly recommend that you contact our office by phone to obtain a list of the necessary documents or supporting evidence for completion of applications and claims.

We want to save you time and reduce any inconvenience to those we serve.

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**Jackson County Veterans Affairs**

[www.co.jackson.mi.us/JCDVA](http://www.co.jackson.mi.us/JCDVA)

1715 Lansing Avenue,  
Jackson, MI 49202  
(517) 788-4425  
V

The Jackson County Veteran Affairs Office acts as an advocate for the veterans, surviving spouses and dependent children that may qualify for Veterans Affairs benefits.

We can provide you with answers to general eligibility questions, assist you in filing claims and be there for you throughout the entire process and beyond.

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**Livingston County Veterans Affairs**

[www.co.livingston.mi.us/Veterans](http://www.co.livingston.mi.us/Veterans)

East Complex  
2300 E. Grand River  
Suite 109  
Howell, MI 48843-7585  
(517) 546-6338  
V

The Veterans Affairs Department assists veterans and their families and survivors in filing claims for all federal, state, county and other benefits to which they may be entitled. The department also administers the County operation of the Michigan Veterans Trust Fund and County Veterans Relief Fund to assist veterans and their dependants with financial emergencies, and the County Veterans Burial Fund to help provide an honorable burial for veterans and their spouses.

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**Marine for Life Injured Support (M4L)**

<http://M4L.usmc.mil>

(866) 645-8762

WI

The program provides information, advocacy and assistance from the time of injury through return to full duty or transition to the Veterans Affairs (VA) up to one year after separation. The program is being introduced by M4L staffers to Marines, sailors and their families at the National Naval Medical Center at Bethesda, Md., and Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C., with a plan to expand to all major naval hospitals. Medically discharged Marines are being contacted.

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**Mecosta County Department of Veterans Affairs**

[www.co.mecosta.mi.us/veterans.asp](http://www.co.mecosta.mi.us/veterans.asp)

14485 Northland Drive

Big Rapids, MI 49307

(231) 592-0124

V

The Department of Veterans Affairs assists veterans their families, dependents, and survivors in filing claims for federal, state and county veterans benefits to which they may be entitled.

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**Medical Disability Retired Pay Income Estimator**

[www.dfas.mil/index.html](http://www.dfas.mil/index.html)

(888) 332-7411

WI

The Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) recently launched their latest tool to help medically retired Wounded Warriors understand how their retirement pay, disability compensation, and Combat Related Special Compensation (CRSC) pay rates are determined. The “Medical Disability Retired Pay Income Estimator,” tool coupled with the “Medical Disability Retired Pay Income Presentation” can help explain how the combined post-retirement income payment rates are determined. Both the estimator and the presentation are available on the quick links section of the DFAS website.

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**Michigan Department of Military & Veterans Affairs**

[www.michigan.gov/dmva](http://www.michigan.gov/dmva)

(517) 481-8000

E

Learn about state-specific benefits and resources for Service Members and Veterans who reside in Michigan.

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**Michigan Military Benefits Fact Sheet**

[http://myarmybenefits.us.army.mil/Home/Benefit\\_Facts/State\\_Territory\\_Benefits/Michigan.html](http://myarmybenefits.us.army.mil/Home/Benefit_Facts/State_Territory_Benefits/Michigan.html)

E

Provides information on military and Veteran benefits provided by the state of Michigan, including tax exemptions, education benefits, employment benefits, health and insurance benefits and other benefits.

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**Military OneSource**

[www.MilitaryOneSource.com](http://www.MilitaryOneSource.com)

(800) 342-9647

E

No-cost, private, real-time support services are provided by the Department of Defense's Military OneSource Call Center. Counselors provide relationship, communications, life skills and mental health support. Credentialed financial counselors and planners provide financial assistance. Child and youth behavioral specialists assist with child related issues. Information and referrals to trusted sources of local on and off base community providers on "any topic" are provided by Call Center specialists.

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**Michigan AMVETS Posts**

[www.amvets.org/michigan.html](http://www.amvets.org/michigan.html)

(877) 726-8387

V

Provides a variety of services to veterans, including help with filing VA claims for disability compensation.

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**Michigan Association of County Veterans Counselors**

[www.macvc.net](http://www.macvc.net)

(734) 973-4540

V

The Michigan Association of County Veterans Counselors (MACVC) can able to assist veterans and their families in obtaining county, state, and federal benefits to which they are entitled. The MACVC web site is located at [www.macvc.net](http://www.macvc.net) and contains links to the county counselors and other information.

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**Michigan Veterans Foundation**

[www.michiganveteransfoundation.org](http://www.michiganveteransfoundation.org)

(313) 831-5500

V

Provides services including transitional housing for homeless veterans, employment training and education.

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**Michigan Veterans Services & Benefits Booklet**

[www.michigan.gov/documents/dmva/VBS-Booklet\\_Instructions\\_190078\\_7.pdf](http://www.michigan.gov/documents/dmva/VBS-Booklet_Instructions_190078_7.pdf)

(800) 455-5228

V

Provides information and contacts for services and benefits including employment, health care, housing, education, loans, tax credits and financial assistance.

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**Midland County Veteran Services**

[www.co.midland.mi.us](http://www.co.midland.mi.us)

220 W Ellsworth St

Midland, MI 48640-5194

(989) 832-6843

V

Emergency Grant Program - Temporary assistance granted by the (MVTF) for emergencies or hardships is available to eligible wartime veterans, and their families, residing in the state of Michigan.

**Military Discharge (DD-214) Request –**

The following DD-214(s) are located in this office:

World War II bonus records

Korean War bonus records

Vietnam Conflict bonus records

Copy six from 1980 to current

To request a copy please call (517) 335-1634.

Tuition Grant Program - Pays tuition for eligible child of veteran who died while on active duty or is awarded 100% disability by the Department of Veterans Affairs (V.A.) \$2,800 per academic year for 4 years; public and private schools in Michigan; maintain a CGPA of 2.25.

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**Military Severely Injured Center (MSIC)**

[www.militaryhomefront.dod.mil](http://www.militaryhomefront.dod.mil)

(888) 774-1361

WI

The Military Severely Injured Center (MSIC) is a central DoD resource complementing existing service programs by offering support services for seriously injured service members and their families. Support services are provided as long as seriously injured service members and their families require quality-of-life care, and are tailored to meet the individual's unique needs during recovery and rehabilitation. The MSIC offers counseling and resource referral in areas such as financial support, education and employment assistance, VA benefits, family counseling, resources in local communities and child care support. For more information, visit click "Troops and Families," then go to "Military Severely Injured Support."

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### **National Call Center for Homeless Veterans**

[www1.va.gov/HOMELESS/NationalCallCenter.asp](http://www1.va.gov/HOMELESS/NationalCallCenter.asp)

(877) 424-3838

V

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has founded a National Call Center for Homeless Veterans Hotline to ensure that homeless veterans or veterans at-risk for homelessness have free, 24/7 access to trained counselors. The hotline is intended to assist homeless veterans and their families, VA Medical Centers, federal, state and local partners, community agencies, service providers and others in the community.

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### **National Resource Directory**

[www.nationalresourcedirectory.gov](http://www.nationalresourcedirectory.gov)

(800) 827-1000

WI

An online partnership for wounded, ill, and injured service members, veterans, their families and those who support them. Provides access to services and resources at the national, state, and local levels that support recovery, rehabilitation and community reintegration.

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### **National Service Offices**

[www.dav.org/veterans/NSOffices.aspx](http://www.dav.org/veterans/NSOffices.aspx)

VARO McNamara Federal Bldg.

477 Michigan Avenue, Rm. 1200

Detroit, MI 48226

(313) 964-6595

V, WI

National Services Officers (NSOs) function as attorneys-in-fact, assisting veterans and their families in filing claims for VA disability compensation and pension; vocational rehabilitation and employment; education; home loan guaranty; life insurance; death benefits; health care and much more. DAV NSOs represent more clients than all other veterans' groups at the highest level of appeal within the Department of Veterans Affairs. What's more, all services provided by DAV NSOs are free of charge. Visit the website to find a National Service Office near you.

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### **Navy Sea Warrior/Safe Harbor**

[www.npc.navy.mil/CommandSupport/SafeHarbor](http://www.npc.navy.mil/CommandSupport/SafeHarbor)

(888) 774-1361

WI

The program offers a coordinated and tailored response for its men and women returning home with debilitating injuries from Iraq, Afghanistan and other areas of conflict. The Navy team provides a strong, unified approach to assist members and their families in recovery and reintegration.

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### **Paralyzed Veterans of America Michigan Chapter**

[www.michiganpva.org](http://www.michiganpva.org)

(800) 638-6782

WI

Advocates for health care, research, education, veterans benefits and rights, accessibility and the removal of architectural barriers, sports programs and disability rights.

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### **Returning from the War Zone: A Guide for Military Personnel**

[www.ptsd.va.gov/public/reintegration/guide-pdf/SMGuide.pdf](http://www.ptsd.va.gov/public/reintegration/guide-pdf/SMGuide.pdf)

AD, NG, RV, V

This guide is for service members returning from deployment. It contains information to help military personnel understand what to expect when returning from a war zone, and to help them to better adapt back to home life. Reintegration is an adjustment for all involved. This information aims to make this process as smooth as possible and covers:

- A description of the common reactions that occur following deployment to a war zone
  - Information about possible problems to watch out for, including PTSD
  - How expectations about homecoming may not be the same for service members and family members
  - The effects that war zone stress can have on your family and work life
  - What you can do to help yourself in readjusting
  - What help is available and what it involves
- 

### **Sew Much Comfort**

[www.sewmuchcomfort.org](http://www.sewmuchcomfort.org)

WI

Provides custom-made adaptive clothing, free of charge, to injured service members which aides in their recovery, provides a tangible reminder of our gratitude for their sacrifice and gives them an added measure of comfort and freedom as they recover from their injuries and return to everyday life. Adaptive clothing accommodates their medical devices and situations, provides ease of use, increases personal independence and minimizes the visual impact of their medical condition. Requests can be placed online.

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### **Shiawassee County Department of Veterans Affairs**

[www.shiawassee.net](http://www.shiawassee.net)

Norton Street Annex

701 S. Norton

Corunna, MI 48817

(989) 743-2231

V

The Department of Veterans Affairs assists veterans their families, dependents, and survivors in filing claims for federal, state and county veterans' benefits to which they may be entitled.

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### **Transition Service Offices**

[www.dav.org/veterans/TSOffices.aspx](http://www.dav.org/veterans/TSOffices.aspx)

(877) 426-2838

WI

Transition Service Offices (TSOs) conduct or participate in pre-discharge transition assistance briefings, the Disability Transition Assistance Program (DTAP), the Transition Assistance Program (TAP), review service treatment records, and confer with Department of Defense and Department of Labor facilitators and other participants in the discharge process. The TSO program also allows DAV to assist service members in the development of evidence, completion of required applications and prosecution of claims for veterans benefits administered under federal, state and local laws.

If you are currently enlisted in the military, DAV Transition Service Officers (TSOs) can provide free assistance in making the transition to civilian life. Visit their website to find a Transition Service Office near you.

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### **Veterans Affairs (VA) On-Line Claims Applications (VONAPP)**

[www.va.gov/onlineapps.htm](http://www.va.gov/onlineapps.htm)

(800) 827-1000

V, WI

On-line applications are now accepted from veterans, survivors and other claimants filing initial applications for disability compensation, pension, education, and vocational rehabilitation and employment benefits without the additional requirement to submit a signed paper copy of the application. VA will now process applications received through its on-line application website (VONAPP) without the claimant's signature. The electronic application will be sufficient authentication of the claimant's application for benefits. Please note: All normal development procedures and rules of evidence will still apply to VONAPP applications. VONAPP ([www.va.gov/onlineapps.htm](http://www.va.gov/onlineapps.htm)) is a Web-based system that benefits both internal and external users. For more information about VA benefits, go to VA's website at [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov) or call their toll-free number at 1-800-827-1000.

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### **Veterans Affairs (VA) "Returning Veterans" Site**

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

V

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has launched its new "Returning Veterans" website to welcome home veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts with a social, veteran-centric Web site focusing on their needs and questions.

The website will feature videos, veteran stories, and a blog where veterans are encouraged to post feedback. The site also will restructure the traditional index-of-benefits format found on other VA pages into question-based, categorized, and easily navigated links by topic. This will allow veterans to find benefits of interest easily and discover related benefits as they explore.

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### **Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW)**

[www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org)

(800) 839-1899

V

The official site for Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States. Information on veterans services, community events, scholarships, and more.

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### **Vietnam Veterans of America**

[www.vva.org](http://www.vva.org)

(800) 882-1316

V

Founded in 1978, Vietnam Veterans of America is the only national Vietnam veterans organization congressionally chartered and exclusively dedicated to Vietnam-era veterans and their families. Topics focus on community, benefits, government affairs, and more.

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### **Warrior Care News**

[www.army.mil/warriorcarenews](http://www.army.mil/warriorcarenews)

(800) 342-9647

WI

“Warrior Care News” is an Army wide effort designed to educate and increase awareness of Warrior Care programs and resources. Warrior Care News focuses on the programs, initiatives, and support that DOD promises our military through the phases of recovery, rehabilitation, and reintegration that are integral to the livelihood of our wounded, ill and injured service members, and their families. For those who need information right now, the Wounded Warrior Resource Center phone number is 1-800-342-9647 and links to resources are available on the Warrior Transition Command website.

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### **Wounded Warrior Project**

[www.WoundedWarriorProject.org](http://www.WoundedWarriorProject.org)

(877) 832-6997

WI

The mission of Wounded Warrior Project is to honor and empower wounded warriors.

Purpose:

- To raise awareness and enlist the public’s aid for the needs of severely injured service men and women
- To help severely injured service members aid and assist each other, and
- To provide unique, direct programs and services to meet the needs of severely injured service members

Programs include advocacy, benefits counseling, caregiver retreats, peer mentoring, warriors to work, and others.

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**Wounded Warrior Resource Center**

[www.woundedwarriorresourcecenter.com](http://www.woundedwarriorresourcecenter.com)

(800) 342-9647

WI

Operated by the DoD. Service members can call 1-800-342-9647 or email [wwrc@militaryonesource.com](mailto:wwrc@militaryonesource.com) to request support or to report concerns with military facilities, health care services, benefits information and any other difficulties encountered during their recovery process. Assistance provided by the resource center will not replace the specialized wounded warrior programs established by each of the military services but does offer another avenue of assistance with military facilities, health care services, and/or benefits information. Specially trained consultants will ensure consistent, quality customer-centric support. The consultants will identify the appropriate 'warm hand-off' to either a military service or federal agency with authority to resolve the matter. The resource center consultant will maintain communication with the caller until the issue or concern is resolved.

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# **HEALTH SERVICES**



**Afterdeployment.org**

[www.afterdeployment.org](http://www.afterdeployment.org)

(866) 966-1020

V

The U.S. Army, with assistance from TRICARE Management Activity (TMA), created an interactive website for Service members and families to explore behavioral health information, such as Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. The site is private and secure for all veterans.

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**Air Compassion for Veterans**

[www.aircompassionforveterans.org](http://www.aircompassionforveterans.org)

(888) 662-6794

WI

Air Compassion for Veterans provides medically related air transport services to financially needy active-duty military personnel, veterans and their families for any medically related activities that aid the ongoing healing process. An Iraq-Afghanistan Deployment Impact Fund, funded by a grant from the California Community Foundation, enables Air Compassion to expand its assistance to active-duty, reserve, and National Guard members and veterans and/or their families or critical care givers who have unmet needs in certain categories as a result of service in Operations Iraqi Freedom or Enduring Freedom. Air Compassion for Veterans works in full cooperation with related programs of the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs as well as the National Patient Travel Center.

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**DeploymentLINK**

<http://deploymentlink.osd.mil>

AD

Deployment information on past, current and future deployments for active duty military personnel.

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**Fisher Houses**

[www.fisherhouse.org](http://www.fisherhouse.org)

(888) 294-8560

WI

Free or low-cost housing for those visiting a severely ill or injured service members or family members during a period of extended medical treatment at a major military medical treatment facility.

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**Force Health Protection Deployment Health Hotline**

(800) 497-6261

AD, V

Assistance for service members, families and veterans regarding deployment health matters.

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### **Give an Hour**

[www.giveanhour.org](http://www.giveanhour.org)

AD, V

Give an Hour is a nonprofit organization providing free mental health services to U.S. military personnel and families affected by the current conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan. Visitors can search for mental health service providers available by geographical area and by phone.

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### **Gulf War Registry**

[www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures](http://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures)

(800) 749-8387

V

A Veteran who served on active military duty in Southeast Asia during the Gulf War from 1990 to present, including Operation Iraqi Freedom, is eligible for a Gulf War Registry Examination. This health registry examination is a personalized and comprehensive examination which includes blood work, urinalysis, and where medically indicated, a chest x-ray and EKG.

This examination is available to all eligible Veterans with no co-payment requirement, and provides an opportunity to enroll in the VA health care system. A Gulf War Health Registry Examination is not a claim, nor is it required, for VA benefits or compensation.

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### **Military Health System**

<http://health.mil>

E

The Military Health System (MHS) is a global medical network within the Department of Defense that provides cutting-edge health care to all U.S. military personnel worldwide. Equipped with 59 hospitals, 364 health clinics and a \$50 billion budget, the MHS delivers the highest quality health care in the world to a beneficiary population of 9.6 million service members, veterans, and family members. See website for links to TRICARE, Force Health, DCoE for Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury, and more.

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### **Military OneSource Crisis Intervention Line**

[www.militaryonesource.com](http://www.militaryonesource.com)

(800) 342-9647

E

The Military OneSource crisis intervention line supports active-duty, National Guard and Reserve service members and their families, 24-hours a day, seven days a week. Professionally trained consultants assess a caller's needs and can refer them to health care professionals for follow-up, face-to-face counseling. The Military OneSource toll-free number for those residing in the continental U.S. is 1-800-342-9647, their website can be found at [www.militaryonesource.com](http://www.militaryonesource.com). Overseas personnel should refer to the Military OneSource website for dialing instructions for their specific location.

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**My HealtheVet**

[www.myhealth.va.gov](http://www.myhealth.va.gov)

(877) 222-8387

V

My HealtheVet, VA's Internet portal, allows veterans anywhere/anytime access to health benefits and services. My HealtheVet features include a broad range of reliable health information, links to benefits from VA and other federal agencies, a personal health journal for veterans and on-line VA prescription refills.

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**Psychological Health, Traumatic Brain Injury Outreach Center**

[www.dcoe.health.mil/default.aspx](http://www.dcoe.health.mil/default.aspx)

(866) 966-1020

AD, V, WI

Operated by the DoD. Provides information and referrals to military service members, veterans, their families and others with questions about psychological health and traumatic brain injury. The center, which is operated by the Defense Centers of Excellence for Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury (DCoE), can be contacted around the clock, 365 days a year, at 1-866-966-1020. The center can address everything from routine requests for information about psychological health and traumatic brain injury, to questions about symptoms a caller is having, to helping callers find appropriate health care resources. The DCoE outreach center is staffed by behavioral health consultants and nurses, most with master's degrees. In addition to answering questions, staffers refer callers to contact centers in other parts of the Department of Defense, other federal agencies, and outside organizations when appropriate. Other contact centers also refer callers to the DCoE outreach center. More information is available at [www.dcoe.health.mil/default.aspx](http://www.dcoe.health.mil/default.aspx).

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**Tactical Assessment Center**

(800) 839-1899

V

The VFW's Tactical Assessment Center (TAC) assists veterans and their families with issues and concerns they have with VA health care and benefits entitlements. Every effort is made to initiate contact with the veteran or family member within 24 hours of receipt of the incident report.

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**TRICARE**

[www.TRICARE.mil](http://www.TRICARE.mil)

(888) 777-8343

AD

The Department of Defense's medical care benefits information. Visit the website to learn more about eligibility, plans, medical, dental, vision care, and prescription drug coverage.

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### **TRICARE Mental Health Resource Center**

[www.tricare.mil/mentalhealth](http://www.tricare.mil/mentalhealth)

(877) 874-2273

E

A web page for TRICARE beneficiaries provides the most up to date information available about available behavioral health resources. Service members and family members can access behavioral health information including recent news articles, self-assessment programs, and behavioral health flyers and brochures at [www.tricare.mil/mentalhealth](http://www.tricare.mil/mentalhealth). TRICARE allows eight self-referred behavioral health office visits for active-duty family members each fiscal year. With the required referrals and authorizations, two behavioral health sessions per week in any combination of individual, family or group sessions is included through continuing TRICARE coverage. The recently published “A TRICARE Guide: Understanding Behavioral Health” is also available on the page. It provides information on seven main topics: TRICARE and Your Behavioral Health; Understanding Behavioral Health; Covered Services, Limitations and Exclusions; Who to See for Care; Getting Care; Your Right to Privacy; and For Information and Assistance.

Another key crisis intervention resource available for our Army community is the DCOE Outreach Center. The Outreach Center is staffed 24/7/365 by health resource consultants with the latest information on psychological health and TBI issues and who can connect soldiers, family members and veterans with agencies that promote recovery, resiliency and reintegration. The DCOE Outreach Center can be contacted at 1-866-966-1020 and at [www.dcoe.health.mil/resources.aspx](http://www.dcoe.health.mil/resources.aspx).

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### **TRICAREOnline**

[www.TRICAREOnline.com](http://www.TRICAREOnline.com)

(877) 874-2273

AD

Access to Military Medical Treatment Facility (MTF) appointments, trusted medical information and military staff applications.

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### **U.S. Department of Defense Deployment Health Clinical Center**

[www.pdhealth.mil](http://www.pdhealth.mil)

AD

The core mission of the U.S. Department of Defense, Deployment Health Clinical Center (DHCC) is to improve deployment-related health by providing caring assistance and medical advocacy for military personnel and families with deployment-related health concerns. DHCC serves as a catalyst and resource center for the continuous improvement of deployment-related healthcare across the military healthcare system.

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## Veterans Affairs (VA) Medical Facilities & Vet Centers in Michigan

Aleda E. Lutz VA Medical Center

[www.saginaw.va.gov](http://www.saginaw.va.gov)

VA Medical Center

1500 Weiss Street

Saginaw, MI 48602

(989) 497-2500

V

The Aleda E. Lutz VA Medical Center (VAMC) consists of a single VHA facility with an independent Skilled Care and Rehabilitation (SCR) Center located in Saginaw, Michigan. The VAMC provides primary and secondary medical services, ambulatory surgical services, and outpatient psychiatric services. Approximately 240,000 outpatient visits were provided at the Saginaw VA Medical Center in the last year to veterans who live in the Central and Northern 35 counties of Michigan's Lower Peninsula. The VAMC also has Community Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOC) in Gaylord, Clare, Alpena, Oscoda and Traverse City in Northern Michigan.

Clare Community Based Outpatient Clinic

[www.saginaw.va.gov/visitors/Clare.asp](http://www.saginaw.va.gov/visitors/Clare.asp)

VA Outpatient Clinic

11775 N. Isabella Rd

Clare, MI 48617

(888) 838-6446 or

(989) 321-4530 (outside Michigan)

Services:

- Primary care services for veterans in the Clare area.
- Handicapped accessible: full and easy access for all veterans.
- Personal care: highly qualified primary care providers, specialty care referrals to the VA Medical centers in Saginaw, Detroit and Ann Arbor.
- Mental health services including medication management, individual and group counseling such as post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).
- Laboratory: blood drawing services available.
- Prescriptions: routine prescriptions processed through the mail or [www.myhealth.va.gov](http://www.myhealth.va.gov).
- Home based primary care
- Women's health
- Health promotion
- Disease prevention

Jackson VA Outpatient Clinic

4328 Page Avenue

Michigan Center, MI 49254

(517) 764-3609

Saginaw Vet Center

4048 Bay Road  
Saginaw, MI 48603  
(989) 321-4650

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**Veterans Affairs Health Care**

[www1.va.gov/health/index.asp](http://www1.va.gov/health/index.asp)

(800) 827-1000 (Benefits)

(877) 222-8387 (Health Care)

(800) 488-8244 (VA Inspector General)

(800) 273-8255 (Suicide Prevention Hotline)

V

Healthcare and special health issue program information, VA Medical Center facility locator, prescription drug information, benefits assistance, and Suicide Prevention Lifeline for veterans.

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**Veteran Affairs' Suicide Prevention Program**

[www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org](http://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org)

(800) 273-8255

V

The Suicide Prevention campaign of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is expanding its outreach to all veterans by piloting an online, one-to-one online chat service for veterans who prefer reaching out for assistance using the Internet. Veterans Chat, is a new service that enables veterans, their families and friends to go online where they can anonymously chat with a trained VA counselor. If a "chatter" is determined to be in a crisis, the counselor takes immediate steps to transfer the person to the VA Suicide Prevention Hotline, where further counseling and referral services are provided and crisis intervention steps can be taken.

Veterans, family members or friends can access Veterans Chat through the suicide prevention website ([www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org](http://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org)). From the veterans tab one can directly access information regarding the Veterans Suicide Prevention Hotline (1-800-273-8255), or directly enter into a live chat with a counselor. Veterans retain anonymity during the one-on-one chat. The counselor has been trained to provide information and respond to the requests and concerns of the caller. If the counselor decides the caller is in a crisis, the counselor will encourage the Veteran to call the Suicide Prevention Hotline, to speak with a trained suicide prevention counselor, who determines whether crisis intervention techniques are required.

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# HOUSING



**The Disabled American Veterans Homeless Veterans Initiative**

[www.dav.org/veterans/HomelessVeterans.aspx](http://www.dav.org/veterans/HomelessVeterans.aspx)

(313) 964-6595

V, WI

The Disabled American Veterans (DAV) helps homeless veterans make the transition from life on the streets to one of productivity and normalcy. The DAV Homeless Veterans Initiative, which is supported by DAV's Charitable Service Trust and Columbia Trust, promotes the development of supportive housing and necessary services to assist homeless veterans become productive, self-sufficient members of society. Our goal is to establish a partnership between the DAV and federal, state, county, and local governments to develop programs to assist homeless veterans in becoming self-sufficient.

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**Homes for Our Troops**

[www.homesforourtroops.org](http://www.homesforourtroops.org)

(866) 787-6677

We are Homes for Our Troops, a national non-profit, non-partisan 501(c)(3) organization founded in 2004. We are strongly committed to helping those who have selflessly given to our country and have returned home with serious disabilities and injuries since September 11, 2001. It is our duty and our honor to assist severely injured Servicemen and Servicewomen and their immediate families by raising donations of money, building materials and professional labor and to coordinate the process of building a home that provides maximum freedom of movement and the ability to live more independently.

The homes provided by Homes for Our Troops are given at NO COST to the Veterans we serve.

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**HUDVET**

[http://portal.hud.gov/portal/page/portal/HUD/topics/veteran\\_information](http://portal.hud.gov/portal/page/portal/HUD/topics/veteran_information)

(800) 998-9999

V

HUD's Office of Community Planning and Development (CPD), in consultation with national veteran service organizations, has established a Veteran Resource Center (HUDVET). CPD's goal is to provide veterans and their family members with information on HUD's community-based programs and services.

In addition to its special focus on veterans who are homeless, HUDVET is also a source of information on other HUD and related federal programs, such those to combat domestic violence, enhance community and economic development, aid runaway youth, and increase affordable housing for senior citizens and Americans with disabilities.

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**Veterans Affairs Loan Guaranty Home Loan Program**

[www.homeloans.va.gov](http://www.homeloans.va.gov)

(877) 827-3702

AD, NG, RV, V

VA home loans are available for veterans to purchase or construct single-family homes, and to purchase condominiums or cooperative apartments. There are about 2.3 million existing VA home loans, more than 90% made with no down payment. More information about VA home loans and adaptive grants is available from VA at 1-877-827-3702 or [www.homeloans.va.gov](http://www.homeloans.va.gov).

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is encouraging military members, veterans and surviving widows with at-risk loans to seek advice from VA loan counselors even if their loans are not VA-guaranteed. While VA loan counselors at the nine VA regional loan centers lack the authority to restructure or renegotiate loans not backed by VA, they can advise veterans on their options and on how they may negotiate with mortgage holders to avoid default. To find your nearest VA regional loan center, call toll-free 1-877-827-3702.

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### **Veterans Affairs National Call Center for Homeless Veterans**

[www1.va.gov/HOMELESS/NationalCallCenter.asp](http://www1.va.gov/HOMELESS/NationalCallCenter.asp)

(877) 424-3838

V

This hotline is available to ensure that homeless veterans or veterans at-risk for homelessness have free, 24/7 access to trained counselors. The hotline is intended to assist homeless veterans and their families, VA Medical Centers, federal, state and local partners, community agencies, service providers and others in the community. Call to be connected with a trained VA staff member.

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### **VFW National Home for Children**

[www.vfwnationalhome.org](http://www.vfwnationalhome.org)

(800) 851-0238

E

Services are available to children and families within five distinct programs at the National Home, and support services are also an important function of providing the best in love, care and education to the children who reside at the National Home.

Children living at the VFW National Home for Children receive the following on-campus services: educational support, recreational opportunities, and individual and “family” counseling. All food, housing, and utilities are provided. The National Home maintains contacts with local community agencies and professionals to provide individual psychological services, and both specialized and routine medical, dental, and eye care services. Clothing is purchased locally and children attend Eaton Rapids Public Schools.

Eligibility: Serves anyone in the United States that is a veteran, active member of military, family member of veteran or active duty personnel.

Application process: Call the helpline between 8-5, M-F.

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## **Volunteers of America Michigan Veterans Services**

[www.voami.org](http://www.voami.org)

(517) 484-4414

V

Volunteers of America Michigan veteran programs of Lansing work interchangeably together to foster a person-centered, holistic approach toward well-being and independent living.

- **Veterans in Progress (VIP)**, (517) 484-4414, ext. 113  
Homeless male and female veterans are welcomed to a place of refuge where the work of recovery gets done. Services are provided ranging from healthcare and employment to daily meals, with the added benefit of a veteran's Case Manager and the physical and mental health services of the VA Medical Hospitals. Residents can stay for up to 6 months if they maintain weekly progress on their Treatment Plan. Eighty percent of those that complete the program return to independent living.
- **Veterans Housing Program (VHP)**, (517) 484-4414  
Provides longer-term transitional housing to male veterans including those with substance related disorders and/or mental illness. Veterans may participate in the program for 18 months and are offered the following services: Case management, individual and group counseling, referrals for substance abuse and medical treatment, budgeting assistance, job interviewing and placement, and anger management.

For more information, please visit [www.voami.org](http://www.voami.org).

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# **LEGAL SERVICES**



### **National Veterans Legal Services Program**

<http://nvlsp.org/Information/LSW/index.htm>

(202) 265-8305 ext. 152

V

A project of the National Veterans Legal Services Program (NVLSP) providing free legal representation in disability, discharge and veterans benefits cases to service members and veterans who served in Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) or Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF).

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### **Project SALUTE**

[www.law.udmercy.edu/project\\_salute/veterans.php](http://www.law.udmercy.edu/project_salute/veterans.php)

(313) 596-0200

V

Project SALUTE of the University of Detroit Mercy (UDM) School of Law is on a unique mission: hit the highways to provide priceless legal advice to low-income veterans for free and teach students the invaluable lesson of using the law to serve. The Veterans Clinic and Project SALUTE recommend that a veteran bring the Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty (DD Form 214) and any other documents pertinent to evaluating a federal veterans benefits case. See website for schedule of legal clinics.

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### **Re-Employment Rights**

[www.dol.gov](http://www.dol.gov)

(800) 455-5228

AD, NG, RV

A person who left a civilian job to enter active duty in the armed forces may be entitled to return to the job after discharge or release from active duty. Re-employment rights are provided for those who served in the active duty or reserve components of the armed forces.

To be re-employed, four requirements must be met:

1. The person must give advance notice of military service to the employer.
2. The cumulative absence from the civilian job shall not exceed five years (with some exceptions).
3. The person must submit a timely application for re-employment.
4. The person must not have been released with a dishonorable or other punitive discharge.

The law calls for the returning veteran to be placed in the job as if the veteran had remained continuously employed. This means that the person may be entitled to benefits that are based on seniority, such as pensions, pay increases, and promotions. The law also prohibits discrimination in hiring, promotion, or other advantages of employment on the basis of military service. Applications for re-employment should be given, verbally or in writing, to a person authorized to represent the company for hiring purposes. A record should be kept of the application. If there are problems gaining re-employment, the employee should contact the Department of Labor Veterans' Employment and Training Service (VETS) in the employer's state. This applies to

private sector, as well as state, local, and federal government employees, including the Postal Service.

Get more information at [www.dol.gov](http://www.dol.gov), call the Michigan Department of Energy, Labor and Economic Growth – Bureau of Workforce Programs and speak to a veterans employment representative at 1-800-455-5228.

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**Service to Soldiers: Legal Assistance Referral Program**

[www.cooley.edu/ethics/service\\_to\\_soldiers.pdf](http://www.cooley.edu/ethics/service_to_soldiers.pdf)

(517) 371-5140, ext. 4112

E

The Thomas M. Cooley Law School started the Service to Soldiers: Legal Assistance Referral Program to show our gratitude to those who leave civilian life to serve in combat zones. The grim reality of combat is that soldiers are saddled with worry about how their loved ones will be taken care of, should they not return. Equally distressing is the fact that many of our troops return to civilian life only to find a host of legal problems waiting for them. Thankful for their service, we wish to ease their burdens by alleviating their legal concerns. The Service to Soldiers: Legal Assistance Referral Program offers free legal assistance to Michigan military personnel who are deploying to, serving in, or returning from combat areas.

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# RECREATION



## **Lakeshore Foundation's Programs for Injured Military**

[www.lakeshore.org](http://www.lakeshore.org)

(205) 313-7437

WI

Lakeshore Foundation's Lima Foxtrot programs include a number of weekend-long camps that bring injured military personnel and their families from across the country to Alabama. Each camp, referred to as an operation, is offered at no charge for the participants. Activities include Operation Rise & Conquer, an outdoor adventure weekend held at Lake Martin; Operation Night Vision, a camp specifically designed for injured troops who have suffered blindness or visual impairment; Operation X-Sports for servicemen and women interested in extreme sports; and Operation Endurance, which provides daily fitness, programs to recently injured military personnel returning home to Alabama.

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## **Outward Bound**

[www.outwardbound.org/index.cfm/do/cp.veterans](http://www.outwardbound.org/index.cfm/do/cp.veterans)

(866) 669-2362 ext. 8387

V

Outward Bound, an international non-profit outdoor education program, is offering fully funded outdoor adventure excursions to all OEF/OIF veterans. It doesn't matter what your current military status is (active, inactive, discharged, retired)—you are eligible to attend as long as you deployed in support of OEF/OIF combat operations.

The five-day excursions offer adventure activities such as backpacking, rock climbing, canoeing, and dog sledding in beautiful wilderness areas in Maine, Texas, Colorado, California, and Minnesota. All expedition costs for lodging, equipment, food, and instruction are funded by a multi-million dollar Sierra Club grant, including the participants' round-trip transportation between home and the wilderness site. To sign up for one of the prescheduled courses, please contact Doug Hayward at 1-866-669-2362, ext. 8387, or simply e-mail him at [obvets@outwardbound.org](mailto:obvets@outwardbound.org).

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# **SUPPORT OUR TROOPS**



### **Adopt a Platoon**

<http://adoptaplatoon.org>

AD

Adopt-a-Platoon Soldier Support Effort is a volunteer based nonprofit 501C-3 dedicated to serving deployed United States Service Men and Women ensuring that they are not forgotten by a grateful nation. Adopt-a-Platoon strives to provide a better deployment quality of life by sending cards, letters and care packages to lift the morale of Troops as they serve far from home and assist military families. Adopt-a-Platoon provides an on-going mail support system, creates projects that meet the need of military requests, and establishes special projects that benefit deployed Troops representing all branches of the U.S. military. Adopt-a-Platoon also serves injured Troops through AAP Walking Wounded Project and assists military veterans who remain our Nation's Heroes.

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### **Anysoldier.com**

<http://anysoldier.com>

AD

A website which allows supporters to send care packages to service people deployed all over the world who may not be receiving any other mail. Service men and women can register on the website to become a contact and help distribute these packages.

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### **Operation Gratitude**

[www.opgratitude.com](http://www.opgratitude.com)

Tens of thousands of American Service Members are deployed in hostile and remote regions of the world, including the Middle East, Afghanistan, and on ships throughout international waters. The physical conditions they must endure are difficult and they may be separated from loved ones for long periods of time.

Operation Gratitude seeks to lift morale and put smiles on faces by sending care packages addressed to individual Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines deployed overseas. Operation Gratitude care packages contain food, hygiene products, entertainment items and personal letters of appreciation, all wrapped with good wishes of love and support.

Through Collection Drives, Letter Writing Campaigns and Donations of funds for shipping expenses, Operation Gratitude provides civilians anywhere in America a way to express their respect and appreciation to the men and women of the U.S. Military in an active, hands-on manner.

Operation Gratitude is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, volunteer-based corporation, funded entirely by private donations. For safety and security, the assembling of all packages occurs at the Army National Guard Armory in Van Nuys, California.

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**Project Blue Star**

[www.michigan.gov/homeland/0,1607,7-173-23612\\_34175---,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/homeland/0,1607,7-173-23612_34175---,00.html)

E

Project Blue Star is the Governor's Military Family Support initiative that will lend a helping hand to families of Michigan soldiers serving overseas. This program will identify and catalogue all services available to military families in one convenient on-line location. The Governor is encouraging organizations throughout Michigan to offer a variety of services and assistance to military families in need.

Organizations can register on line and identify the services they are able to provide. Families can search for services and be matched with volunteer organizations.

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**Soldiers' Angels**

<http://soldiersangels.org>

(615) 676-0239

AD

Deployed personnel of all branches are eligible for adoption. Adoptees receive cards, letters, and care packages from individual volunteers who have signed up to be Angels and have been approved. Soldiers' Angels is a volunteer-based organization dedicated to the support and morale of our military men and women, in appreciation for their defense of our nation. If you need additional kinds of support, please email directly, or click "Teams & Projects" for information on other assistance offered. Their purpose is to support service members with snacks, basic comfort items, and words of support. Members are individuals and families that care and support our military personally.

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# UTILITIES



**Consumers Energy**

(800) 477-5050

AD

If you or your spouse is the customer of record and is called to full-time active military service by the President of the United States or the Governor of Michigan during a time of declared national or state emergency or war, you may apply for shut-off protection for up to 90 days and you may request an extension of this protection by re-applying. You must provide verification of active duty status. At the end of active duty, you must notify Consumers Energy of your status. You still will be required to pay for the energy you used during your participation in this program. They will set up a payment plan for all past-due amounts to be paid within one year. Consumer's customers need to contact the utility and provide an annual income, number of household members, and proof of military status. A deposit of 10% is required to complete the process, but you will be allowed a few days' time to get the deposit in.

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**DTE (Detroit Edison)**

(800) 477-4747

AD

If you or your spouse is called to full-time active military service during a time of declared national or state emergency or war, you may apply for shut-off protection for up to 90 days. You may request extensions of this protection by re-applying. You must provide verification of active duty status. At the end of active duty, you must notify DTE of your status. You will still be required to pay for the energy service used during your participation in this program. DTE will enroll you in a payment plan for all past due amounts to be paid within one year.

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**Lansing Board of Water and Light**

(517) 702-6006

AD

Families with active members of the U.S. Military are also protected from shut-offs. Family must provide evidence of active duty military family member (such as military ID). Shut-off protection pertains to winter months only, through the end of March.

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