



2020-21
Veterans
and
Military Support
Program
Chairman's Guide



2020-21

Thank you for accepting the responsibility as the Veterans & Military Support Program Chairman for 2020-21.

You are expected to perform your duties to the best of your ability and to become familiar with the requirements of the SVA Liaison Program. The attached Chairman's Guide will provide you some of the necessary guidelines in performing your duties. There may be additional references you may need to review either on the Department or National websites and/or other documentation that may be issued during the ensuing year.

It is important that you learn as much as you can about your position and ask questions if you are not sure of what you will be required to do. I and my staff are available to assist you in this endeavor to ensure you are successful in your efforts.

The VFW offers a wide range of assistance programs aimed at helping service members and veterans of every generation. As a veteran, you understand better than most what struggles and hurdles today's service members and veterans face. As the Veterans & Military Support Chairman you will want to understand the different types of assistance the VFW provides and the resources and forms required to manage the program successfully.

Please endeavor to promote the Veterans & Military Support Program to our Districts, Councils and Posts and that you maintain a close relationship with each District Commander.

The Department of New York publishes its on-line newspaper, ***The Overseas Veteran*** quarterly and it is highly recommended that a short article explaining the merits of the Veterans & Military Support

Programs be prepared and submitted to the newspaper editor when the call goes out for articles.

Application requests for financial support must be expeditiously reviewed when received from our posts and processed in a timely manner with adequate follow-up. A Veterans & Military Support report is required to be made to the National organization monthly and expect you to make those reports on time. Deadlines are important and I expect you to meet them.

Additionally, as part of your responsibilities as Chairman, you will be required to prepare a short written report of your activities to be submitted two weeks prior to the Spring and Fall Department Conferences and State Convention. If called upon to make an oral report, you will be invited by letter and will receive a per diem voucher to cover some of your hotel and travel expenses.

The State Commander is confident of your ability to manage the Veterans & Military Support Program and am sure you will be extremely successful in your endeavors.

Thank you for stepping up and accepting this challenging position.

PLEASE NOTE:

Some of the attachments to this guide may have been revised or deleted. You will need to go to the VFW National Website at www.vfw.org under the MY VFW tab and then select Training under which you will find the MAP directory. The MAP directory will contain all the current reports required as well as updated information related to the MAP Program.

Veterans & Military Support Chairman Responsibilities

General Information:

The Veterans & Military Support Chairperson is essential in coordinating efforts to support our armed forces. The VFW Veterans & Military Support Chairperson serves as the VFW's representative for all four of the major programs:

- Military Assistance Program (military unit support)
 - Operation Uplink (communication tools)
 - Unmet Needs (financial assistance)
 - VFW "Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarship" Program
-
- Send in the Chairman's Report monthly stating your activities and informing VFW National of local events and activities reported from your Posts
 - Communicate information from VFW National to Districts and Posts i.e.:
 - monthly newsletter
 - email communication
 - Acts as our Point of Contact and coordinator for any military requests from the Department level, i.e.: provides a local VFW POC for specific events
 - Works with the Auxiliary Veterans and Family Support Chairman
 - Must be familiar with all Veterans & Military Support Programs procedures, forms, reports, program information and the various support materials we offer
 - All Veterans & Military Support Programs information is available behind the login at www.vfw.org.
 - Establish and/or build relationships with the active military installations, National Guard and Reserves in your individual state

VFW

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS



VETERANS &
MILITARY
SUPPORT
PROGRAMS

Certificate of Recognition

Presented to

In Recognition and sincere appreciation of your support of **Veterans & Military Support Programs** (Operation Uplink, Unmet Needs, Military Assistance Program and VFW's Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarship) to provide assistance to the men and women serving on active military duty around the world as well as hospitalized veterans.

Your commitment to help support these programs has earned you special recognition for your efforts to assure **Veterans & Military Support Programs** continue to meet the needs of America's heroes.





Veterans & Military Support Recognition Program

Veterans & Military Support Programs will recognize the Post/Auxiliaries/Districts and MOC for their support of the programs under the Veterans & Military Support Programs umbrella, which includes MAP, Operation Uplink, Unmet Needs and the VFW's "Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarship".

Dates for donations: May 1st through April 30th.

Recognition Levels: VFW Post/Auxiliaries/Districts/MOC

Certificates of Appreciation: Donations of \$100 - \$1,499

Bronze Certificate: Donations of \$1,500 - \$2,999

Silver Certificate: Donations of \$3,000 - \$5,999

Gold Certificate: Donations of \$6,000 and above

Department Recognition Levels

Certificates of Appreciation: Donations of \$1,000 - \$14,999

Bronze Certificate: Donations of \$15,000 - \$29,999

Silver Certificate: Donations of \$30,000 - \$59,999

Gold Certificate: Donations of \$60,000 and above

Recognition levels for Department include all donations received from the state to include VFW/Auxiliaries, MOC, District, Department, individual, churches, schools, organizations and corporate.



Required Veterans & Military Support Programs Monthly Chairman Report

* As the Veterans & Military Support Programs Chairman, what did YOU do this past month?

Tell us about all your Department troop support events not funded by National. Please include yellow ribbon events, homeless stand downs, District/Post meetings where Veterans & Military Support Programs were discussed or any other event held in support of our service members, veterans and their families! Don't forget to include attendance numbers for each activity or event!

[Empty box for reporting activities]

Financial Assistance

Did your department provide financial assistance to any veteran or service member?: No [] Yes []

If yes: How many veterans or service members did you assist:

Type of assistance provided:

Assistance amount:

Communication Tools

Did your department have any VFW Operation Uplink virtual PIN presentations? No [] Yes []

If yes: Location:

Type of presentation:

VFW/Auxiliary Involvement:

Any plans for future support of the VA location?:

Have any pictures from your visit? We'd love to hear more about how the virtual PINs are being presented to our veterans and wounded service members. Email your pictures to uplink@vfw.org or mail them to our office!

Military Support Events (Not funded by VFW National HQ)

Did your department sponsor any military activities? No [] Yes []

If yes: How many:

What types of events were held:

Amount of department funds used:

Number of attendees: Military: families:

Number of new/reinstated recruits gained from event: New reinstated

We would appreciate any comments, suggestions you may have along with extra information or reports from activities you've done. Please feel free to send letters, photographs, or any details through attachments!

Please Return by Email or Fax to the Veterans & Military Support Programs office NO LATER THAN THE 15th OF THE MONTH

Name Department Date



*MILITARY
ASSISTANCE
PROGRAM
(MAP)*



Military Assistance Program Grant Guidelines



Purpose:

To provide financial assistance to VFW Posts/Depts. and Auxiliaries who sponsor events with their local military community. These funds are meant to build relationships and provide information on VFW programs and services.

How to apply for a MAP Grant:

1. Only a VFW or Auxiliary member may submit a MAP Grant Application.
2. The application must be signed and dated by the Post/Dept. Commander, Quartermaster or the Auxiliary President or Treasurer.
3. The grant is limited to basic food items and Non Alcoholic beverages for currently serving military and their family members only.
It does not cover equipment/venue rentals, gifts, decorations, entertainment, etc.
4. The grant does not cover public or formal events such as: Military Dining In/Out, Military Balls, Change of Command/Responsibility Ceremonies, etc.
5. The grant application must be submitted no later than 14 days **prior** to the event. Any exceptions to this must be submitted in writing to the Director VFW Programs for approval.
6. An After Action Report along with eligible receipts must be submitted within 30 days of the event. Non submission will result in the Dept./Post/Auxiliary being billed for the grant amount.
7. If the event receipts total less that the grant amount provided, the Dept./Post/Auxiliary will be required to refund the difference within 30 days.
8. If the event is cancelled a full refund is required. If rescheduled for a later date, a written explanation must be submitted to the MAP office detailing the new dates. It will be determined by the MAP office and VFW Program Director whether a refund will be requested or the Dept./Post/Auxiliary will be allowed to keep the grant amount.
9. MAP Grants may be submitted by the following:
 - Email: map@vfw.org
 - Fax 816-968-2779
 - Mail to:
VFW National Headquarters
ATTN: MAP
406 W. 34th Street, Suite 902
Kansas City, MO 64111

Note: Prior approval of similar events does not guarantee future approval. All applications must be signed and dated.

For any further questions or concerns please contact the MAP Office by phone at (816) 756-3390



Military Assistance Program Grant Application Instructions



For any further questions or concerns please contact the MAP Office by phone at (816) 756-3390

To ensure the grant is processed in a timely manner all information needs to be complete and accurate.

Payee (Dept./Post/Auxiliary) Section

- Fill out **Post # and Department** information completely and specify if the request is being submitted by the Auxiliary.
- **Federal Tax ID and 501(c)** IRS Guidelines require the Federal Tax ID number and 501 C designations to be on the application. Contact your Dept./Post/Auxiliary Quartermaster or Treasurer to obtain this information.
- Please make sure that the Point of Contact (POC) is the individual at the post that is handling the event. Do not put the Commander or Quartermaster's name as POC if another person is handling the event. The VFW POC information must include a phone number and email address.

Grant Amount Requested / Event Total Budget Amount

- The **Grant Amount Requested** This amount should be what you are requesting MAP to cover after all other contributions are made.
- The **Total Budget Amount** This is the approximate amount that includes all money spent on any items/activities. MAP Grant funds, post contributions and any other outside contributions such as the military unit, Family Support Group, other community/veteran's organizations, etc.
- The **Event information** must include: Event name or type of event, date, attendance, location and activities.
- The **Event Attendance** must specify the number of military and family members expected. Do not include dignitaries or VFW members here

Military Unit Information

- **National Guard and Reserve Meal Rations** If the event takes place during a training weekend (required attendance) all service members should be provided a meal by the government. If you are unsure about this information you should contact the unit to verify.

Community Involvement (NOT VFW) Section

- List all other **organizations** that are going to be involved with the event and their contribution.

Post Contribution and Involvement

- **Post contribution** is any monetary contribution from the Post/Dept. that is separate from the MAP Grant funds that are being requested.

Authorization Section

- Ensure that you read and check both **Acknowledgement 1 and Acknowledgement 2**
- The application must be **signed by the VFW Dept. / Post Commander or Quartermaster**. If it is being submitted by the **Auxiliary it must be signed by the President or Treasurer**.



Military Assistance Program (MAP) Grant Application



Payee (Dept./Post/Auxiliary):

Post/Aux # _____
 Department: _____
 Federal TAX ID# (9 digits) _____
 Exempt Status, 501(c) 3 4 19 (check one)
 Street Address: _____
 City/State/Zip: _____
 VFW POC: _____
 Email: _____
 Phone: (____) _____

Grant Amount Requested: _____

Event Total Budget Amount: _____

Event Name: _____
 Event Date (s): _____
 How many are expected to attend for each group:
 Currently-serving Military: _____ Family: _____
 Event Location: _____

Activities: _____

Military Unit Information:

Unit Name: _____
 Branch of Service: _____
 Component: Active Reserve Guard (check one)
 Installation city/state: _____
 MPOC Name & Rank: _____

For National Guard and Reserve units only:

Is this a drill for the unit? _____
 If it is a drill, is the unit contributing their meal Rations
 (GOV funds) for the Military meals? _____
 If not, why not? _____

Community Involvement (NOT VFW):

Will there be any other community involvement, including
 other veterans' organizations?
 YES NO
 IF YES- List the businesses/groups that are participating
 & what they are contributing:

Post Contribution and Involvement:

Expected # of VFW/Auxiliary members attending? _____
 Is the Post/Department contributing to the event with
 funds, goods or services beyond what MAP is being
 asked to provide? YES NO
 If yes, what amount? _____

**Please check all activities VFW/Auxiliary members
will assist with:**

Plan Shop Set-up/clean-up
 Cook Serve Assist children
 Recruit Provide VFW materials/info
 Speak during event

Is the Post contributing any other kind of goods
or services?

VFW Recognition (check all that applies):

Will you have a VFW banner or flag on display?
 Will the members wear items with VFW logos?
 Will the Unit's CO acknowledge the VFW's contribution
 during his/her remarks?

*****Authorization*****

Acknowledgement 1:

To facilitate compliance with IRS regulations, the VFW Military
 Assistance Program (MAP) will require the Post to provide a
 report including eligible receipts no later than 30 days after the
 scheduled event date. Failure to do so will result in a request
 from National Headquarters for a full refund of the Grant
 amount.
 (Must be checked)

Acknowledgement 2:

This money will not be used for lobbying in any way.
 (Must be checked)

Payee QM or Commander Signature

X _____ Date: _____

Printed Name and Title



Military Assistance Program Grant Report



Date of Event: _____

VFW Department: _____ District: _____ Post: _____

Type of Event (i.e., Welcome Home, Deployment, Family Briefing, etc.):

Full Unit Name:

Unit City / State:

Brief Description of Event: _____

Total amount of MAP funds utilized for the event. _____

Are Receipts for Expenditures Attached?: _____

Actual Attendance:

Number of Military: _____ Families: _____

Number of VFW and Aux members attending the event? _____

Number of others in attendance (dignitaries other groups etc)? _____

Number of Members Recruited at the Event?: _____

- Please attach any newspaper articles or links to articles on the internet.

Names of VFW National or Department Officers or Certified Recruiters who attended:



Military Assistance Program Grant Report



Date of Event: _____

VFW Department: _____ District: _____ Post: _____

Type of Event (i.e., Welcome Home, Deployment, Family Briefing, etc.):

Full Unit Name:

Unit City / State:

Brief Description of Event: _____

Total amount of MAP funds utilized for the event. _____

Are Receipts for Expenditures Attached?: _____

Actual Attendance:

Number of Military: _____ Families: _____

Number of VFW and Aux members attending the event? _____

Number of others in attendance (dignitaries other groups etc)? _____

Number of Members Recruited at the Event?: _____

- Please attach any newspaper articles or links to articles on the internet.

Names of VFW National or Department Officers or Certified Recruiters who attended:



Adopt-A-Unit FAQ



The Adopt-a-Unit Program assists in building relationships between the VFW and our military members.

Who is Eligible to Adopt-a-Unit:

- VFW Posts
- VFW Auxiliary
- Combination of Both

Why you should Adopt-a-Unit:

- To support your local military members and their families.
- As VFW/Auxiliary members, you understand the challenges military members and their families face and the support they need.
- To help connect military members with the vast network of resources the VFW has available.
- Conducting Adopt-a-Unit activities is a great recruiting opportunity.

How to find a military unit:

- Contact your local National Guard, Reserve and Active Duty units.
- Access the "Find a Unit Flyer" which is available at <http://www.vfw.org/troopssupport/>.
- Speak with other VFW Posts and Veterans Organizations who may have knowledge of units in the area.

When to adopt a unit:

- There is no time like the present and our military members and their families need your assistance now more than ever. Your assistance is equally important whether the unit is home or deployed overseas.

What kind of activities should you plan:

- Welcome Home, Deployment, Yellow Ribbon, Family Day, Dinner/Picnics, Holiday Parties, Meetings/Briefings and Funeral/Memorial Services to name a few.
- You are only limited by your imagination when it comes to supporting our troops and their families.

Where to get assistance for Adopt-a-Unit Questions:

- Call the Military Assistance Program Office at (816) 756-3390
- Email the MAP Office at map@vfw.org

How to Apply:

- Submit an Adopt-a-Unit Application to the MAP Office, the form is located on the VFW website at <http://www.vfw.org/troopssupport/>.

When to Report:

- Submit a minimum of one AAU Activity Report annually per adopted unit.
- Your first report is due at least one year from the date the application was received. You can also submit a report after every event that you conduct with your adopted unit.



Adopt-A-Unit

Application for Sponsorship



This form must be filled out completely. If you have any questions, please contact the MAP office at (816) 756-3390. Form can be **faxed to MAP at (816) 968-2779**, emailed to MAP@vfw.org, or mailed to VFW National Headquarters, Attn: MAP, 406 W 34th Street, Kansas City, MO 64111. Please allow a minimum of 4 weeks for your certificate packet to arrive.

Adoption by: Post Auxiliary Both

Post Number: _____ Contact Name: _____

Post Address/City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Unit to be Sponsored:

Army Marines Navy Air Force Coast Guard

Unit Status:

Active Duty Reserve National Guard

Unit Name: _____

Authorizing Unit Point of Contact: _____

Unit Address / APO / FPO: _____

Unit POC Phone: _____ Unit POC Email: _____



Adopt-A-Unit Activity Report

(Only One Adopted Unit Per Report)

AAU Activity Reports must be filed with the MAP Office at least once a year.

Reports can be sent 3 ways: 1. MAIL / ATTN MAP, 406 W. 34th St., Suite 902, Kansas City, MO 64111
2. EMAIL to map@vfw.org 3. FAX to (816) 968-2779

VFW Information:

VFW Post Number: _____
 Dept / State: Alabama
 VFW POC submitting report: _____
 POC Phone Number: _____
 POC Email: _____

Military Unit Information:

Unit Name: _____
 Current MPOC Name: _____
 MPOC Rank or Title: _____
 Total # of soldiers in unit _____
 Is Unit Currently Deployed? Yes No

Event Type: (Example: Family Day, Yellow Ribbon, Holiday, Dinner/Picnic or Welcome Home)	Event Date	Military/Fam Attendance
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		

Donations Made to Unit:

Donated funds to the unit and/or individual. If yes, how much? \$ _____
 Donated labor/time, goods or services for or on behalf of this unit.

Were Veterans & Military Support Programs information available to the unit during this event?

Example: Veterans & Military Support Programs Overview, Free Call Day Schedule, VFW Pamphlets, VFW Talking Paper, Unmet Needs info, etc. Yes No

Community Involvement:

Did you work with any businesses, groups, charities or other Veterans Organizations from your community on behalf of the unit?
 Yes No

- Each AAU Activity Report should have the events listed for only one adopted unit. If you have multiple units adopted please use separate activity reports for each unit to list what events you held with them.
- All attendance numbers and dollar amounts can be estimated.
- Please provide photos, comments/letters from the unit, news articles and any other material that is available.



How to Find a Unit to Adopt

The references and resources below are to help you *get started* supporting local military units and their families through **VFW's Adopt-a-Unit (AAU) program**.

Before submitting AAU paperwork to VFW National HQ or sending care packages to a unit:

- o Get permission from the unit's Commanding officer or Senior NCO
- o Review the information in the Adopt-a-Unit Application.

VFW HQs does not have a list of names &/or addresses of units or service members.

===== **R e s o u r c e s** =====

VFW Post/Auxiliary members are the BEST resources to make contact with a local military unit. Ask if anyone has a friend/relative currently serving in the military; or even knows of someone working/serving on a local base.

VFW & Auxiliary Department Chairmen are a critically important resource, they receive training on VFW troop support programs and receive regular communications from VFW HQs.

Your own hometown community (Churches, workplace, schools, VSOs etc.) As with your membership, ask around to see if anyone has a friend or relative currently serving in the military or working at a base or reserve center.

===== **Military/Internet Resources** =====

Active Duty Military Bases/Installations:

Military.com Assists 30 million Americans with military affinity stay connected and informed, including an online guide to military bases. <http://www.military.com/base-guide/>

The Military Zone is a website whose mission is to provide military news, information and resources of interest to active, retired, and future military personnel. Their information seems a little older, but it does have telephone numbers for many bases:

http://themilitaryzone.com/military_bases.html

My Base Guide primarily geared towards military and their families. Click on the link below to check the U.S. map and see if there is a base in your area. When you find a base, then click on the name. From the bases' webpage, look for the "Directory" and look for the "Public Affairs" office to make contact. <http://mybaseguide.com/>

National Guard & Reserves:

1. **Army & Air National Guard**: The link below is to a U.S. map, just click on your state & it takes you to your state's guard website.
<http://www.nationalguard.mil/resources/statewebsites.aspx>
2. **Marine Reserves**: The link below has the most detailed contact information to work from.
<http://www.marforres.marines.mil/ContactUs/DirectoryByState.aspx>
3. **Army Reserves**: Look on the right side of the home page of the link below for "Find A Unit" to look up your state. <http://www.usar.army.mil/Pages/default.aspx>
4. **Navy Reserves**: <<still working on what the symbols on map mean, 4/26>>
<http://www.navyreserve.com/about/locations/>
5. **Air Force Reserves**: Lists units by states. Click on the unit/state and it will take to you that AF base website. You will then need to go to the contact us to get the telephone number for the Airman and Family Assistance Center.
<http://www.afrc.af.mil/units/unitsbystate.asp>

Military Medical (Wounded Warrior) units:

1. **Army- Warrior Transition Units (WTU)**: This link also uses a U.S. map. Once, you've verified there is a unit in your area, you can use the telephone number provided to make contact with an ombudsman. http://wtc.army.mil/about_us/wtu_locations.html
2. **Marines- Wounded Warrior Regiment (WWR)** detachments are units/locations: Contact one of the 2 Battalions below to see if there are Marines from the WWR in your area.
 - o **Battalion-East Contact Center**: (*East of the Mississippi River, including Europe*) 910-451-1202, 910-451-2253, 910-449-9573
 - o **Battalion West Contact Center**: (*West of the Mississippi River, including Japan, Guam and Hawaii*) 888-738-7044
3. **Navy- Safe Harbor**: This website lists the locations (scroll down) where Navy Wounded Warrior – Safe Harbor staff are located throughout the continental United States.
<http://safeharbor.navylive.dodlive.mil/?s=locations>
4. **Air Force – Wounded Warrior**: Each Air Force base has an "Airman & Family Readiness Center"(AFRC). If the base has service members in transition, the AFRC will be the office to discuss possibly VFW support. Use the active duty base resources above to locate an Air Force base.

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With all the changes in the military, websites and links can change quickly. Please contact the MAP office regarding any issues with the above links or if you need further assistance. Email: map@vfw.org or call 816-756-3390, ext. 262



Adopt-a-Unit

- ❖ Over **121,000 military and family** members are being actively supported by VFW Posts and Auxiliaries through the VFW Adopt-a-Unit program.

- ❖ Popular examples of Adopt-a-Unit activities:
 - **Family Days**- VFW understands the importance of family to the military member and their mission

 - **Welcome Home & Deployment events**

 - **Holiday events**

 - **Meetings and Support Seminars**

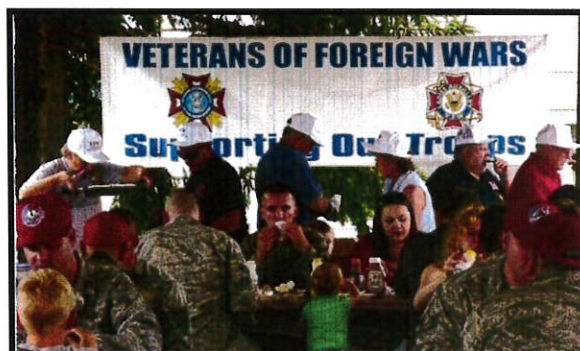
 - **Community Projects**- Annually VFW posts *donate \$ 48.2 million dollars* and their *8.6 million volunteer hours* to community activities.

 - **Direct assistance**- lawn care, auto repairs, renovations to help accommodate a newly wounded service member

 - **And much more.....**

- ❖ VFW Posts work with unit commanders and senior enlisted personnel to develop supportive relationships with units before, during and after deployments. We offer a vast network of free resources and a variety of direct support for military members and their families.

- ❖ If your unit is interested in being adopted:
 - Check if someone in the unit is already a member of a local VFW Post.
 - Use the "Find a Post" locator on VFW's website: <http://www.vfw.org/oms/findpost.aspx>
 - Contact VFW National HQs: map@vfw.org or (816) 756-3390, ext 211.





Memorial Commendation FAQs



What is a Memorial Commendation?

~ It is an expression of the VFW and its Auxiliaries condolences to the family, as well as an offer of support. The commendation itself is a professional certificate with the appropriate branch of service emblem enclosed in a vinyl portfolio.

How can I find out if there has been a casualty from my department?

~1. The MAP office checks the DoD's website daily and sends email notifications of casualties to the corresponding VFW Department. The email includes: a scan of the certificate; an offer of the commendation; and a copy of the news release from the DoD.

~2. Frequently, the casualty appears in the wire services, internet & local news even before the DoD makes their announcement.

How do I obtain a Memorial Commendation?

~Contact the MAP office with the service member's: Full name, Rank, Branch of Service & the shipping instructions.

How does the family of the deceased service member receive the Memorial Commendation?

~Memorial Commendations should only be presented in person by a VFW/ Auxiliary member. It should never be mailed or presented by someone outside the VFW organization.

How do I make contact with the family?

~1. By using the contact numbers provided in the DoD's news release, which are normally military public affairs offices. Please respect that many families do not wish to be contacted and may have their contact information withheld by the military.

~2. News releases other than the DoD's will sometimes provide the Church or Funeral home contact information.

~3. There may be an existing connection within your Department/Districts/Posts: adopted unit, family member, friend, etc.

~Contact the Casualty Assistance Center for your area- Army:

<https://www.hrc.army.mil/site/active/TAGD/CMAOC/CACLOCATOR/CACLOCATORINDEX.htm>

Can I rush the shipping of the commendation?

~Due to budgetary constraints, the MAP office is restricted to standard shipping methods only (no express or over-night). We recommend making other arrangements to present the commendation.

Why is the rank on the commendation different occasionally from what the family states?

~ Occasionally, service members killed in action are promoted after the Department of Defense has issued the official press release. The MAP office can usually issue replacements the same day as requested.



*UNMET
NEEDS
PROGRAM*



Unmet Needs Eligibility Criteria

The applicant is the service member, veteran, or eligible dependent listed under the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS).

The financial hardship must be due to one of the following:

- Currently on active duty, whose financial hardship is a result of a current deployment, military pay error, or from being discharged for medical reasons.
- Discharged on or after September 11, 2001, whose financial hardship is a direct result of your military service connected injuries and/or illnesses.
- Discharged prior to September 11, 2001, are on a fixed income that must include VA compensation, and facing an unexpected financial hardship.

The financial hardship cannot be caused by:

- Civil, legal or domestic issues, misconduct, or any issues that are a result of spousal separation or divorce.
- Financial mismanagement by self or others, or due to bankruptcy.

All grants are paid directly to the creditor and not to the applicant. The applicant must provide the most current bills due. We will render payment for eligible current bills only.

Expenses Eligible for payment:

- Household expenses – mortgage, rent, repairs, insurance.
- Vehicle expenses – payments, insurance, repairs (major repairs for vehicles over ten years old will not be considered).
- Utilities.
- Food and clothing.
- Children's clothing, diapers, formula, school or childcare expenses.
- Medical bills, prescriptions & eyeglasses – the patient's portion for necessary or emergency medical care only.

Ineligible Expenses:

- Credit cards, military charge cards or retail store cards.
- Cable, Internet, or secondary phones.
- Cosmetic or investigational medical procedures & expenses.
- Taxes - property or otherwise.
- Furniture, electronic equipment or vehicle rentals.
- Any other expenses not determined to be a basic life need.

The eligible and ineligible expense lists are not all inclusive. Each case will be carefully reviewed for its own merits. Upon approval, payments will be made for you directly to the creditor. All applications are individually reviewed and the VFW reserves the right to make exceptions on a case-by-case basis. For more information, contact Unmet Needs at 1-866-789-6333.



Unmet Needs Program FAQ

What does the Unmet Needs Program do?

- Unmet Needs provides grants (not loans) and referrals to other organizations to active duty service members, veterans and their immediate families to assist with basic life needs.

Who is eligible to receive assistance?

- The applicant must be the service member, veteran or eligible dependent listed under the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS). The financial hardship must be due to one of the following:
 - a) Currently on active duty, whose financial hardship is a result of a current deployment, military pay error or from being discharged for medical reasons.
 - b) Discharged on or after September 11, 2001, whose financial hardship is a direct result of your military service connected injuries and/or illnesses.
 - c) Discharged prior to September 11, 2001, are on a fixed income that must include VA compensation, and facing an unexpected financial hardship.

Who is not eligible to receive assistance?

- Anyone who has not served in the military or the financial hardship is caused by one of the following:
 - a) Civil, legal or domestic issues, misconduct or any issues that are a result of spousal separation or divorce.
 - b) Financial mismanagement by self or others, or due to bankruptcy.

How can I contact the Unmet Needs Program?

- The Unmet Needs program is located in the Veterans of Foreign Wars National Headquarters in Kansas City.

Mailing Address:

Unmet Needs Program
406 W. 34th Street
Kansas City, MO 64111

Toll Free Number: 866-789-6333

FAX Number: 816-968-2779

Email Address: unmetneeds@vfw.org

Website: www.vfw.org/assistance/financial-grants

How do I get an application for the Unmet Needs financial grant?

- The application can be found online at <http://www.vfw.org/assistance/financial-grants> by clicking the Unmet Needs online application (**Chrome is recommended for the online application**). Applications cannot be completed unless all required fields are met. Once the application is submitted a notification email will be sent to you with further information.

How does the Unmet Needs application process work?

- Once an application has been submitted, the Unmet Needs caseworkers review the application and contacts the applicant if necessary for any additional required documents or information. All expenses are verified with the creditors. Payments are sent directly to the creditor to ensure proper disbursement of funds.

What additional documents are needed for the Unmet Needs Program to process an application?

- All required documents are submitted with the online application and cannot be submitted without them. Depending on the situation, additional documentation may be requested by the Unmet Needs caseworker.

What kind of expenses does the Unmet Needs Program assist with?

- Unmet Needs assists with any expenses that are classified as "basic life needs", which includes, but is not limited to the following: household expenses such as mortgage, rent, repairs, insurance, vehicle expenses such as payments, repairs, insurance, utilities and primary phone, food and clothing, children's clothing, diapers, formula, school or childcare expenses, and medical bills, prescriptions and eyeglasses – the patient's portion for necessary or emergency medical care only.

What kind of expenses does the Unmet Needs Program not assist with?

- Unmet Needs does not assist with any expenses that are not classified as "basic life needs", which includes, but is not limited to the following: credit cards, military charge cards, or retail store cards, cable, internet, secondary phones, taxes – property or otherwise, furniture rentals, or any expense not determined to be a basic life need.

How long does the application process take?

- The applications are processed in the order in which they are received. It can take up to 20 business days to process an application once received.

What is the normal timeline for helping an individual through Unmet Needs?

- The length of time to process a request for assistance depends upon the information provided on the application and the amount of research conducted. After verification of the emergency from the service member and contacting creditors, a check is normally processed within 3 business days and an additional 5-7 business days for mailing of funds to the creditor.

Does Unmet Needs assist after a natural disaster?

- The Unmet Needs Natural Disaster Assistance (i.e. flood, fire, earthquake and tornado) provides a \$300.00 grant. In order to qualify, service members must submit the single page application and a copy of their most recent DD-214 or orders. The application can be found at this link <http://www.vfw.org/unmetneeds> and look to the right of the web page under Unmet Needs Resources for the Disaster Relief Assistance link.

How can I help?

- Contact your local VFW State Department or local VFW Post to let them know you're here to help. You can also send a monetary donation to the VFW Foundation to support the Unmet Needs Program.

Donations can be made:

By mail:

VFW Foundation
406 West 34th Street, Ste. 920
Kansas City, MO 64111
Memo – Unmet Needs

Online:

Head to www.vfw.org/Contribute or click the direct link below:

<https://heroes.vfw.org/ea-action/action?ea.client.id=1993&ea.campaign.id=49903&ea.trackin.g.id=homepage>

By Phone:

Call the VFW Foundation office directly at
816-756-3390



UNMET NEEDS DONATION FORM

DONOR INFORMATION

First Name:

Last Name:

Company Name (If Applicable):

Address:

City:

State:

Zip:

Country:

Phone:

Donation Amount: \$

PAYMENT OPTIONS

Check - Make payable to **VFW Foundation** Memo - **Unmet Needs**

MasterCard Visa Discover American Express

Credit Card #: _____

Card Security Code: _____

Expiration Date (MM/DD/YYYY): _____

Name as appears on card: _____

Authorizing Signature: _____



I prefer to make my donation anonymously

VFW Foundation
406 West 34th Street
Suite 920
Kansas City, MO 64111

Your donation is tax-deductible to the full extent of the law.
The Unmet Needs Program is administered by the VFW Foundation
for the Veterans of Foreign Wars.
The program is generously supported by Burger King Franchisees and
individual donors like you.





*SPORT
CLIPS
HELP A HERO
SCHOLARSHIP
PROGRAM*



VFW “Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarship” Frequently Asked Questions

- **Is a printable version of the VFW “Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarship” available?**
 - No. Applications are only being accepted online.
- **What is the cut-off date for applications?**
 - Applications will be accepted January 1st through April 30th for fall semester and August 1st through November 15th for spring semester. If attending an apprenticeship/certification program that is not starting using traditional semesters, please contact us at HelpAHero@vfw.org for information.
- **How often can I apply for the scholarship?**
 - You may apply once per academic semester regardless of previous award or denial.
- **I haven’t been deployed. Can I still apply?**
 - Yes. As long as you have completed basic training and AIT, you are eligible to apply.
- **I’m not currently enrolled in school OR I’ve been accepted but haven’t made a final decision on which school to attend. Can I still apply?**
 - Yes! You are eligible to apply as long as you’ve been accepted to a school, even if you haven’t enrolled in classes yet. If you’ve been accepted to multiple schools, please list the school you are favoring on the application.
- **When asking about military experience, do you want current or former?**
 - Please provide your current rank and military status.
- **What if I don’t have a DD214?**
 - If you are currently active duty or Guard/Reserves, in lieu of providing a DD214, we require a statement of service including any prior deployments from your unit’s Commanding Officer.
- **When will I receive my scholarship check and can the scholarship be used for books, Internet access and other educational-related expenses?**
 - Scholarships may only be used for school tuition and fees and checks will be paid directly to the school, not the student.
- **What is the FAFSA Student Aid Report?**
 - FAFSA is the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. The Student Aid Report is a report you receive stating how much federal aid you qualify for, and what your expected family contribution (EFC) is. Find out more information and apply at: www.fafsa.ed.gov or www.studentaid.ed.gov.
- **Can I apply now even though I haven’t applied for the current FAFSA year yet?**
 - No. We require a current FAFSA Student Aid Report (SAR) for the school year for which you are applying.
- **I submitted my FAFSA but was denied aid. Can I still apply?**
 - No. Financial need is a main eligibility requirement for the VFW Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarship.
- **How many scholarships will be awarded?**
 - Scholarships will be awarded based on funds raised by Sport Clips’ annual “Help A Hero” fundraiser. Our goal every year is to award as many scholarships as funding allows.
- **Once I’ve applied, will I be notified of the scholarship decision outcome?**
 - Yes. We will notify every applicant of our decision either way.

Questions? Contact the VFW at HelpAHero@vfw.org



Student Veteran Support

Today's veterans can face any number of obstacles while returning their education. Taking advantage of all the benefits you've earned and DESERVE shouldn't be one of them! This is why we have teamed up with Student Veterans of America and Sport Clips Haircuts to provide the assistance you need.

Scholarships

The **VFW's "Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarship"** provides service members and veterans with the financial assistance they need to complete their educational goals without incurring excessive student loan debt. It's just another way for us to say "thank you" to those who fought for our freedoms.

Scholarship Details:

- Scholarships of up to \$5,000 will be awarded to qualified applicants.
- Awarded scholarships are limited to one per family per semester.

- Applications for the fall semester will be accepted January 1 through April 30.
- Applications for the spring semester will be accepted August 1 through November 15.
- Fall semester scholarships will be awarded in August, and spring semester scholarships will be awarded in January.
- Scholarships must be used by the end of the school semester for which the veteran is applying or they will become null and void.
- Scholarships are restricted for tuition and fees only and will be paid directly to accredited schools.

Eligible Applicants Must:

- Be a citizen of the United States.
- Be retired, honorably discharged, active duty, or a member of the National Guard or Reserve.
- Have completed Basic Training and follow-on training (Advanced Individual Training, technical school, etc.).
- Separated with or currently hold a military rank of E-5 or below.
- Demonstrate a need for financial assistance.
- Participate in, be accepted to or currently enrolled in a VA-approved program or school at an accredited post-secondary institution.

Apply Today

(/assistance/student-veterans-support/application)

If you have questions please view our FAQ ([//vfw-](#)

[cdn.azureedge.net/-/media/VFWSite/Files/Assistance/HelpAHeroScholarshipFAQ.pdf?la=en](#)) ([//vfw-](#)

[cdn.azureedge.net/-/media/VFWSite/Files/Assistance/HelpAHeroScholarshipFAQ.pdf?la=en](#)) or email us

(<mailto:HelpAHero@vfw.org>) with additional questions.

1 Student Veteran

No one knows education benefits better than the VFW. After all, we played a major role in the passage of the 1944 GI Bill of Rights, the Montgomery GI Bill Act of 1984 and the recent Post-9/11 GI Bill. To help ensure student veterans receive their benefits in a timely manner and have a place to turn to if they need help, the VFW, in conjunction with the Student Veterans of America (SVA), have developed the 1 Student Veteran program.

1 Student Veteran offers direct assistance to student veterans who have questions or are experiencing problems accessing their VA benefits. Our direct access to VA Regional Offices across the country means we can work quickly to provide our student veterans with timely and accurate answers regarding the complex claims process. Furthermore, our direct access to education claims adjudicators means that those whose education benefits have been wrongfully denied delayed during a transfer from one school to another or paid in error, will not have to wait the months it would traditionally take to file a formal appeal.

Veterans who send a message to 1 Student Veteran (<mailto:1StudentVeteran@vfw.org>) will receive a timely reply from a VFW staff member who specializes in student veteran issues.

If you have already confirmed your benefit eligibility through the VA's GI Bill Hotline, 888-GI BILL 1 (888-442-4551), and double-checked your enrollment verification with your school, take the next step and contact 1 Student Veteran (<mailto:1StudentVeteran@vfw.org>) today.

VFW-SVA Legislative Fellowship

We have been advocating on behalf of veterans, service members and their families for more than a century, and we want to share our experience with a new generation of veteran leaders. The VFW-SVA Legislative Fellowship grants 10 exemplary student veterans (fellows) the chance to join the VFW legislative team on Capitol Hill during the VFW Legislative Conference in early spring each year. The fellows will walk the halls of Congress, educating their legislators on the issues facing today's student veterans and have the opportunity to meet with policy-makers from federal agencies responsible for implementing veterans' policy.

Learn More

Student Veteran Resources



GI Bill FAQ

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Choosing a School

(http://benefits.va.gov/gibill/
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Education and Career Resources

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GI Bill Comparison Tool

(https://www.vets.gov/gi-
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Little-Known Facts

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Student Veterans of America

(<http://studentveterans.org/chapter/directory>)

(<http://studentveterans.org/chapter/directory>)

Support those who support us!



(<http://www.sportclips.com/>)

Sport Clips (<http://www.sportclips.com/>) is a proud supporter of the VFW's "Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarship" program. Support those who support us and visit your local Sport Clips today!



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*OPERATION
UPLINK
PROGRAM*

Operation Uplink Domestic Cards – Virtual Pins

Operation Uplink is no longer providing actual phone cards, but instead we will provide you with virtual PINs and dialing directions for you to provide to the veteran patients.

We will email you the number of PINs for cards requested. This will allow 100 minutes of talk time per PIN versus the 15 minutes of talk time provided with the domestic phone cards.

It is recommended you distribute the PINs by putting them on business cards along with the dialing directions. You should provide the PINs to your hospital contact or key volunteer so they can distribute the PINs to the patients for use. This will allow more than one patient to use each PIN.

To request the virtual PINs, complete the Operation Uplink bulk request form to include an email address and submit to the office. Please request the number of cards you will need and we will provide the equivalent PINs.

The Virtual PINs have a 24 month expiration from first use.

Below is an example of the list of PINs we will email you. They are preset to print on plain paper to cut apart or on Avery Labels sized 1" X 2 3/4" to peel off and stick on the back of a business card.

