

**Accidental
Government
Documents
Librarian:
Resources for
Guard & Reserve
Soldiers and their
Families**

North Carolina Library Association
Government Resources Section
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David Durant
J.Y. Joyner Library
East Carolina University

What We'll Cover

- National Guard & Reserve: A brief overview
- General Resources for Guard & Reserve members, veterans and families
- Education Resources
- Employment Resources

What We'll Cover (cont)

- Financial Resources
- Health Care Resources
- Legal Resources
- Veterans Resources
- Family Resources

Possible User Groups

- Guard & Reserve members, families and veterans
- Current and former active duty service members
- Anyone researching the issue of military benefits

About the Guard & Reserve

- Reserve components of the U.S. armed forces
- Part-time: designed to reinforce and supplement regular components
- Purpose: “provide trained units and qualified persons ... in time of war or national emergency, and at such other times as the national security may require” (U.S.C. Title 10, Section 10102)

About the Reserve

- Federal mission only (Title 10)
- All five branches (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard)
- Report directly to their respective branch and to DOD

About the National Guard

- Only two branches (Army NG and Air NG)
- Has both federal and state responsibilities (Title 10 & Title 32)
- Supported by federal government, but under state control when not under Title 10

About the National Guard (cont)

- Reports to governor via Adjutant General and Department of Crime Control and Public Safety
- National Guard Bureau provides federal oversight, coordination and resources
- Reverts to federal control when under Title 10

Guard & Reserve in ~~the GWOT~~ Overseas Contingency Operations

- The Guard & Reserve are now an “operational reserve”, to be used on a regular basis
- No more “one weekend a month, two weeks a year”
- Goal of five years in between deployments

Sources

U. S. Code, Title 10, Subtitle E

http://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/uscode10/usc_sup_01_10_10_E.html

U. S. Code, Title 32

http://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/32/usc_sup_01_32.html

**“Managing the Reserve components as an Operational Force”,
DOD Directive 1200.17, October 29, 2008**

<http://www.dtic.mil/whs/directives/corres/pdf/120017p.pdf>

Commission on the National Guard and Reserves, 2008

<http://cybercemetery.unt.edu/archive/natguard/>

General Resources

- Military OneSource
- Service websites

Military OneSource

<http://www.militaryonesource.com/>

- A “free service provided by the Department of Defense to service members and their families”
- Comprehensive portal for military benefits and assistance programs
- Includes 24/7 phone and online non-medical counseling
- “can be especially helpful to service members and their families who live at a distance from installations.”
- (Source: <http://www.militaryonesource.com/MOS/About.aspx>)

Military OneSource (cont)

<http://www.militaryonesource.com/>

- Includes information and resources on family, health, legal & financial, career & education, military life and coping with deployment
- Gateways for National Guard and Reserve and Military Families

Service Websites

My Army Benefits

<http://myarmybenefits.us.army.mil/Home.html>

National Guard Bureau Joint Services Support

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

Others:

Marine Corps Community Services

<http://www.usmc-mccs.org/>

Navy Personnel Command: Support & Services

<http://www.public.navy.mil/bupers-npc/support/Pages/default.aspx>

Army OneSource

<http://www.myarmyonesource.com/>

Education Resources

- Post 9/11 GI Bill
- State Tuition Assistance
- Library Resources

Post 9/11 GI Bill

- Provides “financial support for education and housing to individuals with at least 90 days of aggregate service on or after September 11, 2001, or individuals discharged with a service-connected disability after 30 days”
- Covers undergrad, graduate and vocational programs
- Must be honorably discharged to be eligible
- (Source: http://www.gibill.va.gov/benefits/post_911_gibill/index.html)

Post 9/11 GI Bill Portal

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

- Includes online application tool, benefits calculator, advice on choosing a school, general information on available benefits and contact information for questions

State Tuition Assistance

- NC National Guard soldiers are eligible for North Carolina Tuition Assistance program (NCTAP), as well as federal tuition assistance
- For information and instructions on how to apply, go to:
<http://www.nc.ngb.army.mil/index.php/resources/eso/>

Online Library Resources

- DOD MWR Libraries subscribe to a number of online databases that can be accessed by Guard and Reserve members and their families at no charge

Military OneSource: DOD MWR Library Resources

<https://www.militaryonesource.com/MOS/Tools/LibraryResources.aspx>

- Includes access to MasterFILE Premier, Academic OneFile, General OneFile, NetLibrary and several dozen other databases
- Login required (free)

Army Knowledge Online (AKO)

<https://www.us.army.mil/>

- The Army's main enterprise portal
- Guard and Reserve soldiers, their families and retirees all have access
- Login required (free)
- Other services have similar sites

Army Knowledge Online (AKO) (cont)

- Go to “Self Service”, then “My Library”
- All of the databases available via Military OneSource, plus several others
- Includes resources by subject, QuestionPoint online reference service, and subject bibliographies

Employment Resources

- Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR)
- Employment Opportunities for veterans and family members

Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve

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

- DOD organization designed to “promote cooperation and understanding between Reserve component members and their civilian employers and to assist in the resolution of conflicts arising from an employee's military commitment.”
- Offers information for servicemembers and employers
- Provides assistance with USERRA issues

North Carolina ESGR

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

Employment Opportunity Websites

Vet Success.gov

<http://vetsuccess.gov/>

-VA website offering job search assistance. Includes tips on resume writing, interviewing and filling out applications. Free registration required to view job postings. Also find local Vet Success offices and request assistance.

Feds Hire Vets

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

-“Federal employment information for Veterans, transitioning military service members, their families, and Federal hiring officials.”

Military Spouse Employment Partnership

<http://www.msepjobs.com/>

Cleared Connections.com

<http://www.clearedconnections.com/>

-Federal agency and contractor jobs requiring security clearances

Financial Resources

Save and Invest.org: Military

<http://www.saveandinvest.org/Military/>

-Investment and financial information for servicemembers and their families

IRS.gov: Tax Information for Members of the U.S. Armed Forces

<http://www.irs.gov/newsroom/article/0,,id=97273,00.html>

North Carolina Department of Revenue: Armed Forces Information

<http://www.dornc.com/taxes/individual/armedforces/>

Health Resources

- Tricare Reserve Select
- VA Health Care

Tricare Reserve Select

<http://www.tricare.mil/mybenefit/home/overview/Plans/LearnAboutPlansAndCosts/TRICAREReserveSelect?>

- Military health plan available to Guard and Reserve members not currently on active duty (and their families)
- Dental plans also available
- Basic information on premiums, deductibles and how to apply

VA Health Care

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

- Guard and Reserve members who have deployed to Iraq or Afghanistan are eligible for five years of free VA health care for any service-related condition
- Use the VA Health site to get health information, find your nearest VA health center, apply for benefits and contact VA with any questions.

Legal Resources

- Servicemembers' Civil Relief Act (SCRA)
- Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA)
- Other Legal Issues

Servicemembers' Civil Relief Act

- Covers, among others, Guard and Reserve members on active duty
- Limits interest on pre-existing debts (credit cards, loans, mortgages, etc) to 6% (must request in writing)
- Provides protection against property seizures, foreclosure, eviction and default judgments

SCRA Sources

Military OneSource: The Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (SCRA)

<http://www.militaryonesource.com/MOS/FindInformation/Category/Topic/Issue/Material.aspx?MaterialTypeID=9&MaterialID=14628>

United States Courts: SCRA. Servicemembers' Civil Relief Act

<http://www.uscourts.gov/FederalCourts/Bankruptcy/BankruptcyBasics/SCRA.aspx>

Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA)

- Protects the civilian employment rights of Guard and Reserve servicemembers called to active duty
- Employers cannot punish or discriminate against employees because of their military commitment
- Returning servicemembers must be reemployed in the job they would have obtained had they not been mobilized
- If gone for over 180 days, the servicemember has up to 90 days to return to work
- Must give advanced notice of military duty, if possible

USERRA Resources

ESGR: USERRA

<http://www.esgr.org/site/USERRA/tabid/75/>

-Information and guidelines, including the text of the statute and relevant regulations. ESGR offers an Ombudsman service to mediate USERRA disputes.

U.S. Department of Labor: Veterans' Employment & Training Service: USERRA Information

<http://www.dol.gov/vets/programs/userra/>

-Detailed information for both employers and servicemembers. Includes instructions for filing a USERRA complaint.

U.S. Office of Special Counsel

<http://www.osc.gov/userra.htm>

Other Legal Issues

- Most legal issues involving military service will be handled by unit Judge Advocate General officers (ex: wills, powers of attorney)
- The Department of Justice has a special website for servicemembers needing legal help with SCRA and USERRA: <http://www.servicemembers.gov/>

Veterans Resources

- Federal Benefits
- State Benefits
- Obtaining Military Records

Federal Veterans Benefits

Department of Veterans Affairs

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

eBenefits

<https://www.ebenefits.va.gov/ebenefits-portal/ebenefits.portal>

-VA portal site for obtaining benefits information. Apply online, obtain copies of health and service records, calculate your benefits, or find your nearest VA facility.

State Veterans Benefits

North Carolina Department of Administration: Veterans Affairs: State Benefits

<http://www.doa.state.nc.us/vets/benefitslist.aspx>

NCcareLINK: Veterans and their Families Resources

<https://www.nccarelink.gov/default.aspx?se=vets>

-Statewide guide for finding health care, benefits, counseling and other services

Obtaining Military Records

The National Archives allows former servicemembers and next of kin (if veteran is deceased) to request copies of their service records. Requests can be submitted electronically. Instructions and further information can be found at:

<http://www.archives.gov/veterans/>

Family Resources

Military HOMEFRONT: Troops & Families

<http://www.militaryhomefront.dod.mil/tf>

-DOD portal site for information and resources on military family life.

United We Serve: Veterans and Military Families

http://www.serve.gov/vets_resources.asp

-List of relevant links.

American Red Cross:

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

-Select “Getting Assistance”, then “Serving military families”. Includes a special section for Reserves and National Guard. Services provided include emergency communication with deployed servicemembers, financial assistance and counseling.

Questions?



Contact info:

David Durant
J.Y. Joyner Library
East Carolina University
Greenville, NC 27858
Ph. (252) 328-2258
E-mail: durantd@ecu.edu

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