



DMVA

North Carolina Department of Military and Veterans Affairs

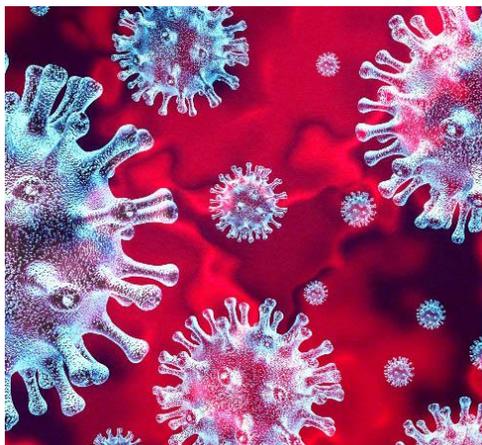
ON POINT NEWSLETTER

Apr2020 Newsletter

Thank you for Subscribing...

In this month's edition of On Point, COVID-19 is the top priority and main focus as the Department aims to point veterans, active duty service members, and their families toward resources as concerns continue to grow.

DMVA On Point Newsletter highlights the Department's month of activities and profiles partner agencies, departments, and community activities centered around helping the state of North Carolina's active duty military community and veteran population. Check out the website at www.milvets.nc.gov



COVID-19

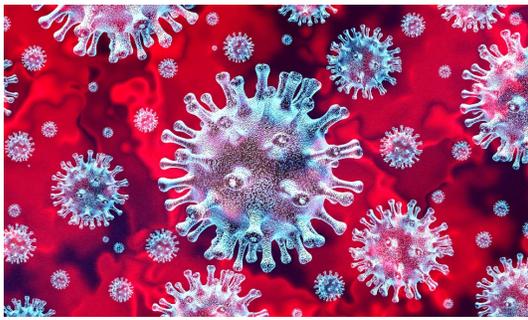
DMVA Responds

Providing continued support to NC Veterans and their families

NC DMVA Coronavirus (COVID-19) Operations & Procedures

The NC Department of Military And Veterans Affairs (NCDMVA) is committed to ensuring the safety and well-being of all veterans, their families, our staff and the general public during this pandemic. The Department has implement additional changes to operations and procedures as this public health crisis continues to develop. NCDMVA will continue to monitor the situation and provide updates on a continuing basis. Below is a direct link to [Governor Cooper's office](#), the North Carolina's Department of Health and Human Services and the state's 2-1-1 program for resources and assistance. Please continue to monitor these websites and stay vigilant as this crisis still unfolds.

[Click Here](#)



A visualization of the Coronavirus as it appears under a microscope.

Cyber Threat Actors Expected to Leverage Coronavirus Outbreak

There are high expectations that hackers will leverage the Coronavirus Outbreak in order to conduct fraud and disseminate malware by coercing unaware internet users to click corrupt hyperlinks. Click the link below to familiarize yourself with the warning signs and learn how not to become a victim.

[Click Here](#)



THE CHALLENGE

The Governor's Challenge is a call to action, asking state military and civilian inter-agency teams to embark on a process of collaborating, planning, and implementing suicide prevention best practices and policies for SMVF state-wide. Technical assistance offered through this initiative is designed to provide a forum for states to consider how existing policies, practices, infrastructure, and resources influence the effectiveness of the systems that support SMVF. Teams will develop state-wide plans for SMVF based on the comprehensive public health approach to preventing suicide.

Governor's Challenge to Prevent Suicide Among Service Members, Veterans & their Families

North Carolina Accepts the Challenge

In November 2020, NC received the invitation to participate in the Veterans Administration (VA)/Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Governor's Challenge to Prevent Suicide Among Service members, Veterans, and their Families (SMVF). After accepting the challenge Crystal Miller, Field Operations Manager for the North Carolina Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (NCDMVA), was chosen to lead North Carolina's team.

Objectives

Form an inter-agency military and civilian team of state leaders and policy makers to develop and implement a strategic action plan to prevent and reduce suicide

Define and measure success, including defining assignments, deadlines, and measurable outcomes to be reported

From the VA



20-023

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 22, 2020

Veterans' GI Bill benefits to continue during COVID-19 pandemic

WASHINGTON – President Trump signed into law [S. 3503](#), March 21, which will enable the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to continue providing the same level of education benefits to students having to take courses online due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

The law gives VA temporary authority to continue GI Bill payments uninterrupted in the event of national emergencies, allowing for continued payment of benefits even if the program has changed from resident training to online training.

Thanks to the law, GI Bill students will continue receiving the same monthly housing allowance payments they received for resident training until Dec. 21, or until the school resumes in-person classes.

In the wake of COVID-19, thousands of students nationwide have been converted to distance learning as many [educational institutions are transitioning to technology-based lesson delivery](#).

Students receiving GI Bill benefits are not required to take any action. Benefits will continue automatically. VA will work closely with schools to ensure enrollments are accurately certified and processed timely. Updates will be provided to students via direct email campaigns and social media regarding VA's effort to implement these new changes.

Students with specific questions can contact the Education Call Center at: 888-442-4551 between 8 a.m.-7 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday-Friday.

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USO of NC Always by the Side of Veterans and their Families

One of NCDMVA's most valuable partners is the USO of NC. The USO has gathered resources for military and National Guard families, which includes ideas for staying active, in home learning and more.



[Click Here](#)

Partner Agencies Remain Hard at Work for Veterans

As employers navigate these uncertain times, leaders must still look forward to address short- and long-term

workforce planning. The U.S. Department of Labor Veterans' Employment and Training Service is here to help as we continue to serve America's veterans, ensuring transitioning service members and veterans find and retain meaningful employment.

HIRE Vets Medallion Award applications will still be accepted through Thursday, April 30. The award is not only meaningful to employers but also to transitioning service members and veterans in search of employment.

The **HIRE Vets Medallion Award Program** stands ready to help and honor veterans.



The Veterans' Employment and Training Service Remains at Work to Serve America's Veterans

[Click Here](#)



Secretary Larry D. Hall, and DMVA Headquarters staff

We're In this Together...

During these uncertain times, it is essential that our colleagues and coworkers, their families, and friends take time to encourage and support each other, and above all remain safe and healthy. This is a perfect time to reflect on the people and values that mean the most to us. On behalf of my staff and as the Secretary for NCDMVA, I can truly say that we treasure those we have been given the chance to serve, and we are grateful to continue to do that during this pandemic. As we continue to navigate the impact of COVID-19, let us continue to remember that NC military and veteran families are apart of the community, not apart form. We are in this together, and together we will make it through.

Larry D. Hall

Special Attention



North Carolina Department of Public Safety

Prevent. Protect. Prepare.

Roy Cooper, Governor

Erik A. Hooks, Secretary

March 2, 2020

Members of the Council of State, Cabinet Secretaries
Members of the NC Senate and House of Representatives
Director of the Administrative Office of the Courts

Dear North Carolina Leaders:

With spring approaching, North Carolinians are looking forward to longer, warmer days and more outdoor activities, but they should also be preparing for severe weather. In 2019, the National Weather Service (NWS) issued 158 tornado warnings across the state and recorded 51 actual tornado touchdowns. There were 88 flash flood warnings issued last year and 91 flood or flash flood events across the state. In addition, the National Weather Service issued 710 severe thunderstorm warnings, and recorded 928 severe thunderstorms with damaging winds.

To encourage residents to plan and prepare for severe storms, flash flooding and tornadoes, Governor Cooper has designated March 1-7 as Severe Weather Preparedness Week in North Carolina.

On Wednesday, March 4, the National Weather Service will conduct a statewide tornado drill. Schools, businesses, homes and state government workplaces are encouraged to participate in this drill. Tornadoes can reach 300 miles per hour and develop so rapidly that an advance warning may be impossible. Practicing now will allow you to respond quickly when nature's most violent storm heads our way.

The National Weather Service will broadcast the tornado drill at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, March 4, through the NOAA weather radios and Emergency Alert System. When the alert is given, I urge you to take time to practice your severe weather safety plan and seek shelter on the lowest floor of your building and away from windows. If your agency needs information on how to conduct the tornado drill in your building, please contact your agency's safety director.

More information on how to prepare for severe weather is available at [ReadyNC.org](https://www.ReadyNC.org).

The Department of Public Instruction, the National Weather Service and the Department of Public Safety work together each year to bring Severe Weather Preparedness Week to the public. Thank you for your attention to this important public safety effort.

Sincerely,

Erik A. Hooks
Secretary

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Available only through NCDOR.gov!



To qualify, you must access
eFile for Free at
www.NCDOR.gov/NCfreefile

Available for current year returns and payments. File using a free online eFile software provider, otherwise fees may be assessed – eligibility requirements vary each year. Visit www.ncdor.gov for eligibility requirements.



MAKE NC COUNT
CENSUS 2020



Making Sure Our Veterans Count

Every 10 years, the federal government is required to count the number of people who make up the population of the United States. The census aims to count the entire population of the country, and at the location where each person usually lives.

The census asks questions of people in homes and group living situations, including; how many people live or stay in each home, and the sex, age and race of each person. The goal is to count everyone once, only once, and in the right place.

The Census is important because when you respond to the census, you help your community gets its fair share of the more than \$675 billion per year in federal funds spent on schools, hospitals, roads, public works and other vital programs.

Everyone benefits when you participate in the census. To learn more about the census and why you should participate.

[Click Here](#)

