



Indiana Veterans Benefits Guide

STATE AND FEDERAL PROGRAMS



Distributed by State Representative

Terry Goodin

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Service Organizations

The service organizations listed below are accredited to represent veterans and their dependents in the filing of claims. All but Vietnam Veterans of America are located at:
575 N. Pennsylvania Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204.

American Legion RM 325	317-916-3605
AMVETS RM 314	317-916-3612
Disabled American Veterans RM 324	317-916-3615
Military Order of the Purple Heart RM 330	317-916-3623
Paralyzed Veterans of America RM 328	317-916-3626
Veterans of Foreign Wars RM 319	317-916-3629

INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

302 W. Washington Street, Room E120
Indianapolis, IN 46204-2738
Telephone: 317-232-3910
Fax: 317-232-7721
TOLL FREE (In State) 1-800-400-4520
Web Address: www.in.gov/dva

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS REGIONAL OFFICE

575 N. Pennsylvania Street
Indianapolis, IN 46204-1581
Telephone toll free: 1-800-827-1000
Fax Number: 317-916-3812
VA Loan Guaranty toll free 1-800-729-5772

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS OFFICE

PO Box 66830
St. Louis, MO 63166-6830
Phone 1-888-442-4551
Web site www.gibill.va.gov

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS HOME LOAN GUARANTEE OFFICE

Phone 1-888-244-6711

Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs

The mission of the Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs is to assist Hoosier Veterans, service personnel, their dependents and/or survivors in obtaining every benefit and advantage due them under the laws of the State of Indiana and the United States. The definition of "Hoosier veteran" includes an individual who: (1) is a resident of Indiana; (2) served in a reserve component of the armed forces of the United States or the Indiana National Guard; and (3) completed any required military occupational specialty training and was not discharged or separated from the armed forces or the Indiana National Guard under dishonorable or other than honorable conditions. The Department works with a network of certified County Veteran Service Officers who assist veterans with information and preparation of paperwork at no cost. Indiana benefits that may apply are:

DIAL 2-1-1 for Assistance

The telephone 2-1-1 dialing code for human services information provides assistance concerning: (1) domestic violence; (2) infant mortality; (3) **veterans**; (4) senior citizens; (5) vulnerable children; and (6) public health.

Remission of Fees for the Child(ren) of a Disabled Veteran (CDV)

The biological or legally adopted child(ren) of eligible disabled Indiana veterans may be eligible for remission of fees at any state-supported post secondary school or university in the State of Indiana. This currently applies at any age as long as the child was adopted by age 18 and the child is an Indiana resident. The remission of fees/CDV program is a State of Indiana program and is not the federal GI Bill education program. Students can only use this benefit at a state-supported university/college while complying with the school's residency requirements.

For disabled veterans who initially entered the military before June 30, 2011:

The rules are:

1. The veteran must have served on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces during a period of wartime, or performed duty equally hazardous that was recognized by the award of a service, campaign or expeditionary medal of the United States (the military discharge must reflect that medal). The veteran must also have been a resident of the State of Indiana for not less than 3 consecutive years during his/her lifetime. IC 21-11-7-1

Eligible wartime dates are:

WWII: December 7, 1941 and December 31, 1946

Vietnam: Aug 5, 1964 and May 7, 1975

Korea: June 27, 1950 and Jan 31, 1955

Gulf War: August 2, 1990 - present

Equally hazardous dates are shown on the IDVA website at www.in.gov/dva/2378.htm.

And:

2. The veteran must be declared service-connected disabled or suffered a service connected death as determined by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs or the Department of Defense (if the Department of Defense, the veteran must supply official documentation). [Children of veterans rated 80% service-connected disabled or higher by the VA will receive 100% fee remission. Children of veterans rated less than 80% service-connected disabled will receive 20% fee remission plus the disability rating of the veteran. If the disability rating of the veteran changes after the beginning of the academic semester, quarter or other period, the change in the disability rating shall be applied beginning with the immediately following academic semester, quarter or other period.]

Or:

3. The veteran received a Purple Heart Medal. (Official documentation of the award is required)

Or:

4. The veteran was a resident of Indiana at the time of entry into the service and was declared a POW or MIA after January 1, 1960. (There is no restriction on the number of hours for this benefit, but it is good only up to and including a bachelor's degree.) IC 10-17-7

Or:

5. The student was a veteran-related pupil at the Indiana Soldiers' and Sailors' Children's Home.

The Remission of Fees is good for 124 semester hours of education and may be used for undergraduate work. The amount remitted is 100% of tuition/mandatory fees. The benefit may also be used for graduate work, but will be reimbursed at the undergraduate rate, the difference is made up by the applicant/family. Ref: IC 21-14-4-1

For children of disabled veterans who entered military service on or after July 1, 2011:

The rules are:

1. The veteran must have served on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces during a period of wartime, or performed duty equally hazardous that was recognized by the award of a service, campaign or expeditionary medal of the United States (the military discharge must reflect that medal); The veteran must have originally entered military service from Indiana or must have been a resident of the State of Indiana for not less than 5 consecutive years immediately preceding the application. (IC 21-11-7-1).

Eligible wartime dates are:

Recognized wartime periods after June 30, 2011 (including a wartime period which began earlier but continued into the eligible period during which the veteran served).

And:

2. The veteran must be declared service-connected disabled or suffered a service connected death as determined by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs or the Department of Defense (if the Department of Defense, the veteran must supply official documentation),

Or:

3. The veteran received a Purple Heart Medal. (Receipt of the medal must be reflected on the Record of Discharge, DD Form 214)

The Remission of Fees is good for 124 semester hours of education and may be used for undergraduate level work only. The amount remitted depends on the VA service-connected disability rating as shown below in item 4. Ref: IC 21-14-4-1.

Please Note: The remission of fees/CDV program is a State of Indiana provided program and is not the federal GI Bill education program. CDV students can only use this benefit at a state supported university/college in Indiana.

The following also applies:

1. Students will be limited to a total of eight (8) years in the program.

2. Students must not have reached their 32nd birthday at the time of their initial application.

3. Students must maintain the following grade point average (GPA):

- Freshman academic year: A cumulative GPA that the eligible institution determines satisfactory academic progress;
- Sophomore academic year: A cumulative GPA of 2.25 on a 4.0 grading scale, or its equivalent as established by the institution.
- Junior or senior academic year: A cumulative GPA of 2.5 on a 4.0 grading scale, or its equivalent as established by the institution.
- Students not reaching these goals will be placed on probation and must reach the requisite GPA by the next semester or its equivalent.

4. Students will have their remission of fees prorated based on the VA disability rating as follows:

- Children of veterans rated 80% service-connected disabled or higher by the VA or whose parent is/was a recipient of the Purple Heart Medal will receive 100% fee remission.
- Children of veterans rated less than 80% service-connected disabled will receive 20% fee remission plus the disability rating of the veteran.
- If the disability rating of the veteran changes after the beginning of the academic semester, quarter or other period, the change in the disability rating shall be applied beginning with the immediately following academic semester, quarter or other period.

Remission of Fees for Purple Heart Recipients

A person who entered active duty from a permanent home address in Indiana, received the Purple Heart and received an honorable discharge, is eligible to pay the resident tuition rate at a state supported college or university and who otherwise possesses the requisite academic qualifications, is entitled to remission of fees for 124 semester credit hours. If the student receives financial aid through any other source, the remission of fees is adjusted accordingly. Ref: IC 21-14-10

Tuition Rates for Active Duty and Veterans

Active duty military personnel stationed in Indiana and their dependents are eligible for resident tuition rates at any state-supported college or university. Veterans who enroll in undergraduate courses at a state university within 12 months of discharge are now able to receive the in-state tuition rate. Indiana National Guard members are eligible for resident tuition rates for undergraduate and graduate courses at any state-supported college or university. Ref: IC 21-14-9

Medal of Honor Recipients

The Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs is authorized to reimburse expenses to Hoosier veterans who are Medal of Honor recipients who travel in Indiana to give speeches. Ref: IC 10-17-1-6 Sec 6(b)9

Military Family Leave

The spouse, parent, grandparents or siblings, including biological, adopted-, foster- or step-family of Hoosier veterans ordered to active duty deployments in the Armed Forces or the National Guard and who are employed by an employer who employs over 50 people, are eligible for an unpaid leave of absence of up to 10 days. The leave can be taken in the 30-day period after the service member receives their orders, while they are home on leave during the deployment, or in the 30-day period at the end of their deployment. Ref: IC 22-2-13

Military Family Relief Fund

The families of Hoosier active duty service members as well as National Guard and Reserves on Title 10 orders may apply for emergency grants for food, housing, utilities, medical services, transportation and other essential family support expenses which were caused by the mobilization of the service member. Contact local County Veterans' Service Officer or IDVA at 1-800-400-4520. Ref: IC 10-17-12

Jury Duty

Individuals on military orders are exempt from serving on a jury in any court of Indiana. Ref: IC 10-16-16-1

Property Tax Deductions

Property tax deductions are available to disabled Hoosier Veterans under the following conditions:

1. IC 6-1.1-12-14, a \$12,480 dollar deduction is available to a veteran who:

a. Served at least 90 days of honorable service (can be peacetime service).

And:

b. Are totally disabled (not necessarily service-connected but the disability must be evidenced by a U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs pension certificate).

Or:

c. Are at least 62 years old and 10% service-connected disabled.

Note: This deduction is not available if the assessed value of the real property owned by the veteran is in excess of \$143,160.

2. IC 6-1.1-12-13, a \$24,960 tax deduction is available for veterans who:

a. Served honorably in the Armed Forces during any period of wartime.

And:

b. Are at least 10% service-connected disabled.

3. A \$37,440 tax deduction is available for any veteran who: (This is a combination of tax code 1 and tax code 2 and in the event the property is valued above \$175,000 the tax code 1 portion is not applicable)

a. Served honorably during any period of wartime.

And:

b. Is 100% service connected-disabled

Or:

c. Is at least 62 years of age with at least a 10% service-connected disability.

Notes:

1. A statutory disability rating for Pulmonary TB is not eligible.

2. Active duty for training with the National Guard or Reserves is eligible only if the disability occurs from an event during the period of active duty and that duty was performed during wartime.

3. The surviving spouse of the veteran is eligible for the veteran's tax deduction. The spouse must apply in his or her own name. IC 6-1.1-12-14, IC 6-1.1-12-15.

4. If the assessed valuation of the property is less than the deduction, the overage can be applied toward the excise tax on the veteran's license plates at the rate of \$2 per each \$100 of deduction. (Tax Code 1 - \$249.60; Tax Code 2 - \$499.20; Tax Code 3 - \$748.80).

5. The approved application must be taken to the county Auditor. The Auditor will also make any of the determinations shown in items 3 or 4.

Income Tax Exemptions and Deductions

Current members of the active branches of service, National Guard and Reserves are eligible to receive an exemption of \$5,000 on their state income tax return. Veterans who are military retirees are eligible for the same exemption.

Indiana provides for an income tax deduction for military retirement and survivor's benefits of \$6,250 (retains a \$5,000 deduction for military income that is not a military retirement benefit, which is now a combined deduction including military income and military retirement benefits). IC 6-3-2-4

Relief from Attachment

A disability benefit awarded to a veteran for a service connected disability under 38 U.S.C. 1101 et seq. is exempt from attachment from a judicial lien, process, or proceeding to collect a debt. This subdivision does not apply to a service connected disability benefit that is subject to child and spousal support enforcement under 42 U.S.C. 659(h)(1)(A)(ii)(V). IC 34-55-10-2(c)(12) (Effective 1 July 2010)

Military Pay State Tax Exempt If Deployed to Combat Zone

Military pay earned while under orders to a combat zone is exempt from state tax. The exemption period begins with the date on the orders and ends when the orders end. Eligibility: Members of the Guard and Reserves. IC 6-3-1-3.5b.a (23)

Note: This exemption and the \$5,000 exemption cannot be claimed on the same return. It must be one or the other, but not both.

Memorial Day Expenses

In counties which annually coordinate a Memorial Day ceremony, including the placing of flags in local cemeteries, the county council may contribute an unspecified amount to each veterans' organization in the county or, if a Memorial Day society, county veterans' council or any other Memorial Day association exists, may donate an unspecified amount to that organization instead of to the separate veterans' organizations. IC 10-18-8-1 (removes the limit of the amount allowed to be donated).

Display of United States Flag Upon the Death of Certain Veterans

Upon the death of a member of the armed forces or the National Guard who is a resident of Indiana and who dies of wounds received in action either outright in action or who dies before reaching a medical treatment facility, the Governor shall, within 24 hours of receiving notice, issue a proclamation ordering the United States flag to be flown at half-staff on the day of the member's funeral or memorial service. IC 10-18-9

Flag at Half-Staff for the Funeral of a Post Member

Upon application, the Governor will authorize the flags at the Post to be lowered to half-staff upon the death of a member of a veterans' organization. Flag can remain at half-staff from the time of the veteran's death until after the funeral. Application can be downloaded online from <http://www.in.gov/dva/2357.htm> and faxed to (317) 232-7721 or mailed to IDVA.

Women Veterans Coordinator

The Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs has on staff a Women Veterans' Coordinator to assist female veterans with claims and applications and to assist with matters which may be unique to female veterans.

Women Veterans' Coordinator – (317) 914-2128

Roudebush VAMC Women Veteran Program Manager – Judith Kelly, MSN/INF, RN; (317) 988-4642

Governor's Memorial Certificate

A special certificate, signed by the governor, is available to surviving family members upon the death of an honorably discharged veteran to commemorate their service. This includes National Guard or Reservists who satisfactorily completed at least one period of enlistment. Application available at Indiana funeral homes, county VSO offices or call 1-800-400-4520.

Veteran Discrimination (Effective July 1, 2014)

It is unlawful for an employer to discriminate against a prospective employee if the applicant is a veteran or member of a reserve/national guard member.

Professional Licensing for Active Military and Spouses

Professional licenses, including teacher licenses, are to be expedited for active military assigned to a duty station in Indiana and their spouses. IC 25-1

Local Occupational Fees

Local occupational fees are waived for veterans or active duty military/national guard personnel. IC 36-1-3-11.2

Voluntary Veterans' Preference Employment Policy

Employers may utilize a voluntary veterans' preference policy for hiring, promoting, or retaining a veteran in private or public employment, including to members of the national guard of another state during state-sponsored activation

Veteran Preference on State Contracts

Provides that an Indiana veteran-owned small business (VOSB) is eligible for the small business set aside procurement policy for state procurements and for procurements by political subdivisions that have adopted the set aside policy. Provides that the 15% price preference for small businesses applies to Indiana VOSBs. Requires the department of administration to adopt rules to increase contracting opportunities for Indiana VOSBs with a goal to procure in each state fiscal year at least 3% of state contracts with Indiana VOSBs. Provides for the development of programs to encourage cities, counties, towns, townships, and private businesses to adopt the state's VOSB procurement goal. Requires the department of administration to report on the percentage of state contracts with Indiana VOSBs. IC 5-22-14-1

Employment Assistance

With funding from the U.S. Department of Labor, Veterans' Employment and Training Service, the Indiana Department of Workforce Development provides services to Hoosier Veterans, including preference for program placement. Through the Disabled Veterans' Outreach Program (DVOP), and the Local Veterans' Employment Representative (LVER) Program, Workforce Development Offices throughout the State are equipped to assist Hoosier Veterans with their transition from service to civilian life. The DVOPs specialize in tailored training and job placement opportunities for veterans with service-connected disabilities. LVERs coordinate services provided veterans including counseling, testing, and identifying training and employment opportunities. Using the list on the next page, contact the nearest Indiana Workforce Development Office with a veteran's representative for more information.

- Indiana Department of Workforce Development: www.in.gov/dwd
- To make informed employment and education choices visit: www.careeronestop.org/militarytransition/

Military Custody and Parenting

A military parent who receives temporary deployment or mobilization orders may request a court to (1) to hold an expedited hearing to determine or modify custody or parenting time; and (2) to allow, with reasonable notice, a parent to present testimony and evidence by certain electronic means in a custody or parenting time proceeding if the military duties of a parent have a material effect on the parent's ability to appear in person at a regularly scheduled hearing concerning custody or parenting time. Allows a court, upon motion by a parent who has received military deployment orders, to delegate the parent's parenting time, or a part of the parent's parenting time, during the time that the parent is deployed to a person who has a close and substantial relationship with the parent's child, if the court determines delegating the time is in the best interests of the child. (IC 31-14-13-6.1 and 6.2) Also provides that an order delegating parenting time automatically terminates after the parent returns from deployment. It allows the court to terminate an order delegating parenting time if the court determines that the delegated parenting time is no longer in the best interests of the child. IC 31-17-2-21.1 and 21.2.

Veterans Court

The veterans court in Indiana seeks to assist veterans entering the justice system who suffer from substance abuse problems, post traumatic stress injuries, mental health disorders and/or homelessness. The court holds veterans responsible for their actions and also seeks treatment for their issues.

Indiana Workforce Development Offices with Veterans Representatives:

Anderson	(765) 642-4981
Auburn	(219) 295-0124
Bedford	(812) 279-4400
Bloomington	(812) 331-6000
Columbus	(812) 314-8576
.....	(812) 314-8572
Connersville	(765) 825-3191
Corydon	(812) 738-8811
Elkhart	(219) 295-0105
Evansville	(812) 428-2970
Fort Wayne	(219) 447-3057
Franklin	(317) 736-5531
Gary	(219) 981-1520
Hammond	(219) 933-8332
Indy East	(317) 358-4522
.....	(317) 358-4523
.....	(317) 358-4524
Indy Westside	(317) 246-5415
.....	(317) 246-5416
.....	(317) 246-5417
Jeffersonville	(812) 288-6451
Kokomo	(765) 459-0571
Lafayette	(765) 474-5411
LaPorte	(219) 362-2175
Lawrenceburg	(812) 537-1117
Linton	(812) 847-4479
Logansport	(219) 722-6652
Madison	(812) 265-3734
Marion	(765) 668-8911
Martinsville	(765) 342-3324
Muncie	(765) 289-1861
New Albany	(812) 948-6102
New Castle	(765) 529-3010
Noblesville	(317) 773-4689
Plymouth	(219) 233-6175
Portage	(219) 762-6592
Richmond	(765) 962-8591
Salem	(812) 883-2283
Scottsburg	(812) 752-3886
Shelbyville	(317) 392-3251
South Bend	(219) 239-2672
Terre Haute	(812) 234-6602
Vincennes	(812) 882-8770

GI Bill Education Benefits: The State Approving Agency

The State Approving Agency (SAA) is a division within the Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs tasked with the responsibility of approving education and training programs for veterans with GI Bill education benefits. In addition to private and public colleges/universities and other education programs, there are more than 400 approved apprenticeship/OJT programs in the State. These apprenticeships/OJT programs are both union and non union and are found in both the public and private sector. Approved OJT programs are mostly found in the law enforcement and firefighter fields. In addition, the SAA approves medical/hospital based programs, flight schools, real estate, licensed barber/beauty schools and state owned certification tests. Additional apprenticeship-related material can be found at:

Bureau of Apprenticeship and Training
<http://oa.doleta.gov/>

1. Click on Search Sponsor Database
2. Select State
3. Select County
4. Click on VIEW

Contact the State Approving Agency at (317) 234-6062 or toll-free at 1-800-400-4520 or visit our website, www.in.gov/dva/2333.htm, for information on education/training programs approved for GI Bill educational benefits

For Federal GI Bill Education information, see page 19 of this brochure.

Vehicle Operator License & License Plates: Operator's License

When the operator's license of an individual who is temporarily residing outside Indiana because of service in the armed forces of the United States has expired, the license remains valid for ninety (90) days following the person's discharge from service in the armed forces. To obtain a renewed license, the individual must do the following:

1. Apply for renewal of the operator's license during the ninety day period following the individual's discharge.
2. Show proof of the individual's discharge from service in the armed forces when applying for the renewal.

Ref. IC 9-24-12-6(e)

Military Designation on Driver's Licenses and ID Cards

An individual may request an indication of the individual's veteran status or active military or naval service status on the individual's driver's license or state identification card. Surviving spouses of deceased military personnel may also request similar identification on their driver's license or state identification card. Military documents issued by the United States Department of Defense will be required to verify all requests.

Commercial Drivers License (CDL) Exemption

Individuals who operate CMVs for military purposes are exempt from the requirement to obtain a CDL. This exception is applicable to active duty military personnel; members of the military reserves; member of the National Guard on active duty, including personnel on full-time National Guard duty, personnel on part-time National Guard training, and National Guard military technicians (civilians who are required to wear military uniforms); and active duty U.S. Coast Guard personnel. This exception is not applicable to U.S. Reserve technicians.

Other Bureau of Motor Vehicles Benefits for Military Families see <http://www.in.gov/bmv/2343.htm#1>

Hoosier Veteran Plates

Any resident of the State who was honorably separated from the active Armed Forces can purchase a military branch-specific Hoosier Veteran license plate. Simply take your DD-214 or your Discharge Certificate to your local BMV office and request the special plate. Plates denote the particular branch of service in which the veteran served. Plate numbers 1 through 100, including low-numbered motorcycle plates, are approved by the Director, IDVA. \$15 from the sale of each of these plates goes into the Military Family Relief Fund.

Support Our Troops Plates

As of January 1, 2007, this special plate with a yellow ribbon is available for purchase by all Hoosiers, whether or not they are a veteran. Most of the proceeds from each plate (\$20) goes into the Military Family Relief Fund.

POW/MIA

The Prisoner Of War - Missing In Action license plate sponsored by Indiana Rolling Thunder. The cost of the Prisoner Of War - Missing In Action license plate includes vehicle registration fees and taxes, a group fee of \$25, and an administrative fee of \$15. A portion of this money goes to the Military Family Relief Fund.

Disabled Hoosier Veteran Plates

A person may apply for, receive, and display a disabled Hoosier veteran license plate on the person's vehicle for private and personal use if the person, as the result of having served in the armed forces of the United States, has:

- (1) lost sight in both eyes or suffered permanent impairment of vision in both eyes to the extent of being eligible for service-connected compensation for the loss;
- (2) suffered the loss of one (1) or both feet or the permanent loss of use of one (1) or both feet;
- (3) suffered the loss of one (1) or both hands or the permanent loss of use of one (1) or both hands, or
- (4) a United States Department of Veterans Affairs disability rating for a physical condition that precludes the person from walking without pain or difficulty; or
- (5) been rated by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs as being at least fifty percent (50%) disabled with at least a 30% mobility disability rating and is receiving service-related compensation from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.

Applications must be accompanied by a copy of the VA Rating Determination. Older DAV plates that only say DAV and do not have the universal handicap symbol are only valid in Indiana for parking purposes. Plates which do not have the universal handicap symbol may be exchanged free of charge at their local BMV. Applications may be obtained from either the BMV or the Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs. The Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs must verify the veteran's eligibility. Ref: IC 9-18-18-1, IC 9-18.18-2.

Note: This license plate bears the universal handicap symbol (wheelchair) and can park in designated handicap parking spaces, however, to park free at a parking meter, the driver must be the registered owner of the vehicle.

Ex-Prisoner of War Plates

The POW license plate is available to all ex-prisoners of war or to the surviving spouse of a deceased POW. Effective July 1, 2009 a veteran with a former Prisoner of War license plate is not subject to pay for metered parking and cannot be ticketed for parking for longer than permitted at a metered parking space.

Applications for these plates are available from the Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs. The Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs must verify the eligibility of the applicant. Ref: IC 9-18-17-1

Purple Heart Plates

Any Hoosier Veteran who has received the Purple Heart Medal is authorized to have these special license plates. Applications may be obtained at the BMV or from the Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs. The veteran must present official documentation of the award, and the Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs must verify the veteran's eligibility. Ref: IC 9-18-19-1, IC 9-1819-2, IC 9-18-19-3

Note: This is not a handicap plate. The driver must pay at parking meters.

Peddlers, Vendors, or Hawkers License

State law provides that any wartime veteran who has an honorable discharge shall be granted these licenses by all cities and counties free of charge. See your county auditor. Ref: IC 25-25

Vital Documents For Veterans Benefits

The Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs and the Indiana State Archives have copies of DD-214s on file for many Hoosier Veterans who entered the service from Indiana. Additionally, many National Guard NGB Forms 22 are available. Copies of these will be provided upon request to the Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs (IDVA). The processing time for such a request is usually one or two weeks. The IDVA or your County Veterans Service Officer can assist you with the paperwork to obtain other documents from the federal government.

Ref:IC 10-5-7-1

Delayed High School Diploma

World War I and World War II, Korea and Vietnam Veterans who served between the following dates may apply to the Indiana Department of Veterans' Affairs for issuance of a high school diploma.

WWII: December 7, 1941 and December 31, 1946

Korea: June 27, 1950 and Jan 31, 1955

Vietnam: Aug 5, 1964 and May 7, 1975

In addition the veteran must have:

- attended public or nonpublic high school in Indiana prior to military service, and
- been a student in good standing, and
- not graduated or received a diploma because of leaving high school for military service, and
- been honorably discharged from the armed forces of the United States

Veterans, or their surviving spouses or eligible family members, may submit application to the Department of Veteran Affairs. Ref: IC 20-20-7-3 Sec. 3

Military Education and Training

State educational institutions are required to adopt a policy to award educational credit to an individual who is enrolled in a state educational institution and successfully completes courses that: (1) are part of the individual's military service; (2) meet the standards of the American Council on Education for awarding academic credit; and (3) meet the state educational institution's role, scope, and mission. The law requires that the commission for higher education must adopt rules that establish uniform guidelines for state educational institutions to follow when implementing the requirements. It provides that an occupational or professional licensure board shall issue a license, certificate, registration, or permit to a military service applicant or military spouse who meets certain requirements. It further allows a board to issue a temporary practice permit or provisional license while the military service applicant or military spouse is satisfying certain requirements as determined by the board. (IC 21-42-7) (IC 25-1-17)

Combat to College Program

Requires state educational institutions that have at least 200 veteran students enrolled to establish a combat to college program (program). Requires a state educational institution to: (1) provide a centralized location for admissions, registration, and financial administration services for veteran students; (2) provide reasonable accommodations for disabled veteran students at a state educational institution's fitness facility; (3) develop programs to provide academic guidance specifically to veteran students; (4) develop programs to provide access to counseling services or resources to veteran students who are disabled or suffering from posttraumatic stress disorder; and (5) develop job search programs designed for veteran students. IC 21-41-9

Second Service for Veterans

Accredited state educational institutions are required to award academic credit to veterans who have completed courses or passed equivalency exams. This is designed to attract more veterans to the teaching profession in particular.

County Veterans Service Officers:

All 92 counties in the State employ a County Veterans Service Officer (CVSO). These CVSOs are veterans who stand ready to help you with your veteran-related needs. The County Veterans Service Offices have all the forms and other information you may need to obtain service from the U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs or the State of Indiana. The Service Officers will assist you in finding the information and resources you need to solve your service related problems. They are your liaison for all veteran issues.

INDIANA COUNTY VETERAN SERVICE OFFICERS DIRECTORY

Adams	(260) 724-5371	Lawrence	(812) 275-6411
Allen	(260) 449-7861	Madison.....	(765) 641-9651
Bartholomew.....	(812) 379-1540	Marion.....	(317) 327-3145
Benton.....	(765) 884-1831	Marshall	(574) 935-8546
Blackford	(765) 348-3151	Martin.....	(812) 247-2210
Boone.....	(765) 483-4480	Miami.....	(765) 472-3901 ext. 1271 & 1860
Brown	(812) 988-5600	Monroe	(812) 349-2568
Carroll.....	(765) 564-2502	Montgomery.....	(765) 361-4133
Cass.....	(574) 753-7860	Morgan	(765) 349-5505 ext. 2078
Clark	(812) 285-6345	Newton	(888) 663-9866 ext. 2514
Clay.....	(812) 448-9015	Noble.....	(260) 636-1298
Clinton	(765) 659-6389	Ohio.....	(812) 438-1011
Crawford.....	(812) 338-3141	Orange	(812) 723-3600 ext. 7
Daviess.....	(812) 254-8678	Owen	(812) 829-5027
Dearborn	(812) 537-8819	Parke.....	(765) 569-4036
Decatur.....	(812) 663-3161	Perry	(812) 547-2506
DeKalb.....	(260) 925-0131	Pike.....	(812) 354-6245
Delaware.....	(765) 747-7810	Porter.....	(219) 465-3587
Dubois.....	(812) 481-7090	Posey	(812) 838-8372
Elkhart.....	(574) 523-2342	Pulaski.....	(574) 946-3571
Fayette.....	(765) 825-8412	Putnam	(765) 653-5417
Floyd.....	(812) 948-5495	Randolph	(765) 584-1463
Fountain.....	(765) 793-6267	Ripley	(812) 689-7165
Franklin.....	(765) 647-5721	Rush	(765) 561-6497
Fulton.....	(574) 223-2217	St. Joseph	(574) 235-9978
Gibson.....	(812) 385-4522	Scott	(812) 752-8477
Grant	(765) 651-2423	Shelby.....	(317) 392-2140
Greene.....	(812) 384-2031	Spencer.....	(812) 649-6031
Hamilton	(317) 776-9610	Starke	(574) 772-9132
Hancock.....	(317) 462-8767	Steuben.....	(260) 668-1000 ext. 1060
Harrison	(812) 738-4249	Sullivan	(812) 268-5437
Hendricks.....	(317) 745-9239	Switzerland.....	(812) 427-4302
Henry	(765) 529-4305	Tippecanoe	(765) 742-1796
Howard.....	(765) 456-2511	Tipton	(765) 675-2221
Huntington.....	(260) 358-4863	Union.....	(937) 609-5784
Jackson.....	(812) 358-6115	Vanderburgh	(812) 435-5239
Jasper	(219) 866-4901	Vermillion.....	(765) 492-5346
Jay	(260) 726-6914	Vigo.....	(812) 462-3261
Jefferson.....	(812) 265-3600	Wabash	(260) 563-0661 ext. 1260
Jennings	(812) 352-9169	Warren.....	(765) 714-7371
Johnson	(317) 346-4563	Warrick.....	(812) 897-6177
Knox	(812) 885-2539	Washington.....	(812) 883-2063
Kosciusko	(574) 372-2436	Wayne.....	(765) 973-9207
LaGrange	(260) 499-6387	Wells.....	(260) 824-6403
Lake	(219) 755-3285	White.....	(574) 583-5937
LaPorte.....	(219) 326-6808 ext. 2216	Whitley.....	(260) 248-3189

The Veterans Home

The Indiana Veterans Home in West Lafayette provides nursing and domiciliary care for any Hoosier Veteran who was honorably discharged from the armed forces. To qualify the veteran must have lived in-state for 1 year prior to submitting the application for residency. Veterans can also gain admission if the residency requirement is not met if the veteran joined the service from Indiana. The Home is open to both veterans and their spouses. Veterans who are Medicaid-eligible will be required to apply for that benefit. For more information write to the Home at: Indiana Veterans Home, 3851 N. River Rd., West Lafayette, IN, 47906-3762 or call (765) 463-1502. Ref: IC 10-17-9

Indiana Veterans Memorial Cemetery (IVMC)

Located adjacent to the Madison State Hospital and Clifty Falls State Park in Madison, Indiana, any veteran eligible to be buried in a national cemetery will be eligible for burial in the IVMC. The spouse of an eligible veteran will also be eligible to be buried there. For an application for burial contact the Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs. To schedule an interment contact the Cemetery Superintendent at 1415 North Gate Road, Madison, IN 47250, 812-273-9220/FAX 812-273-9221. Ref: IC 10-5-25

County Burial Allowances

Each County Auditor is authorized to pay up to an amount not to exceed \$1,000 for the burial of a veteran or the veteran's spouse, which may include up to \$100 for the setting of a federal headstone. Veterans must have received an honorable discharge, and an application must be filed with the county auditor in the county of residence. Ref: IC10-17-10 and IC 23-14-73

Resident Disabled Veteran Hunting and Fishing License

Any Indiana resident who is rated as service-connected disabled by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs may purchase a license to hunt and fish in the State of Indiana for a reduced fee. In order to receive this benefit the veteran must complete the Application for Reduced Fee Hunting and Fishing License for Disabled Veterans available from County Veteran Service Officers, or the Department of Natural Resource offices, or the Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs. The form verifies that the veteran is service-connected disabled and authorizes the reduced fee and is verified by the Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs. Ref: IC 14-22-12-1.5

Golden Hoosier Passport

A Hoosier Golden Passport provides unlimited admission to all Indiana State owned parks, recreation areas, reservoirs, forests, historic sites, museums, memorials and other Department of Natural Resource (DNR) facilities. The pass is half off the regular price and good for one calendar year. Persons eligible for a Disabled American Veteran license plate under IC 9-18-18-1 may purchase the Hoosier Golden Passport at DNR facilities around the State. If you have Disabled American Veteran plates on the vehicle simply drive to the gate and the attendant will sell you the Hoosier Golden Passport. If you do not have the plate but believe you are eligible you will be given a form to request the plate, which you must send to the Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs for verification. Former Prisoners of War will receive their Hoosier Golden Passport in the mail after their plates are issued. If you do not receive yours in a reasonable time, or have other plates on your vehicle but are entitled to POW plates, contact the Department of Natural Resources at 1-800-622-4931.

Leave of Absence for Training

Any state, county, township, municipality or school corporation employee who is a member of the Indiana National Guard or a reserve component or is a retiree of the active military, Guard or reserves, is entitled to receive a leave of absence from duties in addition to their regular vacation period if they are on training duties of the state under the orders of the Governor or, is a member of any reserve component (including National Guard) under the order of the reserve component authority for any consecutive or nonconsecutive period that does not exceed a total of fifteen (15) days in any calendar year. The entitlement to a leave of absence without loss of time or pay provided in this subsection is not at the discretion of the member's employer. (IC 10-16-7-5)

NATIONAL GUARD/RESERVES

Hoosier Veterans Seamless Transition Program

Eligibility: Demobilized members of the National Guard and Reserves, as well as active duty soldiers. This service brings various agencies together at a central location, usually a National Guard armory, to help the veteran with the processing of federal and state claims and applications.

Military Pay vs. State Pay

Indiana allows Hoosiers who are employed by the state and who are called to active duty in the Guard or Reserves to receive the difference between their military pay (either state or federal active duty) and their state salary. They are also granted leave of absence without loss of time.

Educational Benefits (National Guard):

100% tuition paid when attending state colleges or universities for first Associates or Bachelors degree.

Eligibility: Indiana National Guard members. Apply through unit education personnel.

Remission of Fees for Service-Connected Death

Public Law 157-2005 (IC 21-14-7) provides that the spouse and eligible children of National Guard members who suffered a service-connected death while serving on state active duty, are exempt from the payment of tuition and mandatory fees at any state educational institution (college). This benefit is administered by the Indiana National Guard. **Eligibility:** Dependents of Indiana National Guard members.

Employment Assistance

State employees receive 15 days military leave per year. **Eligibility:** Indiana National Guard members.

Job Training Priority

A National Guard member who has served on active duty for 30 days or more is entitled to priority for placement in any state or federal employment or training program administered by the Department of Workforce Development (DWD) for up to one year after discharge if the member is otherwise eligible for the program. This law also applies to the spouse of the Guard member. (IC 22-4.1-4-3)

Exemption from Jury Duty

Indiana National Guard members on active duty orders are exempt from jury duty in any court in Indiana. (IC 10-16-16-1) **Eligibility:** Indiana National Guard members.

Medical Benefits

National Guard members on State Active Duty are entitled to medical, dental and hospital benefits. **Eligibility:** Indiana National Guard members.

Group Insurance

(Provided by the Indiana National Guard Association) \$5,000 for \$2/mo; \$10,000 for \$3.66; \$15,000 for \$5.33; \$20,000 for \$7.00; \$25,000 for \$8.67/mo; \$50,000 for \$17/mo and family plan of \$5,000/\$10,000 for \$3.66 or \$6.66 + \$1,000 to \$10,000 for each child depending on age. **Eligibility:** Indiana National Guard members.

Pensions/Funeral Expenses

A member of the Indiana National Guard who is wounded or disabled or was disabled in the service of the state shall be placed on the roll of invalid pensioners of the state and shall receive, upon audit and approval, the same pension or reward that a person under similar circumstances would receive from the United States. In case of a wound, an injury, or a disease that results in death, the surviving spouse, dependent children, or dependent parent 26 of the member of the Indiana National Guard shall receive the pension and reward dating from the time of receiving the injuries on account of which the pension or reward is allowed. If a member of the Indiana National Guard dies in the active service of the state, the member's reasonable funeral expenses, not exceeding four thousand dollars (\$4,000), shall be paid by the state in the manner as the governor directs.(IC 10-16-7-19)

Eligibility: Indiana National Guard members.

Legal Benefits

Limited arrest immunity to/from drill; A citation for a traffic violation is not a civil process and is not covered by this immunity. Legal defense is available for line-of-duty acts. (IC 10-16-7-8) **Eligibility:** Indiana National Guard members.

Leave of Absence While on State Active Duty

A member of the Indiana National Guard is entitled to receive from the member's employer a leave of absence from the member's respective duties in addition to the member's regular vacation period for the total number of days that the member is on state active duty. The leave of absence may be with or without loss of time or pay at the discretion of the member's employer. (IC 10-16-7-6) **Eligibility:** Indiana National Guard members.

National Guard License Plate

A resident of Indiana who is an active member of the Army or Air National Guard may apply for and receive one (1) or more National Guard License Plates. IC 9-18-20-3

Indiana Military Veterans Hall of Fame

The Indiana Military Veterans Hall of Fame (IMVHOF), a 501(c)3 organization, was founded in 2013. The IMVHOF's stated objective is "to publically emphasize the honor brought to our state and nation by the sacrifice of Indiana military veterans and their families."

On April 25, 2013, the Indiana House of Representatives and the Indiana Senate recognized the Indiana Military Veterans Hall of Fame organization. Indiana follows only a handful of other states who have established similar organizations.

The year 2014 marked the first induction of Hoosier Veterans into the Hall of Fame. Each inductee received the Hall of Fame medallion and certificate. Up to 15 Indiana military veterans may be inducted into the Hall of Fame each year.

For more information about the Indiana Military Veterans Hall of Fame, visit imvhof.com or call (317) 916-6164.



The Indiana Military Veterans Hall of Fame Medallion

• FEDERAL BENEFITS •

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (www.va.gov) is a federal agency with regional offices throughout the U.S. The VA Regional Office processes claims for VA benefits including disability compensation, pension, vocational training for disabled veterans, burial allowances, and survivor's compensation and pension. The Indiana VA Regional Office is located at 575 North Pennsylvania Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204-15871. In-state toll-free 1-800-827-1000. Home Loan Guaranty benefits are processed by the VA Home Loan Guarantee Office, Winston-Salem, NC; toll-free 1-888-244-6711. Education benefits for Indiana veterans are processed by the VA Regional Processing Center, P.O. Box 66830, St. Louis, MO; toll free 1-888-442-4551. VA Life Insurance Programs are administered by the VA Regional Office and Insurance Center, P.O. Box 8079, Philadelphia, PA 19101; toll-free 1-800-669-8477. Unless otherwise noted, contact the VA Regional Office about benefits listed in this section. Following is only a summary of benefits.

Alcohol and Drug Dependency Treatment

Veterans without service-connected disabilities whose incomes exceed the threshold of free medical Care may be authorized treatment for alcohol and drug dependency only if the veteran agrees to pay the applicable co-payment. After hospitalization for alcohol or drug treatment, veterans may be eligible for outpatient care, or may be authorized to continue treatment or rehabilitation in private facilities, such as halfway houses, at VA expense.

Burial Expense Reimbursement

VA will pay a \$300 burial and funeral expense allowance for veterans who, at the time of death, were entitled to receive a pension or compensation, or who would have been entitled to compensation (as evidenced by a VA rating) but for receipt of military retirement pay. Eligibility also is established when death occurs in a VA facility, a State veterans' home, or a nursing home with which VA contracted. For service-connected deaths, there is no time limit for filing of reimbursement claims. In other deaths, claims must be filed within two years. VA will pay up to a \$300 plot or internment allowance when the veteran is not buried in a cemetery under U.S. Government jurisdiction if the veteran is discharged from active duty because of a disability incurred or aggravated in the line of duty, or if the veteran was in receipt of compensation or pension, or would have been in receipt of compensation but for receipt of military retired pay, or if the veteran died while hospitalized by VA. As of November 1, 1990, the plot allowance is no longer payable based solely on wartime service. The deceased veteran must have been discharged under conditions other than dishonorable. VA will pay a burial allowance up to \$2000 instead of the \$300 basic allowance and the \$300 plot allowance if the veteran's death is service-connected. VA will pay the cost of transporting the remains of a service-connected veteran to the nearest national cemetery that has available grave sites.

Burial Flags

VA provides an American Flag to drape a veteran's casket, after which it may be given to the next of kin or associate of the deceased. The deceased veteran must have been discharged under conditions other than dishonorable and must have been either a wartime veteran or one who served after January 31, 1955, or a veteran who served at least one enlistment during peacetime, unless discharged or released sooner for a disability incurred in the line of duty. Also, National Guardsmen and Reservists who have 20 years of service are eligible. The VA Regional Office also may issue a flag for a veteran who is missing in action and is later presumed dead. Flags are available at any VA Regional Office and most local post offices.

Headstone or Grave Marker

A headstone or grave marker is available for any deceased veteran of wartime or peacetime service (other than for training) who was discharged under conditions other than dishonorable. National Guardsmen and Reservists who die while performing active duty for training are eligible. Also, National Guardsmen and Reservists who have 20 years of service are eligible. A headstone or grave marker is provided without charge and shipped to the cemetery designated. Applicants are cautioned to insure the correctness of all information. The benefit does not apply to members of a veteran's family who are buried in a private cemetery. Applications (DVA Form 40-1330) go to Memorial Programs Service (41A1), Department of Veterans Affairs, 5109 Russell Road, Quantico, VA 22134-3903. Any VA Regional Office will provide information and assistance in filling out an application.

Burial in National Cemeteries

Burial is available to any deceased veteran of wartime or peacetime service (other than for training) who was discharged under conditions other than dishonorable, at all national cemeteries having available grave space except Arlington. National Guardsmen and Reservists who die while performing active duty for training also are eligible. Burial also is available to an eligible veteran's spouse, widow or widower, minor children, and, under certain circumstances, unmarried adult children. Applications should be made only at the time of death of the veteran or that of an eligible dependent by contacting the Superintendent of the national cemetery in which burial is desired.

Combat-Related Special Compensation (CRSC)

CRSC is a special payment for military retirees with combat-related disabilities whose retired pay is reduced by their VA disability pay. The 2008 NDAA extends CRSC eligibility to retirees with a combat-related disability who served fewer than 20 years and retired under Chapter 61, Title 10, United States Code. Note: Using the formula set in the new law, this CRSC benefit can vary greatly based on the number of years of service and the degree of disability. In some cases, there would be no CRSC benefit. For more information, go to the CRSC Website:

<http://www.crsc.army.mil>

Concurrent Retirement and Disability Payments (CRDP)

CRDP is a special payment for military retirees, who have at least 20 years of creditable service, who have been rated 50% or more disabled by the VA and whose retired pay is reduced by their disability pay. This payment is being phased-in, increasing from Jan. 1, 2004 through Dec. 31, 2014, when it will equal the retired pay lost to the offset. There is no phase-in period for retirees rated 100% disabled by reason of unemployability by the VA. Any retroactive payments due will be paid after Oct. 1, 2008.

Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC)

Death due to service-connected disability DIC payments are authorized for surviving spouses, unmarried children under 18 (as well as certain disabled children and those between 18 and 23 if attending a VA-approved school) and certain parents of service personnel or veterans who die on or after January 1, 1957, from (a) a disease or injury incurred or aggravated in line of duty while on active duty or active duty for training, or (b) an injury incurred or aggravated in the line of duty while on inactive duty training, or (c) a disability compensable by VA. Death cannot be the result of willful misconduct.

Disability Compensation

Monetary benefits are paid to veterans who are disabled by injury or disease incurred or aggravated during active military service in the line of duty. The separation or discharge from service must have been under conditions that were other than dishonorable. The benefits are related to the residual effects of the injury or disease. The amount of the benefit is usually changed by Congress annually and is not subject to federal or state income tax. Federal law prohibits the award of VA disability compensation concurrent with military retirement pay, except to the extent the retirement pay is waived.

Death Due To a Non-Service Connected Cause

DIC payments are authorized for surviving spouses, unmarried children under 18 (as well as certain disabled children and those between 18 and 23 if attending a VA approved school), of certain veterans who were totally service-connected disabled at time of death but whose deaths were not the result of their service-connected disability, if (a) the veteran was continuously rated totally disabled for a period of 10 years or more or (b) if the veteran was rated for less than 10 years, was so rated for a period of not less than 5 years from the date of discharge from military service. If the death occurred after service, the veteran's discharge must have been under conditions other than dishonorable. Payments under this provision are subject to offset by the amount received from judicial proceedings brought on account of the veteran's death.

Vocational Rehabilitation (Chapter 31)

Vocational Rehabilitation is a program to help eligible veterans obtain or retain suitable employment. It may also assist eligible seriously disabled veterans achieve independence in daily living. The program offers a number of services to help each eligible veteran reach his or her rehabilitation goal. These services include vocational counseling, educational training, skills training, financial aid, job assistance, and, if needed, medical and dental treatment. Veterans with honorable discharges who incurred a service-connected disability of 20% or more while in service and are found in need of services to restore employability may be entitled to services. Veterans rated 10 % and meeting the criteria for a serious employment handicap may be entitled.

For additional information on the application procedure, eligibility and entitlement, basic termination dates, length of training, subsistence allowances and other information contact the nearest VA Regional Office. Each veteran who applies will be provided a vocational assessment, which will assist in determining individual entitlement.

Veterans who previously completed a VA vocational rehabilitation program and have used the initial 26 weeks of unemployment benefits may qualify for an additional 12 months of VA vocational rehabilitation benefits.

- You must have previously completed a VA Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment program and been considered “rehabilitated” by VA.
- You must apply within six months of using up your initial 26 weeks of unemployment benefits. You may still qualify for extended or emergency unemployment benefits.

VA may offer incentive payments to encourage employers to hire and train program participants.

- VA may be able to reimburse an employer up to one-half your annual salary for 6 months or longer.
- You must apply and qualify for VA vocational rehabilitation benefits prior to being hired.

To apply or learn more, call 1-800-827-1000, or visit www.va.gov/VOW and fill out an online application (VONAPP), or complete VA Form 28-1900, Disabled Veterans Application for Vocational Rehabilitation, and submit it to the VA Regional Office.

Educational Training, Montgomery GI Bill (Active Duty-Chapter 30)

For honorably discharged veterans who enter active duty in full-time status for the first time after June 30, 1985. Individuals holding active duty status with the National Guard after November 29, 1989, are also entitled. The participant must, with certain exceptions, serve continuously on active duty for three years of a three-year enlistment, or for a lesser benefit, two years of an initial active duty obligation of less than three years. Two continuous years on active duty followed by four years of Selected Reserve Service will also qualify an individual. Participants must make \$1,200 contribution during the service member’s first enlistment year. For a current monthly benefit amount call the VA Regional Office at 1-888-442-4551 or visit their website at:

<http://www.benefits.va.gov/compensation/rates-index.asp>

Education, Dependents of Veterans (Chapter 35)

This benefit is for the children, spouses, widows and widowers of veterans whose deaths or permanent total disabilities were service-connected and for spouses and children of service persons missing in action or prisoners of war. Eligible persons, periods of eligibility, counseling, effects of marriage, length of training and type of training, monthly rates, and other information may be obtained from the nearest VA Regional Office. For a current monthly benefit amount call the VA Regional Office at 1-888-442-4551 or visit their website at:

<http://www.benefits.va.gov/compensation/rates-index.asp>

Educational Training, Montgomery GI Bill (Selected Reserve - Chapter 1606)

For members of the Selected Reserve and National Guard. The participant must have a 6-year obligation signed after June 30, 1985, complete active duty for training (IADT), have obtained a high school education or equivalent certificate before completion of IADT, and remain in good standing in a drilling unit. For a current monthly benefit amount call the VA Regional Office at 1-888-442-4551 or visit their website at:

<http://www.benefits.va.gov/compensation/rates-index.asp>

Educational Training, Reserve Educational Assistance Program (REAP - Chapter 1607)

For members of a reserve component who serve on active duty on or after September 11, 2001 under Title 10 U.S. Code for a contingency operation and who serves at least 90 consecutive days or more is eligible for chapter 1607. National Guard members also are eligible if their active duty is under section 502(f), title 32 U.S.C. and they serve for 90 consecutive days when authorized by the President or Secretary of Defense for a national emergency and is supported by federal funds. Individuals are eligible as soon as they reach the 90-day point whether or not they are currently on active duty. Dept. of Defense will fully identify contingency operations that qualify for benefits under chapter 1607. Disabled members who are injured or have an illness or disease incurred or aggravated in the line of duty and are released from active duty before completing 90 consecutive days are also eligible.

For a current monthly benefit amount call the VA Regional Office at 1-888-442-4551 or visit their website at:

<http://www.benefits.va.gov/compensation/rates-index.asp>

Post-9/11 G.I. Bill (Chapter 33)

Service members who served at least 90 aggregate days on active duty after September 10, 2001 (or release for a service-connected disability after at least 30 days of continuous service) could be eligible for up to 36 months of educational benefits under the Post-9/11 Education Assistance Act. This includes National Guard and Reserve service members who have been activated under Title 10. The act, which is effective August 1, 2009 can be used for 15 years after the last period of active duty. No payments can be made under this program for training pursued before that date.

Post 9/11 Educational Benefits have been modified to include the Post 9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2010. On January 4, 2011, President Obama signed into law the "Post 9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2010". A brief summary of the provisions of this legislation is outlined below:

Effective now but not payable until October 1, 2011:

- Expands the Post-9/11 GI Bill to include Active Service performed by National Guard members under title 32 U.S.C. for the purpose of organizing, administering, recruiting, instructing, or training the National Guard; or under section 502(f) for the purpose of responding to a national emergency

Effective August 1, 2011:

- Simplifies the tuition and fee rates for those attending a public school and creates a national rate for those enrolled in a private or foreign school
- No individual state caps
 - Private school costs are capped at \$17,500 annually
 - The Yellow Ribbon Program still exists for costs above the cap
- Allows VA to pay kickers on a monthly basis instead of a lump sum at the beginning of the term and also pay kickers to those who are attending school at half-time or less

- Allows those who are eligible for both Chapter 31 Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment benefits and Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits to choose the Post-9/11 GI Bill's monthly housing allowance instead of the Chapter 31 subsistence allowance
- Allows reimbursement for more than one "license and certification" test (previously only one test was allowed)
- Allows reimbursement of fees paid to take national exams used for admission to an institution of higher learning (e.g., SAT, ACT, GMAT, LSAT)
- Break or interval pay is no longer payable under any VA education benefit program unless under an Executive Order of the President or due to an emergency situation such as a natural disaster or strike.

Effective October 1, 2011:

- Allows students to use the Post-9/11 GI Bill for non-college degree programs such as: on-the-job training, flight (for other than a private pilot license) at flight schools, apprenticeship training, and correspondence courses
- Flight programs: Pays the lesser of actual net costs for in-state Tuition and Fees assessed by the school or \$10,000, whichever is less "per academic year."
- Housing allowance is now payable to students (other than those on active duty) enrolled solely in distance learning. The housing allowance is ½ the national average BAH for an E-5 with dependents (the full time rate would be \$673.50 for 2011).
- Prorates housing allowance by rate of pursuit (rounded to the nearest tenth)
- A ¾ time student would receive 80% of the BAH rate. Allow students on active duty to receive a books and supplies stipend.
- Yearly books and supplies stipend of up to \$1,000 (paid to the student); and a one-time payment of \$500 to certain individuals relocating from highly rural areas.

Maximum benefit depends upon the aggregate period of active duty served after 9/11/01.

The 2009 Supplemental Appropriations bill (H.R. 2346 - Public Law No: 111-32), which funds U.S. military operations in Afghanistan and Iraq and includes a provision to expand GI Bill benefits to children of fallen U.S. soldiers.

The new law known as the Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship amends the Post-9/11 GI Bill so that children of those who have died on active duty since 9/11 qualify for the education benefit; eliminates the requirement that the deceased parent must have completed a minimum of military service in order for their benefits to be transferred to their children; and eliminates the cap on transferred benefits, which is currently 36 months of benefits in total for all surviving children.

The new Fry scholarship is slightly different than the normal family transfer option under the Post-9/11 GI Bill in that the scholarship will qualify dependents for their own full 36 months of benefits. The Post-9/11 GI Bill allows more than one person to receive transferred benefits, but no more than 36 total months can be transferred. Fry scholarship recipients are not eligible to participate in the Yellow Ribbon program.

All children of fallen soldiers would qualify for the maximum benefit:

- Tuition and fees of up to the maximum in-state tuition and fees at a public institution;
- A monthly housing allowance at the location of the school, based on the Basic Allowance for Housing for an E-5 with dependents; and
- An annual books and supplies stipend of up to \$1,000.

Transferability of Post 9/11 GI Bill Benefits (DOD Administers Transferability)

Post 9/11 GI Bill includes the ability to transfer benefits to dependents for veterans meeting DOD's eligibility requirements. Those requirements can be reviewed online at www.defense.gov/home/features/2009/0409_gibill/. If you have questions or difficulties, contact your unit's personnel office.

Education Benefit Eligibility Time Limits

As a general rule, veterans have 10 years after separation from active duty to use their GI Bill benefits. Veterans using the Post 9/11 GI Bill have 15 years after separation from active duty to use their benefits. Eligible veterans who convert Ch. 30, 1606 or 1607 benefits to Post 9/11 GI Bill have 15 years from their last date of active duty service to use their remaining months of entitlement. The choice to convert to the Post 9/11 GI Bill is an irrevocable decision. Details are available at <http://www.gibill.va.gov/>.

Changes made by the 2008 National Defense Authorization Act

1. Effective 10/1/2008 reservists otherwise eligible for MGIB-SR or REAP may receive accelerated payments for a non-degree program lasting two years or less. More information will be provided at a later date.
2. The 2008 NDAA has made the 80% rate available to anyone who was mobilized for at least two continuous years of active duty OR served multiple mobilizations totaling 3 years or more. All qualifying mobilization periods beginning on or after 9/11/2001 may be used to determine eligibility for the 80% rate. Payment of the higher rate is not authorized prior to January 28, 2008, the effective date of the law.
3. Eligible REAP participants may now participate in the "buy-up" program. Eligible reservists may pay up to \$600.00 to increase their monthly rate of pay by as much as \$150.00 per month. You must be a member of a Ready Reserve component (Selected Reserve, Individual Ready Reserve, or Inactive National Guard) to pay into the "buyup" program.
4. Members who were called up from the Selected Reserve, completed their REAP qualifying period of active duty service, and then returned to the Selected Reserve for the remainder of their service contract are now eligible for REAP benefits for 10 years upon separation. In addition, members who were called up from the Individual Ready Reserve (IRR) or the Inactive National Guard (ING), completed their REAP qualifying period of active duty service, and then entered the Selected Reserve to complete their service contract are now eligible for REAP benefits for 10 years upon separation.
5. A member who is involuntarily separated from the Selected Reserve due to a deactivation of his or her unit is now eligible for MGIB-SR for a period of 14 years from their original date of eligibility. The deactivation must occur between 10/31/2007 and 9/30/2014. This provision is effective January 28, 2008, the effective date of the law. Reservists who were separated between 10/31/2007 and 1/28/2008 may receive benefits for training beginning on or after January 28, 2008.
6. Under previous regulations reservists who had a break in service of 90 days or less maintained their eligibility to REAP. The new law has expanded that eligibility to anyone having a break in service (regardless of length) as long as they continue to serve in another component of the Ready Reserve (such as IRR or ING) during the break in service.

Troops To Teachers

Troops to Teachers is a U.S. Department of Education and Department of Defense program that helps eligible military personnel begin a new career as teachers in public schools. It provides funds to recruit, prepare, and support veterans as teachers in high-poverty schools. Successful program candidates obtain certification or licensing as elementary school teachers, secondary school teachers, or vocational or technical teachers. The program also helps these individuals find employment in high-need local education agencies or charter schools. For more information, contact Emily Siefken at 312-814-7204 or 1-866-372-3157.

Family Medical Leave Act

On January 28, 2008, President Bush signed into law a bill that expands the Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA) to include leave for military families. Specifically, employers must provide 26 weeks of FMLA leave during a single 12-month period to permit a "spouse, son, daughter, parent, or next of kin" to care for a "member of the Armed Forces, including a member of the National Guard or Reserves, who is undergoing medical treatment, recuperation, or therapy, is otherwise in outpatient status, or is otherwise on the temporary disability retired list, for a serious injury or illness." This portion of the expansion became effective upon the president's signature and is part of the 2008 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA).

VA Health Care Eligibility

In October 1996 Congress passed Public Law 104262, the Veterans' Health Care Eligibility Reform Act of 1996. This legislation led the way for the creation of a Uniform Benefits Package -a standard health benefit plan available to all veterans. This Package not only opens up services to veterans, but also simplifies the process by which veterans can receive the services. To receive healthcare under the new program veterans must first be enrolled. Veterans can obtain application forms for enrollment by visiting, calling, or writing to their nearest VA healthcare facility or veteran's benefits office. Please refer to the listing on the back of this brochure for the facility nearest you.

Service members, including National Guard members and Reservists who return from activation contingency operations are eligible for up to 5 years of eligibility for VA health care. This includes treatment for any condition, not necessarily those disabilities or injuries which are related to their active duty service.

Limited dental care is available to recently discharged service members who apply within 180 days of their discharge, if their DD Form 214 indicates they did not receive the necessary dental care within the 90-day period prior to their discharge.

Nursing Home Care

Skilled nursing care and related medical care in VA or private nursing homes is provided for convalescents or persons who are not acutely ill and not in need of hospital care. Eligibility for admission or transfer to VA nursing home care is the same as for hospitalization. Veterans who have a service-connected disability are given first priority. VA authorized care normally may not be provided in excess of six months except for veterans whose need for nursing home care is for a service-connected disability or for veterans who were hospitalized primarily for treatment of a service-connected disability. Nursing home care for non-service connected veterans whose income exceeds the income limit for hospital care may be authorized only if the veteran agrees to pay the applicable co-payment.

Domiciliary Care

Domiciliary care provides rehabilitative and long-term, health-maintenance care for veterans who require minimal medical care but who do not need the skilled nursing services provided in nursing homes. VA provides domiciliary care to veterans whose annual income does not exceed the maximum annual rate of VA pension and to veterans determined to have no adequate means of support.

Non-Service-Connected Death Benefit

Surviving spouses and children of deceased veterans of the WWI, WWII, Korean War, Vietnam era, or the Gulf War may be eligible for support as the survivors of a veteran who died from non-service connected causes if they have limited income. The veteran must have had 90 days service, at least one day of which was during a period of war, unless discharged or retired sooner for service-connected disability, and was discharged under conditions other than dishonorable. If the veteran died in service, not in the line of duty, benefits may be payable if the veteran had completed at least two years of honorable active service.

Job Finding Assistance

The U.S. Department of Labor is the federal agency responsible for providing employment assistance to veterans through local employment offices. The Local Veterans Employment Representatives provide functional supervision of job counseling, testing and employment placement services provided to veterans. Priority in referral to job openings and training programs is given to eligible veterans, with preferential treatment for disabled veterans.

In addition, the VA assists veterans who are seeking employment by providing information about on-the job and apprenticeship training opportunities through VA Regional Offices.

Unemployment Compensation

Unemployment compensation to veterans provides a weekly income for a limited period of time to help veterans meet basic needs while searching for employment. Generally, benefits are not paid to those receiving certain educational assistance or vocational subsistence allowances from VA. Veterans should apply immediately after leaving service at their nearest local state employment service office and present their DD Form 214 to establish their type of separation from service.

Reemployment Rights

Under the Uniformed Services Employment Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA), a person who left a civilian job to enter active duty in the Armed Forces, either voluntarily or involuntarily, may be entitled to return to his or her civilian job after discharge or release from active duty if certain requirements are met. This Law covers those who rendered active duty service, initial active duty for training, active duty for training or inactive duty for training. The Law also protects a veteran from discharge without just cause for one year from the date of reemployment, and a Reservist or Guardsmen from discharge without just cause for six months after returning home from initial active duty for training. The Law prohibits discrimination in hiring, promotion, or other advantage of employment because of one's obligation as a member of a Reserve or Guard unit. A veteran must apply to the pre-service employer within 90 days after separation from active duty. Reserve and Guard members returning from initial active duty for training must apply within 31 days. Questions on the requirements to be met by the veteran or requests for assistance should be directed to the Department of Labor's director for Veterans Employment and Training (DVET) for the state in which the employer is located. Consult telephone directories under U.S. Department of Labor or call 1-800-442-2838 for the appropriate DVET phone number.

Pension

Veterans 65 years of age or older may be eligible for VA Improved Pension if they have limited income and have 90 days or more of active service, at least one day of which was during a period of war. Discharge from active duty must have been under conditions other than dishonorable. Veterans under age 65, but determined by Social Security to be totally disabled may be eligible. Wartime veterans in a nursing home for long-term care because of a disability are also eligible. All of the above veterans must meet VA low income criteria to be eligible and have less than \$80,000 net worth. Payments are made to qualified veterans to bring their total income, including other retirement or Social Security income, to an established support level. This pension is not payable to those who have assets that can be used to provide adequate maintenance.

Reserve Retirement Pay

The 2008 National Defense Authorization Act reduced the eligibility age for Reserve retired pay, (which had been age 60) by three months for every 90 days of active duty served within the same fiscal year (1 October - 30 September). The active duty must be performed after the date the law was enacted and the eligibility age cannot be reduced below age 50. An example would be the Guardsman or Reservist who served one year of active duty in support of the GWOT. The eligibility age to begin receiving retired pay would be age 59 instead of age 60.

Life Insurance

For information about the government life insurance veterans may call the VA Insurance Center toll-free at 1-800-669-8477 between 8:30 AM and 6:00 PM ET to discuss premium payments, insurance dividends, changes of address, policy loans, naming beneficiaries and reporting the death of the insured.

Persian Gulf, Agent Orange and Ionizing Radiation

Veterans who served in the Persian Gulf War or who claim exposure to Agent Orange or atomic radiation are provided with free comprehensive medical examinations, including base-line laboratory tests and other tests determined necessary by an examining physician to determine current health status. Veterans wishing to participate should contact the nearest VA health care facility to request an examination. VA also provides priority treatment to any Vietnam-era veteran whom, while serving in Vietnam, may have been exposed to dioxin or to a toxic substance in an herbicide or defoliant used for military purposes.

Priority healthcare services are available for any veteran exposed to ionizing radiation from the detonation of a nuclear device in connection with nuclear tests of the American occupation in Japan during specified dates. Contact the VA Regional Office for expiration dates for treatments. Marital and family counseling is provided to veterans of the Persian Gulf War and their spouses and children. The counseling is provided at VA medical centers and vet centers.

Loans on Homes, Condominiums, & Mobile Homes

For veterans and eligible unmarried surviving spouses of WWII, Korean War, post-Korean War, Vietnam era, and post Vietnam era, for spouses of service personnel officially listed as missing in action, or captured, for more than 90 days, and for service personnel who have served at least 90 days. The home loan program has been extended to members of the National Guard and Reserves who have served a total of at least 6 years and have received an honorable discharge. However, a higher funding fee will be required. This eligibility is in effect from November 1, 1992, through September 30, 2003. The loan may be used to buy, build, repair, alter, or improve a home. This also includes energy efficient improvements. The loan also may be used to buy a residential unit in certain condominium projects, to finance an existing home, and to buy a mobile home with or without a lot.

For additional information on loan maximums, additional entitlement, restoration and substitution of entitlement, financing, interest rates, insured loans, down payments and maturity, closing costs, safeguards, certification, or release of liability, call Loan Servicing at 1-800-729-5772.

Military Records

Indiana veterans may contact the Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs to see if a copy of their DD214 is on file. In Indianapolis call (317) 232-3910 or toll-free at 1-800-400-4520. If the veteran cannot locate discharge and separation papers, a copy can be obtained online at <http://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/>. A copy can also be obtained by completing a Standard Form 180 (SF180) or by writing the National Personnel Records Center, Military Personnel Records, 1 Archives Dr., St. Louis, MO 63138. Specify that a duplicate separation document or discharge is needed. The veteran's full name should be printed or typed, and the request must contain the signature of the veteran or the signature of the next of kin, if the veteran is deceased. Include the veteran's branch of service, service number or Social Security number (whichever is appropriate), and the exact or approximate years of service. The SF180 can be obtained from VA offices, County Veterans Service Officers, and most veteran service organizations.

Indiana VA Medical Centers

Richard L. Roudebush VAMC

1481 W. 10th St
Indianapolis, IN 46202-2884
(317) 554-0000
Toll Free 1-888-878-6889

2121 Lake Ave.
Fort Wayne, IN 46805-5199
(219) 426-5431
Toll Free 1-800-360-8387

1700 East 38th St.
Marion, IN 46953-4589
(765) 674-3321
Toll Free 1-800-498-8792

VA Clinics Community Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOC)

Adam Benjamin Jr. VA Outpatient Clinic
9330 Broadway
Crown Point, IN 46307-8602
(219) 662-0001

Bloomington VA Outpatient Clinic
455 S. Landmark Ave.
Bloomington, IN 47403
(812) 336-5723
Toll Free 1-877-683-0685

Dearborn County CBOC
1600 Flossie Drive
Greendale, IN 47025
(812) 539-2313

Evansville VA Outpatient Clinic
500 E. Walnut Street
Evansville, IN 47713-2499
(812) 465-6202
Toll Free 1-800-772-8740

Goshen CBOC
2014 Lincolnway East, Suite 3
Goshen, IN 46526
(574) 534-6108

Lafayette VA Outpatient Clinic
3851 N. River Rd.
West Lafayette, IN 47806
(765) 464-2281
Toll Free 1-800-320-8387

Muncie/Anderson VA Outpatient Clinic
3500 W. Purdue Ave.
Muncie, IN 47304
(765) 284-6822
Toll Free 1-888-354-6072

VA Health Care Center New Albany
811 Northgate Blvd
New Albany, IN 47150

Richmond VA Outpatient Clinic
4351 South A Street
Richmond, IN 47374
(765) 973-6915

Scottsburg VA Healthcare Center
279 N. Gardner Street
Scottsburg, IN 47170
(812) 752-8375

South Bend VA Outpatient Clinic
5735 South Ironwood Rd.
South Bend, IN 46614
(574) 299-4847
Toll Free 1-866-436-1291

Terre Haute VA Outpatient Clinic
110 West Honey Creek Pkwy.
Terre Haute, IN 47802
(812) 232-2890
Toll Free 1-800-427-5882

Vincennes CBOC
1813 Willow Street Suite 6A
Vincennes, IN 47591
(812) 882-0894

Surrounding States' VAMCs

Jesse Brown VAMC IL
820 South Damen Avenue
Chicago, IL 60680
Phone: (312) 666-6500

Edward Hines Jr. VAMC
5th Street & Roosevelt Rd. P.O. Box 5000
Hines, IL 60141
Phone: (708) 343-7200

VA Illiana Health Care System
1900 East Main Street
Danville, IL 61832
Phone: (217) 442-8000

Robley Rex VA Hospital
800 Zorn Avenue
Louisville, KY 40206
Phone: (502) 895-3401

Cincinnati VAMC
3200 Vine Street
Cincinnati, OH 45220
Phone: (513) 861-3100

Dayton VAMC
4100 W. 3rd Street
Dayton, OH 45428
Phone: (513) 268-6511

Vet Centers

3833 N. Meridian Street
Indianapolis, IN 46208
(317) 988-1600

311 N. Weinbach Ave.
Evansville, IN 47711
(812) 473-5993

528 West Berry Street
Ft. Wayne, IN 46802
(219) 460-5431

6505 Broadway
Merrillville, IN 46410
(219) 736-5633

1355 S. 3rd Street
Louisville, KY 40208
(502) 894-6290

National, State and other Veterans' Cemeteries in Indiana

Marion National Cemetery
1700 East 38th Street
Marion, IN 46953
Phone: (765) 674-0284

Crown Hill National Cemetery
700 W. 38th Street
Indianapolis, IN 46208
Phone: (317) 925-3800

New Albany National Cemetery
1943 Ekin Avenue
New Albany, IN 47150
Phone: (502) 893-3852

Indiana Veterans Memorial Cemetery
1415 North Gate Road
Madison, IN 47250
Phone: (812) 273-9220