



TRANSITION ASSISTANCE ADVISOR

Last revised on: 7 APRIL 2011

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' health care services and benefits. Each TAA also provides assistance in obtaining entitlements through the 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 four federal technicians.

Why We Will Be Successful in Meeting Your Needs:

- We care about you and your family.
- Over 95% of us are Veterans or spouses of military members.
- Many TAAs have worked through the disability process and receive disability compensation.
- We have built strong partnerships and coalitions within the Department of Defense (TRICARE), Department of Veterans Affairs, 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).



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.

"The best way we can honor Servicemembers who gave their lives for our country is to ensure their families are cared for by our nation."

-Unknown

What We Can Do for You as an Individual Service Member:

We help you navigate through the numerous 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 health care 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.
- VA 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/compensation claims.
- Assistance in the event of financial hardship, health care 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 Our TAAs Helped Others:

Mr. Hodges (Maryland TAA), I appreciate everything you have done for me. It is so hard now days to find someone who will go out of their way and help someone. You may say that your email was just a small task but in my eyes, you went way above and beyond what you had to do. Most people would just provide me with a link and say have at it. Again, I really appreciate your assistance.

-Sgt USMC, OIF Veteran now serving in Afghanistan

"Finally someone who really knows her stuff. Thank you! ...I very much enjoyed her (Bonnie Bessler, Nebraska TAA) directness and knowing how to speak Servicemember to Servicemember."

-Yellow Ribbon Servicemember Attendee

"Mr Roger Jarriel (TAA Florida) is a caring and dedicated individual of great persistence (he wants to get the job done and wants the best for our service men)...He is an exceptional individual who operates in a "spirit of excellence" and compassion ."

-Mother of a wounded Servicemember

Our Dedicated Staff:

"...just the feeling of helping someone whether it be a Veteran or widow or dependent is a feeling of gratitude that I was able to assist someone in need, that I am knowledgeable in the subject area that they are seeking assistance in. I love what I do and I love helping people find some kind of closure to what they didn't know."

-Susana Q. Mafnas, Guam TAA

"Educating our Servicemembers and their families about veterans benefits and entitlements is my focus - anything less is unacceptable."

-Mike Goodrich, Tennessee TAA

"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

Our TAA Team Who Serves You!



To learn more, visit www.taapmo.com or contact your Transition Assistance Advisor in Tennessee

Charles M. "Mike" Goodrich
WP: 615-313-3096 CP: 615-517-0967
Charles.goodrich@us.army.mil