

Veteran Resources Coordinator Staff News Letter

(January 4, 2013)

This newsletter was created for the intent of keeping you informed of the Military and VA Communities. This newsletter is also a tool to communicate events and resources both at OSU and the community at large. The opinions and viewpoints expressed in the articles are not those of the Oregon State University Veterans Advisor Office or its counterparts.

I want to encourage you to share this newsletter with your colleagues. Anyone who is interested in receiving this newsletter on a continuous basis can sign up at <http://lists.oregonstate.edu/>. The name of the newsletter is “VetsNews”.

Military/VA Updates:

Most Vets to See GI Bill Stipend Go Up

This week the Department of Defense announced the release of the 2013 Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) rates, which go into effect Jan. 1, 2013. Overall rates will increase an average of 3.8 percent this year. Veterans and eligible family members using the Post-9/11 GI Bill will also see an average increase in their housing stipend, which is based on the BAH rate for an E-5 with dependents. However, unlike the active duty BAH payment, which will go into effect at the first of the year, the GI Bill housing stipend will not go into effect until the start of the 2013-2014 academic year on August 1, 2013.

<http://militaryadvantage.military.com/2012/12/2013-bah-increase-to-affect-gi-bill-stipends/?ESRC=education.nl>

VA Registers “GI Bill” as a Trademark

The Department of Veterans Affairs announced that GI Bill is now a registered trademark with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and VA is the sole owner of the mark. “We will continue to support our Veterans by helping them obtain the best education of their choosing—a right for which they have bravely served, and which they have truly earned,” said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. “We all want Veterans to be informed consumers in their educational pursuit.” On April 26, 2012, President Obama signed Executive Order 13607, directing the VA, the Department of Defense, and the Department of Education to undertake a number of measures to “stop deceptive and misleading” promotional efforts that target the GI Bill educational benefits of Servicemembers, Veterans, and eligible family members and survivors. One of the key components of the order was for VA to register the term “GI Bill” as a trademark in order to protect individuals and ensure they are directed to the right resources to make informed decisions. In addition, VA obtained the rights to the GIBill.com website after the original owners agreed to give up the site. VA is taking a proactive approach in continuously taking action to eliminate fraudulent marketing and recruiting practices. Trademarking ‘GI Bill’ is a great step forward in continuing our mission to better serve this nation’s Servicemembers, Veterans, and their families,” said Allison A. Hickey, VA undersecretary for benefits. VA will issue terms of use for “GI Bill” within the next six months. “We want to ensure the right balance with these new guidelines so that our stakeholders can still promote GI Bill and we can prohibit others from using it fraudulently,” said Curtis L. Coy, deputy undersecretary for economic opportunity. Since August 2009, VA has paid over \$23.8 billion in Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits to over 866,000 Veterans, Servicemembers, and dependents. VA received over 478,000 Fall 2012 enrollments for Post-9/11 GI Bill. For more information on GI Bill programs, please visit www.gibill.va.gov or call 1-888-GI-Bill-1 (1-888-442-4551) to speak with a GI Bill representative.

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Phase One of New Military Transition Program

The Transition Assistance Program is making major changes that will revolutionize the way the military prepares people leaving the services, with mandatory participation in programs throughout their military careers to help set them up for a successful transition. The redesigned program, called Transition Goals, Planning, Success or Transition GPS, will be the most-sweeping change to the Transition Assistance Program in two decades. A three-phase rollout of the Transition GPS program will continue through 2014. During current phase one of the rollout, all separating service members will receive counseling about Department of Veterans (VA) benefits, and most will be required to attend newly revamped employment workshops run by the Department of Labor. For more information on the new Transition GPS Program, visit the White House website.

<http://www.military.com/veterans-report/phase-one-of-new-military-transition-program?ESRC=vr.nl>

Index of Military Forms

Accessing military and veteran benefits requires filling out the correct military forms. See an index of official military forms from the DoD, Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, and Department of Veterans Affairs will help you access your earned benefits. One of the most important documents you need is the DoD form known as the DD-214. Nearly every Department of Veterans Affairs benefit claim and most state veterans benefit applications require vets to submit this military form.

<http://www.military.com/veterans-report/index-of-military-forms-121012?ESRC=vr.nl>

How Can You Say Thank You to Our Troops Today?

Thanks-A-Bunch(TM) and Military.com have come together to offer you a unique opportunity to say "thanks" to our troops, our veterans and their families (American Heroes) by providing them with a \$50 Thanks-A-Bunch gift card that you can purchase for just \$10 (tax deductible) to help pay for a nice meal out with family and friends

<http://www.military.com/veterans-report/how-can-you-say-thank-you-to-our-troops-today-121012?ESRC=vr.nl>

Upcoming Events:

April 9, 2012 - Veteran Resource Day for Staff Connection Program.

More information to follow.

Veteran Resources:

Ten Things You Should Know About Today's Student Veteran by Alison Lighthall

With our military out of Iraq, and funding for global military operations on the decline, thousands of newly discharged men and women are trying to figure out "What's next?" Most of our Soldiers, Marines, Airmen, and Sailors joined the military before their 21st birthday, and it's often the only job they've ever held. While it's true they've received extensive training during their years of service, it's often fairly narrow in scope and not immediately translatable to civilian employment.

For More Information Read the Handout titled December 10, 2012 - Ten Things You Should Know About Today's Student Veteran posted on the OSU Veterans Website: <http://oregonstate.edu/veterans/home/>

American Legion Scholarships

www.legion.org/needalift

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OSU Veterans on Facebook

<http://www.facebook.com/VeteransAtOregonStateUniversity>.

OSU Veterans Website:

<http://oregonstate.edu/veterans/home/>

Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs Website:

<http://www.oregon.gov/odva/Pages/index.aspx>

Oregon Department of Employment Veteran Representatives:

<http://www.oregon.gov/EMPLOY/Pages/index.aspx>

OSU Veterans and Family Student Association Facebook page:

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Veterans-and-Family-Student-Association/25373662133527>

Thank you and have a great day.

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