



Ohio Adjutant General's Department

JOHN KASICH, GOVERNOR

MAJOR GENERAL DEBORAH A. ASHENHURST, ADJUTANT GENERAL

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For Immediate Release

TRICARE Awareness Week runs April 22-25

COLUMBUS — Gov. John Kasich, in partnership with the Ohio National Guard and physician, hospital and behavioral health association leaders, is celebrating TRICARE Awareness Week April 22-25, 2013.

TRICARE is the health care delivery system serving active-duty service members, National Guard members and Reservists, retirees, their Families, survivors and certain former spouses worldwide. TRICARE brings together the health care resources of the uniformed services and supplements them with networks of civilian health care professionals, institutions, pharmacies and suppliers to provide access to high-quality health care services.

“TRICARE is a valuable benefit that helps keep Military Families medically fit during and after they serve our nation. Therefore, we need the continued support of our civilian medical and behavioral health professionals to ensure Military Families have access to quality health care that is comparable to that provided by major civilian health insurance plans,” said Maj. Gen. Deborah A. Ashenhurst, Ohio adjutant general. “While many civilian health care professionals currently accept TRICARE, our goal is to increase the network of choices available to our service members, veterans and their Families.”

Unlike active-duty service members who are always on military status and, as such, covered by TRICARE, National Guard members and Reservists change military statuses whenever they conduct training, mobilize, deploy and reintegrate after mobilization. As National Guard members' or Reservists' statuses change, so does their health benefit coverage. National Guard members may move from private insurance coverage to TRICARE and back again. If health care providers do not care for the service members and their Family through these status/benefit coverage changes, then the continuity of care and well-being of the Reserve Component force and their Families can be compromised.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: James Sims at 614-336-7126 or james.a.sims20.nfg@mail.mil or visit www.ong.ohio.gov/TRICARE.html.

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