



TRANSITION ASSISTANCE ADVISORS

Fall 2008

Who we are:

The purpose of the Transition Assistance Advisor (TAA) program is to provide a professional in each state/territory (some states have two TAAs) to serve as the statewide point of contact to assist Servicemembers in accessing Veterans Affairs benefits and healthcare services. Each TAA also provides assistance in obtaining entitlements through the TRICARE Military Health System and access to community resources. The TAA initiative started in May 2005 when the National Guard Bureau (NGB) signed a Memorandum of Agreement with the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). The TAA program is staffed by 60 contract positions and two federal technicians.



Why we TAAs will be successful in meeting your needs:

- We care about you and your family.
- Over 90% of us are Veterans or spouses of military members.
- Many of us have worked through the disability process and receive disability compensation.
- We have built strong partnerships and coalitions with the Department of Defense (TRICARE), the VA, State Directors of VA, Veterans Services Organizations, and State Headquarters groups, such as Family Support, Chaplains Offices, Department of Labor, and Employer Support for the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) – and this translates into personalized service for you.

"The willingness with which our young people are likely to serve in any war...shall be directly proportional to how they perceive the veterans of earlier wars were treated and appreciated by their nation."

President George Washington

Who we serve:

The program is designed to serve National Guard members and their families. Additionally, we gladly provide services to members in all components.



What we can do for you:

We help you navigate through the vast myriad of benefits and entitlements in the DoD and VA system. We take the time to assist you and not toss you into the **"800 number desert!"** We will educate you so you will understand the benefits you have earned, such as:

- Guard entitlements and access for healthcare in both the DoD and VA medical facilities.
- TRICARE benefits while you are on active duty and when you return as an OIF/OEF Veteran.
- Important deadlines that require your action while still on active duty and as a Veteran so you do not miss these time-sensitive opportunities.
- Dental care programs (time-sensitive benefit).
- Referral for counseling services for you and your family that will not affect your career.
- Referral for possible compensation for injuries or illness sustained in OEF and OIF.
- Insurance information such as SGLI, TSGLI, FSGLI.
- Rehabilitative care management needed to help you return to a normal lifestyle.
- Assistance with job search and connection with ESGR for rights of employment.
- Assistance in connecting you to the Veterans Benefits Administration and Veterans Services Organizations to file disability claims.
- Assistance in the event of financial hardship, healthcare issues, or unemployment needs.
- Assistance with locating your medical records, DD 214s and other needed documents.

Where we may travel to ensure that you, your family members, your leadership, and the local state and federal agencies understand these benefits:

- Mobilization and demobilization sites
- Reintegration meetings
- Unit events/drill weekend gatherings
- Sponsored Guard leadership conferences at the national and state levels and specialized organizational agency meetings
- Post Deployment Health Reassessment sites
- Guard Fairs
- **AND ANYWHERE ELSE YOU WANT US TO BE!**



How we helped others:

" . . .Mr. DeJesus assisted me in filling out and submitting a claim for TSGLI after my motorcycle accident. He pinpointed all the factors, appropriated signatures and required circumstances to produce a corrected claim. Three months later I received a check for \$50,000. I strongly believe that our TAA offers valuable input, leading to effective support of OIF/OEF Vets."

– Army Guard Member

"I want to express my gratitude and sincere appreciation for the outstanding contribution you provided to our National Pro-fessional Development Seminar. The seminar was a complete success; all goals and objectives were met and achieved due to the excellent support given by you. This year's Seminar established a benchmark to follow in future years. This singular event represents the first step in our ongoing commitment toward the growth and advancement of the Warrant Officer Corps of our Guard. Today our Warrant Officer Corps is stronger since the seminar helped to strengthen the spirit of true professional comradeship that we must continue to enrich during these challenging times."

– CW5, Army Guard

" . . .Thank you, Ms. Townsend, so much for coming to our drill weekend and talking to our Soldiers. The information you provided greatly increased their knowledge of benefits available to them. It also helped to ease their minds that they were able to talk to someone who had great knowledge and patience. Please keep us in mind whenever new benefits become available."

– NCO, Air Guard



Our dedicated staff:

"It doesn't matter what colors our Veterans fly; whether it is Army green, Marines crimson and gold, Air blue or Navy white, they all served the red, white and blue and for that it is my duty as a fellow Vet to guarantee they get everything that they have earned."

Dorian M. Bell, Virginia TAA

"After retiring, I missed the military and the TAA position has provided an opportunity to reconnect. More importantly, I'm helping Servicemembers and enjoying it immensely."

Roger Peterman, Indiana TAA



What you mean to us:

***You served your country;
now let us serve you.***

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