

Help! I'm an Accidental Government Information Librarian presents ... Resources for Guard and Reserve Soldiers and their Families

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A. About the Guard and Reserve:

Commission on the National Guard and Reserves, 2008

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

-Report and hearings discuss post 9/11 use of Reserve Components, their transition into an "operational force" and make recommendations for the future.

"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>

U. S. Code, Title 10, Subtitle E

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

-Governs the Reserve and the use of the National Guard in federal service.

U. S. Code, Title 32

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

-Governs the National Guard while under state control.

B. General Resources for Guard and Reserve Servicemembers, Veterans and Families:

Featured Resource:

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

-Comprehensive portal for servicemembers and their families to find benefits and assistance programs. Includes 24/7 access to counseling via phone and online. Includes specialized gateways for "National Guard and Reserve" and "Military Families". Especially helpful for servicemembers and families who live well away from military installations, as most Reserve Component members do.

Other Resources:

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

-Allows soldiers to find benefits by category ("Education", "Family Services", etc), component (Active, Guard, or Reserve) or by State/Territory. Just go to "Benefit Library".

National Guard Bureau Joint Services Support: <http://www.jointservicesupport.org/>

-Benefits and assistance portal specifically for Army and Air Guard servicemembers. See "Our Programs" for resources by category, or use the Resource Finder to locate by geography.

Other sites tend to be specifically oriented towards Active Component servicemembers. Here are several that Guardsmen and/or Reservists may still find somewhat useful:

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

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>

C. Education Resources:

Financial Assistance:

Post 9/11 GI Bill: <http://www.gibill.va.gov/>

-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". The site includes online application tool, benefits calculator, advice on choosing a school, general information on available benefits and contact information for questions.

North Carolina Tuition Assistance Program (NCTAP):

<http://www.nc.ngb.army.mil/index.php/resources/eso/>

-Program offering state tuition assistance to NC National Guard soldiers and airmen.

Online Library Resources:

The Defense Department's network of Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (MWR) Libraries subscribe to a number of online databases that can be accessed by Guard and Reserve members and their families at no charge from any location, by going through approved DOD websites. Only eligible servicemembers and dependents can use these resources:

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. Free registration and login is required.

Army Knowledge Online (AKO): <https://www.us.army.mil/>

-The Army's official enterprise portal. All soldiers, dependents and retirees have or are eligible for accounts. Login is required. Go to "Self Service", then "My Library". All of the databases available via Military OneSource, plus several others, are available here. Also includes resources by subject, QuestionPoint online reference service, and subject bibliographies. The other services all have similar portals.

D. Employment Resources:

Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR): <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 both employers and servicemembers.

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

E. 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.dornrc.com/taxes/individual/armedforces/>

F. Health Resources

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). Includes 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. They can use the VA Health site to get health information, find your nearest VA health center, apply for benefits and contact VA with any questions.

G. Legal Resources:

Servicemembers' Civil Relief Act (SCRA):

Federal law covering all active-duty servicemembers, including mobilized Guard and Reserve members. The bill limits interest on pre-existing debts (credit cards, loans, mortgages, etc.) to 6% (the servicemember must request SCRA protection in writing). Also, the law provides protection against property seizures, foreclosure, eviction and default judgments:

Military OneSource: The Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (SCRA):
<http://www.militaryonesource.com/MOS/FindInformation/Category/Topic/Issue/Material.aspx?MaterialTypeID=9&MaterialID=14628>

-A good SCRA overview for servicemembers and their families.

United States Courts: SCRA. Servicemembers' Civil Relief Act:
<http://www.uscourts.gov/FederalCourts/Bankruptcy/BankruptcyBasics/SCRA.aspx>

-Legal background and analysis of SCRA.

Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA):

Federal law protecting the civilian employment rights of Guard and Reserve servicemembers called to active duty. The bill prohibits employers from punishing or discriminating against employees because of their military commitment. Under the terms of USERRA, 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. Servicemembers must give their employers advanced notice of absences for military duty, if possible:

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>

-Handles USERRA legal actions where the employer in question is a federal agency.

Servicemembers.gov: <http://www.servicemembers.gov/>

-Department of Justice website to help servicemembers needing to file legal actions involving SCRA or USERRA.

H. Veterans' Resources

Federal 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 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/>

I. 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.