

# **NJ Resource Guide for Women**

## **Section XIX:**

### **VETERANS BENEFITS & SERVICES**

**NJ Department of Community Affairs  
Division on Women  
Spring 2009**

## VETERANS BENEFITS & SERVICES

### NJ Department of Military and Veterans Affairs

Toll free: 1 (800) 827-1000

State of NJ - Web: <http://www.nj.gov/military/veterans/index.html>

### Women Veteran's Health Care - Links to U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs' Office of Public Health and Environmental Hazards

Web: <http://www.publichealth.va.gov/womenshealth/index.asp>

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs - Web: <http://www.va.gov/>

### Special Programs for Veterans

Veterans may be entitled to one or more of the following benefits. Contact your local VA regional office, medical center or vet center for more information:

- Disability Pension for non-service related disabilities
- Education Assistance Programs
- Work-Study Allowance
- Vocational Rehabilitation & Counseling
- Insurance
- Home Loan Benefits
- Medical Inpatient and Outpatient care
- Substance Abuse treatment and counseling
- Sexual Trauma and Assault Counseling
- Nursing Home care
- Burial Benefits
- Burial in a VA National Cemetery
- Employment Assistance
- Survivors' Benefit Programs

### VA Facilities in New Jersey:

Veterans Benefits Administration (Eastern Area Office)
<b>Facility</b>
<b>Newark Regional Office</b> 20 Washington Place Newark, NJ 07102 <b>Phone: (973) 645-1441</b>
Veterans Health Administration-VISN 3: Veterans Integrated Service Network
<b>East Orange Campus of the VA New Jersey Health Care System</b> 385 Tremont Avenue East Orange, NJ 07018 <b>Phone: (973) 676-1000</b>
<b>Elizabeth Community Clinic</b> 654 East Jersey Street, Suite 2A Elizabeth, NJ 07206 <b>Phone: (908) 994-0120</b>

## VETERANS BENEFITS & SERVICES

561GI	<b>Ft. Monmouth Community Clinic</b> Paterson Army Health Clinic, Building 1075 Stephenson Avenue Fort Monmouth, NJ 07703 <b>Phone: (732) 532-4500</b>
561GD	<b>Hackensack Community Clinic</b> 385 Prospect Avenue Hackensack, NJ 07601 <b>Phone: (201) 487-1390</b>
561BZ	<b>James J. Howard Community Clinic</b> 970 Rt. 70 Brick, NJ 08724 <b>Phone: (732) 206-8900</b>
561GE	<b>Jersey City Community Clinic</b> 115 Christopher Columbus Drive Jersey City, NJ 07302 <b>Phone: (201) 435-3055/3305</b>
102V	<b>Jersey City Vet Center</b> 115 Christopher Columbus Drive, Suite 200 Jersey City, NJ 07302 <b>Phone: (973) 645-2038</b>
561A4	<b>Lyons Campus of the VA New Jersey Health Care System</b> 151 Knollcroft Road Lyons, NJ 07939 <b>Phone: (908) 647-0180</b>
561GH	<b>Morristown Community Clinic</b> 340 West Hanover Avenue Morristown, NJ 07960 <b>Phone: (973) 539-9791/9794</b>
561GF	<b>New Brunswick Community Clinic</b> 317 George Street New Brunswick, NJ 08901 <b>Phone: (732) 729-0646</b>
561GG	<b>Newark Community Clinic</b> 20 Washington Place, Room 128 Newark, NJ 07102 <b>Phone: (973) 645-1441</b>
112V	<b>Newark Vet Center</b> 45 Academy Street Newark, NJ 07102 <b>Phone: (973) 645-5954</b>
561GJ	<b>Paterson Community Clinic</b> 11 Getty Avenue, Building 275 Paterson, NJ 07503 <b>Phone: (973) 247-1666</b>

## VETERANS BENEFITS & SERVICES

561GA	<b>Trenton Community Clinic</b> 171 Jersey Street, Building 36 Trenton, NJ 08611 <b>Phone: (609) 989-2355</b>
114V	<b>Trenton Vet Center</b> (entrance in the back parking lot) 171 Jersey Street, Building 36 Trenton, NJ 08611 <b>Phone: (609) 989-2260</b>
Veterans Health Administration- VISN 4: VA Stars & Stripes Healthcare Network	
642GB	<b>Cape May VA Outpatient Clinic</b> 1 Monroe Avenue Cape May, NJ 08204 <b>Phone: (609) 898-8700</b>
460 HG	<b>VA Clinic NJ Veterans Memorial Home</b> 524 A Northwest Boulevard Vineland, NJ 08360 <b>Phone: (856) 692-1588</b>
642GA	<b>VA Outpatient Clinic at Marshall Hall</b> 8th Street, Building 5437 Ft. Dix, NJ 08640 <b>Phone: (609) 562-2999</b>
460HE	<b>Ventnor VA Health Clinic</b> 6601 Ventnor Avenue, Suite 302 Ventnor, NJ 08406 <b>Phone: (609) 823-3122</b>
	<b>Ventnor Vet Center</b> 6601 Ventnor Avenue, Suite 105 Ventnor, NJ 08406 <b>Phone: (609) 487-8387</b>
642GD	<b>Veterans Health Clinic at Gloucester County</b> 211 County House Road Sewell, NJ 08080-2525 <b>Phone: (856) 401-7665</b>

### Veterans Organizations' Service Offices

<b>Veterans Organizations' Service Offices</b> All offices are Located at 20 Washington Place, Newark, NJ 07102	
<b>American Legion</b> <b>Phone: (973) 297-3377</b>	<b>Jewish War Veterans</b> <b>Phone: (973) 297-3388</b>
<b>Disabled American Veterans</b> <b>Phone: (973) 297-3378</b>	<b>Military Order of the Purple Heart</b> <b>Phone: (973) 297-3389</b>
<b>Vietnam Veterans of America</b> <b>Phone: (973) 297-3227</b>	<b>Veterans of Foreign Wars</b> <b>Phone: (973) 297-3226</b>

## VETERANS BENEFITS & SERVICES

### NJ County Veterans Service Offices

<p><b>Atlantic</b> Atlantic County Office of Veterans Affairs 6601 Ventnor Avenue Suite 303 Ventnor, NJ 08406 <b>Phone: (609) 487-6932</b></p>	<p><b>Bergen</b> Division of Veterans Services One Bergen County Plaza Hackensack, NJ 07601 <b>Phone: (201) 336-6325, 6328, 6329, 6326, 7406</b></p>	<p><b>Burlington</b> Department of Veterans Affairs 795 Woodlane Road Human Services Building Westhampton, NJ 08046 <b>Phone: (609) 265-5008, 5154</b></p>
<p><b>Camden</b> Dept. of Veterans Affairs 315 South White Horse Pike Magnolia, NJ 08049 <b>Phone: (856) 566-7297</b> Fax: (856) 566-7295</p>	<p><b>Cape May</b> Veterans Bureau 4005 Route 9 South Social Service Building Rio Grande, NJ 08242 <b>Phone: (609) 886-2762</b></p>	<p><b>Cumberland</b> Veterans Affairs Office 122 E. Main Street, Suite 100 Millville, NJ 08332 <b>Phone: (856) 293-0437</b></p>
<p><b>Gloucester</b> Office of Veterans Affairs 211 County House Road Sewell, NJ 08080 <b>Phone: (856) 401-7660</b></p>	<p><b>Hudson</b> Veterans Services County of Hudson Dept. of Health &amp; Human Services-Office of Veterans Interment/Affairs 595 Newark Ave., Room 104 Jersey City, NJ 07306 <b>Phone: (201) 795-5610</b></p>	<p><b>Mercer</b> Department of Veterans Affairs 640 S. Broad Street, Room 430 Trenton, NJ 08650 <b>Phone: (609)989-6120</b></p>
<p><b>Middlesex</b> Dept. of Human Services Middlesex County Admin. Bldg. John F. Kennedy Square, 5th Floor New Brunswick, NJ 08901 <b>Phone: (732) 745-4086</b></p>	<p><b>Monmouth</b> Interment Office 3000 Kozloski Road Freehold, NJ 07728 <b>Phone: (732) 308-2988</b> Fax: (732) 431-7412</p>	<p><b>Morris</b> County Dept. of Human Services Veterans Services 30 Schuyler Place Morristown, NJ 07960 <b>Phone: (973) 285-6868 or Toll Free: 1 (800) 564-4656</b></p>
<p><b>Ocean</b> Veterans Service Bureau 1027 Hooper Avenue Bldg. 2 P.O. Box 2191 Toms River, NJ 08754-2191 <b>Phone: (732) 929-2096</b></p>	<p><b>Passaic</b> Veterans Service Office Administration Building 317 Pennsylvania Avenue Paterson, NJ 07505 <b>Phone: (973) 881-4173</b> Fax: 973-925-8063</p>	<p><b>Salem</b> Veterans Service Office 92 Market Street Salem, NJ 08079 <b>Phone: (856) 935-7510 ext. 8603</b></p>

## VETERANS BENEFITS & SERVICES

<b>Somerset</b> Dept. of Veterans Services 92 E. Main Street Somerville, NJ 08876 <b>Phone: (908) 704-6329</b>	<b>Union</b> Office of Veterans Affairs Union Count Admin. Building 3rd Floor Elizabeth, NJ 07207 <b>Phone: (908) 659-7407</b> or <b>Toll Free: 1 (866) 640-7115</b> Fax: (908) 558-2566	<b>Warren</b> Interment Officer 8 Hughes Lane Belvidere, NJ 07823 Phone: (908) 475-2413 Assistant Supervisor 8 Hughes Lane Belvidere, NJ 07823 <b>Phone: (908) 475-5098</b>
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### Disability Compensation

- ◆ Veterans who become disabled by injury or disease that was incurred in or aggravated by active military service during wartime or peacetime, and were discharged or separated under other than dishonorable conditions, may be eligible for monthly payments from VA. The amount of these payments, called disability compensation, is based on the degree of disability. Disabilities are rated from zero, or non compensable, to 100 percent disabling, in increments of 10 percent. If there are two or more disabilities, the individual percentages of each are used to determine a combined disability evaluation. Generally, Compensation is not payable for disabilities evaluated at the less than 10%.

### Homelessness Intervention Program

**Phone: (609) 530-6868**

- ◆ Offers referral assistance to those who are homeless, involuntarily displaced or are in imminent danger of losing their home.

### Agent Orange Commission

**Toll Free: 1 (800) 624-0508**

**Phone: (609) 530-6854**

- ◆ The Agent Orange Commission conducts outreach programs to inform veterans of Agent Orange issues and help with related disability claims.

### Veterans Who Were Victims of Sexual Trauma

**Toll Free: 1 (800) 827-1000**

**Web:** <http://www.publichealth.va.gov/womenshealth/trauma.asp>

- ◆ To be eligible to receive counseling and treatment for sexual trauma from VA, there is no requirement that a woman veteran must report the sexual trauma when it occurred or at any time during her active military service. Where can a woman veteran receive care or more information regarding the VA sexual trauma services? A woman veteran seeking counseling and treatment for sexual trauma may contact the Women Veterans' Coordinator at the nearest VA regional office, medical center or vet center. The telephone number for the medical center or vet center can be found in the telephone directory under "U.S. Government" listings. Veterans may also call the VA national toll free information and assistance number for up-to-date information about VA sexual trauma programs and services and other benefits that may be available both from VA and the local communities.

## VETERANS BENEFITS & SERVICES

### Can a veteran who experienced a sexual trauma while serving on active duty qualify for disability compensation?

- VA may pay compensation to a woman veteran for disabilities incurred in or aggravated by military service, including disabilities or injuries resulting from sexual trauma. Veterans who experienced a sexual trauma while serving in the military can obtain assistance from their local VA regional office for filing a disability claim. Information may also be obtained by calling **toll-free:1-800-827-1000**. A Women Veterans' Coordinator is available at each regional office to assist women veterans in obtaining information about accessing VA benefits and services.

### Does a veteran who experienced sexual trauma while serving on active duty automatically qualify for VA disability compensation?

- No. As indicated above, payment of compensation is based on the severity of the service-connected disability or disabilities. VA must first determine if there are current disabilities related to military service. If disabilities are deemed service related, VA then evaluates the degree of disability that determines the amount of compensation payable. Once again, compensation is not payable for a less than 10 percent evaluation. A woman who has experienced sexual trauma may or may not have a residual disability that can be considered as service-connected. Each case is reviewed and a decision made based on the specific circumstances of the claimed disability. More information about the entitlement criteria for disability compensation can be obtained by calling the local VA regional office at **toll-free: 1-800-827-1000**.

### Regional Veterans Service Offices

- ◆ Through our network of regional Veterans Service Offices, the N.J. Division of Veterans Programs provides the state's 712,000 veterans and their dependents with information and guidance in filing claims. Trained veterans service officers at those offices also assist veterans with issues pertaining to employment, education, burial, counseling, housing, social and medical services, and other areas of concern to veterans and their families.

<b>Asbury Park (Monmouth County)</b> 630 Bangs Avenue, Suite 320 Asbury Park, NJ 07712-6904 <b>Phone: (732) 775-7009/7005</b>	<b>New Brunswick (Middlesex County)</b> 711 Jersey Avenue, 2nd Floor New Brunswick, NJ 08901-2102 <b>Phone: (732) 937-6347 or -6348 or -6349</b>
<b>Atlantic City (Atlantic County)</b> 1601 Atlantic Avenue, 7th Floor Atlantic City, NJ 08401-6901 <b>Phone: (609) 441-3060/3061</b>	<b>Newton (Middlesex County)</b> Armory, 5 South Park Dr. (off U.S. 206) Newton, NJ 07860-5000 <b>Phone: (973) 383-4949/1363</b> Dover (Wednesday) <b>Phone: (973) 366-8347</b>

**VETERANS BENEFITS & SERVICES**

<p><b>Brick (Ocean County)</b>                  970 Route 70                  (in the James J. Howard VA Clinic)                  Brick, NJ 08724-3550  <b>Phone: (732) 840-3033/3034</b></p>	<p><b>Paterson (Passaic County)</b>                  100 Hamilton Plaza, 6th Floor                  Paterson, NJ 07505-2101  <b>Phone: (973) 977-4050 or -4051 or -4556</b></p>
<p><b>Elizabeth (Union County)</b>                  1196 Chestnut Street                  Elizabeth, NJ 07201-1053  <b>Phone: (908) 820-3133/3134</b></p>	<p><b>Port Murray (Warren County)</b>                  Armory, 550 Route 57                  Port Murray, NJ 07865-9482  <b>Phone: (908) 689-5840 or -5845</b></p>
<p><b>Hackensack (Bergen County)</b>                  60 State Street, 2nd Floor                  Hackensack, NJ 07601-5427  <b>Phone: (201) 996-8050/8051</b></p>	<p><b>Thorofare (Gloucester County)</b>                  215 Crown Point Road, Suite 300                  Thorofare, NJ 08086  <b>Phone: (856) 853-4184 or -4185 or -4186</b></p>
<p><b>Jersey City (Hudson County)</b>                  438 Summit Avenue                  3rd Floor, Room 302                  Jersey City, NJ 07306-3158  <b>Phone: (201) 798-7040 or - 7051 or -7026</b></p>	<p><b>Trenton (Mercer County)</b>                  28 W. State Street, 5th Floor, Room 514                  Trenton, NJ 08625  <b>Phone: (609) 292-5880/5881</b></p>
<p><b>Mount Laurel (Burlington County)</b>                  1000 Howard Boulevard, Suite 301                  Mt. Laurel, NJ 08054  <b>Phone: (856) 787-3820/3821</b></p>	<p><b>Vineland (Cumberland County)</b>                  524 Northwest Boulevard                  NJ Veterans Memorial Home                  Vineland, NJ 08360-2895  <b>Phone: (856) 696-6452 or -6445 or -6451</b></p>
<p><b>Newark (Essex County)</b>                  20 Washington Place                  Newark, NJ 07102-3174  <b>Phone: (973) 297-3230</b></p>	

**Programs for Veterans Sponsored By the State of New Jersey**

**Catastrophic Entitlement**

- ◆ The state of New Jersey, through the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, pays \$750 a year to those veterans who are receiving VA compensation entitlements for 100 percent disability ratings and who have the following disabilities:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Blindness</li> <li>▪ Double Amputee</li> <li>▪ Hemiplegia</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Osteochondritis</li> <li>▪ Paraplegia</li> <li>▪ Quadriplegia</li> </ul>
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## **VETERANS BENEFITS & SERVICES**

- ◆ In the Absence of One of the Disabilities Listed: A veteran may qualify if in receipt of a single 100 percent war-time service-connected disability or a combination of permanent war-time service-connected disabilities totaling 100 percent that are equivalent to the symptoms of one or a combination of the seven above disabilities.

### **To Qualify**

- Service must have been during a time of war and the veteran must have been a resident of New Jersey at the time of entry into the military and when applying for the entitlement. The law now includes payment to the surviving spouse of the veteran.
- Any veteran or surviving spouse receiving the entitlement who is required to move from the state for reasons of health or employment may be entitled to continue to receive the compensation under certain conditions. Application may be made through any Division of Veterans Programs service office.

### **Post Traumatic Stress Disorder & Readjustment Counseling**

#### **Contact: Local Veterans Service Office**

- ◆ This program addresses the readjustment problems of veterans and offers treatment to combat veterans of all war periods. Treatment extends to family members affected by the veteran's affliction. State veterans service officers assist the veteran with scheduling counseling and the filing of any applicable VA claims. Contracted clinicians, experienced in PTSD counseling, determine the best course of treatment for the veteran and the veteran's family. Assistance is not limited by VA regulations or restrictions.

### **Transportation Program**

#### **Contact: Local Veterans Service Office**

- ◆ This program assists the veteran in need of transportation. The program originated due to the distance many N.J. veterans had to travel to get to a VA facility for medical care. Free transportation is offered to VA medical centers, clinics, pharmacies, private physicians, regional veteran's services offices or job service offices, and other community services in most counties. The state veteran's service officer in the county should be contacted to explain the details of the program, level of service in that county, qualifications and requirements, and assist in scheduling the transportation.

### **New Jersey Veterans Memorial Homes**

#### **Contact: Social Service office at a Memorial Home nearest you**

- ◆ New Jersey's three state-operated veterans' nursing homes are located in Paramus, Menlo Park, and Vineland. Around-the-clock medical and nursing cares, as well as rehabilitative services are provided. The facilities are open to veterans of all wars who served on active duty and were honorably discharged, qualified National Guard/Reserve Retirees, the veteran's spouse, and to spouses and parents of members of the military who were killed in action during a period of war (Gold Star Parent). A spouse/widow/widower must be at least 50 years of age and must have been married to the veteran for a period of not less than 10

## VETERANS BENEFITS & SERVICES

years. Preference is given to applicants who were state residents for at least two years immediately prior to application for admission. Applicants must meet certain asset limitation criteria. Residents pay according to ability based on income.

<b>VETERANS MEMORIAL HOME - VINELAND</b> 524 North West Boulevard Vineland, NJ 08360-2895 <b>Phone: (856) 696-6357</b> (Social Services)	<b>VETERANS MEMORIAL HOME - MENLO PARK</b> 132 Evergreen Road P.O. Box 3013 Edison, NJ 08818-3013 <b>Phone: (732) 452-4269</b> (Social Services)	<b>VETERANS MEMORIAL HOME - PARAMUS</b> 1 Veterans Drive P.O. Box 608 Paramus, NJ 07653-0608 <b>Phone: (201) 634-8200, ext. 8538</b> (Social Services)
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### Education Programs for Veterans in New Jersey War Orphans Tuition Assistance

- ◆ Children of those service personnel who died while in the military or due to service-connected disabilities, or who are officially listed as missing in action by the U.S. Dept. of Defense may claim \$500 per year for four years of college or equivalent training. To qualify, the child must be a resident of New Jersey for at least one year immediately preceding the filing of the application and be between the ages of 16 and 21 at the time of application. The veteran must have been a state resident.

### POW-MIA Tuition Benefit Program

- ◆ Free undergraduate college tuition is available to any child born or adopted before or during the period of time his or her parent was officially declared a prisoner of war (POW) or person missing in action (MIA) after Jan. 1, 1960. The POW-MIA must have been a New Jersey resident at the time he or she entered the service or whose official residence is in N.J. The child must attend either a public or private institution in N.J. A copy of DD 1300 must be furnished with the application.

### Veterans Tuition Credit Program

- ◆ Veterans attending any approved educational institution may apply for the Veterans Tuition Credit Program. Under the program, partial reimbursement is provided to the institution to offset the cost of the veteran's tuition. Maximum reimbursement is \$400 per year for full-time students, \$200 for part-time students. To qualify, the veteran must have been on active duty between Dec. 31, 1960, and May 7, 1975, and have been a legal resident of New Jersey at the time of entrance into or discharge from the service, or two years immediately prior to application.

## **VETERANS BENEFITS & SERVICES**

### **Burial and Memorial Services:**

#### **National Veterans Cemeteries**

**Toll Free: 1 (800) 827-1000**

- ◆ Requests for burial in a Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) national cemetery cannot be made via the Internet. Eligibility: A determination of eligibility is usually made in response to a request for burial in a VA national cemetery. VA Regional Offices will also assist in determining eligibility for burial in a VA national cemetery.

#### **State Veterans Cemetery**

Brigadier General William C. Doyle

Veterans Memorial Cemetery

350 Provenceline Road, Rt. #2

Wrightstown, New Jersey 08562

**Phone: (609) 758-7250**

**Fax: (609) 758-0169**

**Contact: COL Stephen Abel (Ret.), New Jersey Director for Veterans Affairs**

### **Services for Those Still Serving and Their Families:**

#### **Department of Community Affairs**

##### **Division on Women**

##### **Deployed Military Spouses' Assistance Program**

**Phone: 609-543-6200 Ext. 325**

- ◆ Provides assistance to spouses of deployed military personnel (Active duty, Reserve, and National Guard) through direct financial assistance payments and/or referrals to existing program services. This program is an emergency measure to alleviate financial and emotional stress to spouses due to the deployment. **For additional information about this program, contact the Women's Opportunity Center/Burlington County YMCA:**

##### **Women's Opportunity Center/Burlington County YMCA**

59 Centerton Road

Mount Laurel, NJ 08054

Attn: Fawn Mutschler

Phone: 609-543-6200 Ext. 325

Fax: 856-234-6560

E-mail: [wocmilitarygrant@ymca-bc.org](mailto:wocmilitarygrant@ymca-bc.org)

#### **NJ National Guard Family Programs**

3650 Saylors Pond Road, Fort Dix, NJ 08640-7600

**Toll Free: 1 (888) 859-0352**

**Phone: (609) 562-0668**

**Contact: CW4 Ralph w. Cwieka, State Family Program Coordinator**

**Web:** <http://www.state.nj.us/military/familysupport/home.html>

**Email:** [ralph.cwieka@nj.ngb.army.mil](mailto:ralph.cwieka@nj.ngb.army.mil)

## VETERANS BENEFITS & SERVICES

- ◆ National Guard families must plan to take care of personal affairs early, so that problems do not become an unnecessary crisis during a state emergency, call-up or mobilization. This website and toll free number will help make soldiers and their families aware of a number of benefits, programs, support organizations and networks available to them. It will also assist in keeping family records updated.

### Possible Benefits

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Commissary</li> <li>▪ Dental</li> <li>▪ Exchange</li> <li>▪ Family ID Cards</li> <li>▪ Free College Credits</li> <li>▪ Government Quarters</li> <li>▪ Hunting/Fishing Licenses</li> <li>▪ Legal Assistance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ License Plates</li> <li>▪ Medical</li> <li>▪ MWR</li> <li>▪ NJ Military Academy</li> <li>▪ Park Passes</li> <li>▪ Travel on Military Aircraft</li> <li>▪ Vacation Spots</li> </ul>
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### Family Readiness Mobilization Guide

Web: [http://www.state.nj.us/military/familysupport/family\\_readiness/index.html](http://www.state.nj.us/military/familysupport/family_readiness/index.html)

### NJ National Guard Family Assistance Centers

<p><b>One Toll Free Number Reaches All Family Assistance Centers:</b>  <b>1 (888) 859-0352</b>          DSN: 944-0800</p>	<p><b>Teaneck Armory</b>          Teaneck &amp; Liberty Roads          Teaneck, NJ 07666-0687          POC: SFC Minnie Hiller</p>	<p><b>Toms River Armory</b>          1200 Whitesville Road          Toms River, NJ 08753          POC: Mike Hughes</p>
<p><b>Jersey City Armory</b>          678 Montgomery Street          Jersey City, NJ 07306          POC: Shiela Kelly</p>	<p><b>Woodbury Armory</b>          120 Progress Avenue          Woodbury, NJ 08096          POC: Heather Altman</p>	<p><b>Lawrenceville Armory</b>          151 Eggert Crossing Road          Lawrenceville, NJ 08648          POC: Jane Hackbarth</p>
<p><b>Morristown Armory</b>          430 Western Avenue          Morristown, NJ 07960          POC: SGT Johnie Thomas</p>	<p><b>Somerset Armory</b>          1060 Hamilton Street          Somerset, NJ 08873          POC: John Hales</p>	

### Civilian Job Rights and Protections

- ◆ Reemployment rights with a civilian employer are protected under chapter 43 of title 38, United States Code. This law, better known as the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act or USERRA, provides a broad range of civilian job protections.

### USERRA

- ◆ USERRA provides protection to anyone absent from a position of civilian employment because of uniformed service if: advance written or verbal notice was given to the civilian employer; the cumulative length of absence(s) does not exceed 5 years; and the person's character of service was not adverse.

## VETERANS BENEFITS & SERVICES

### Returning to Work

- ◆ A service member must report to work or submit an application for reemployment within a specified period based on the duration of service. The table below contains the limits specified for returning to work. It is worth noting that failure to report or make timely application does not automatically result in loss of reemployment rights, but does subject the service member to the rules of conduct, policies and general practices established by the employer, which may result in loss of USERRA protections.

Period of Service	Return/Apply to Return to Work
Less than 31 days	Return no later than the first full regularly scheduled work period on the first full calendar day
More than 30 days, but less than 181 days	Apply no later than 14 days
More than 180 days	Apply no later than 90 days

***There are certain circumstances under which a civilian employer may not be required to reemploy a service member. However, the employer has the burden of proving reemployment is not possible within those circumstances.***

### Benefits

- ◆ Service members are entitled to seniority and all the benefits of seniority with their civilian employer as if continuously employed.

### Health Care

- ◆ Service members may elect to continue the health care coverage provided by their civilian employer for up to eighteen months. If the period of coverage exceeds 30 days, the employer can require the employee to pay 102% of the full premium costs. For periods of 30 days or less, the employer may require the employee to pay only the employee's share of the coverage, if any. Check with your employer regarding company policy.

### Pension Benefit Plans

- ◆ Employees are to be treated as if no absence in employment occurred and may make up contributions to an employee pension benefit plan. Employers are also required to fund any obligation attributable to the employer of the employee's benefit pension plan.

### Assistance

**Toll Free: 1 (800) 336-4590**

**Web: <http://www.esgr.com/>**

- ◆ A person experiencing problems with civilian employment or reemployment may contact the National Committee for Employer support of the Guard and Reserve (NCESGR) for assistance. An individual protected by USERRA may also file a complaint with the Assistant Secretary for Veterans' Employment and Training at Department of Labor (DoL) if an employer has failed or refused, or is about to fail or refuse, to comply with employment or reemployment rights and benefits.

## VETERANS BENEFITS & SERVICES

### **Military Pay & Allowances**

**Web:** <http://www.state.nj.us/military/familysupport/pay.html>

- ◆ Pay, allowances, benefits and entitlements depend, all or in part, on a member's rank, length of service, dependent status, and the type of orders the member is serving under.

### **Pay**

- ◆ A member serving on active duty is entitled to basic pay. Basic pay is based on a 30-day monthly rate with pay periods twice each month the 15th and the 30th. The rate of pay is based on the member's rank/pay grade and years of service.

### **Inactive Duty Training Pay (IDT)**

- ◆ This is commonly referred too as "drill pay." The amount earned for each drill equals 1/30th of the monthly basic pay rate for the member's rank and years of service. Your 2-day weekend pay is basically 4 days of active duty pay.

### **Incentive or Special Pays**

- ◆ In addition to basic pay or IDT pay, many National Guard members are eligible for additional special pays for a wide variety of special skills or duties. A member who meets the eligibility requirements for incentive or special pay is entitled to this pay in addition too basic pay or IDT pay (if payment is authorized by law when a members performs IDT). Some examples of these incentive or special pays include pay for duty associated with aviation, diving, hazardous duty, hostile fire and imminent danger, foreign language proficiency, sea duty, submarine duty, and healthcare professionals.

### **Basic Allowance for Subsistence (BAS)**

- ◆ This allowance is intended to provide a partial subsidy for the cost of food. It is generally paid only when the member serves on active duty. The number of dependents does not affect BAS, and it is not subject to income tax.

### **Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH)**

**Web:** <http://perdiem.hqda.pentagon.mil/perdiem/>

- ◆ This allowance is intended to provide partial compensation for the cost of housing while the member serves on active duty. The housing allowance for members serving on active duty for more than 139 days, or those serving any length of time in conjunction with a contingency operation such as the Kosovo conflict, is paid according to the member's rank, dependent status (with or without dependents) and location of the duty station. Those serving on active duty for less than 139 days (not in conjunction with a contingency operation) receive a housing allowance, called BAH Type II or BAH-II, at a rate based only on the member's rank and dependent status. National Guard members performing IDT are not entitled to a housing allowance. However, the military service may provide lodging in kind for the member when government quarters are not available.

## **VETERANS BENEFITS & SERVICES**

### **Direct Deposit of Pay and Allowances**

- ◆ With few exceptions, all pay and allowances are delivered to the member's designated financial account via electronic funds transfer.

### **Withholdings**

- ◆ Federal income and social security taxes are automatically withheld. State taxes are withheld from members' pay for each state having such an agreement with the US Treasury.

### **Service Member's Group Life Insurance (SGLI)**

- ◆ Members assigned to a unit or position in which IDT and active duty may be required may elect to enroll in SGLI. This coverage remains effective at all times, on and off duty. Eligible members automatically receive the maximum coverage of \$200,000 at a monthly charge of \$16.00 that is automatically deducted from the member's pay. Members must request in writing to receive less than the maximum amount or to not participate at all.

### **Healthcare for Women Veterans:**

#### **Women Veteran's Health Care - Links to U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs' Office of Public Health and Environmental Hazards**

**Web:** <http://www.publichealth.va.gov/womenshealth/index.asp>

- ◆ Women veterans are eligible for the same VA benefits as male veterans. VA is required to provide appropriate and timely medical care to any eligible woman veteran.
- ◆ In addition to routine medical care, each VA medical facility provides women veterans the following:
  - Complete physical exams that include breast & pelvic examinations
  - Gynecology services
  - Referral for necessary services that may not be available at that facility
- ◆ VA medical centers have made structural changes & renovated areas to assure privacy for women veterans.
- ◆ Women veterans' coordinators are available at each VA medical center and regional office to counsel & assist women veterans in applying for VA benefits & services.

#### **Women's Referral Central**

**Toll Free: 1 (800) 322-8092**

24 hours a day/ 7 days a week

- ◆ Provides information and referrals to women in New Jersey through a statewide toll-free telephone line. The Hotline provides referrals and basic information in areas such as veteran benefits and services, discrimination, affordable housing, displaced homemakers, addiction services, continuing education, domestic violence, employment, legal assistance, divorce and separation, violence, health care, sexual assault, sexual harassment, stalking, child care, child support/custody, single parenting, job training, social services, services including medical, mental and reproductive health and other areas of concern.