

Bonus Facts

- Eligible Veterans are encouraged to begin the process by completing the online bonus application. Veterans will see that most of their questions probably are answered in the short application process. They will quickly learn what information is required and what documentation is needed to support their bonus application.

Applications are available at www.veteransbonus.ohio.gov, or at any of Ohio's 88 County Veterans Services Offices. Or call 1 - 877 - OHIO VET to get a paper application. In most cases, applying on-line is the simplest and fastest option.

- To apply for the bonus, Veterans should go to www.veteransbonus.ohio.gov and complete the online application form. However, their application is not complete until they print, sign and mail the application along with required supporting documentation through the U.S. Postal Service. The signed application must be "notarized" or "acknowledged" and mailed to:

Ohio Veterans Bonus
P.O. Box 373
Sandusky, OH 44871

- The applicant's signature on all bonus applications must either be "notarized" by a notary public or "acknowledged" by the clerk, or deputy clerk, of the courts of common pleas which are located in all 88 Ohio counties. Notaries public often are found in banks and auto dealerships and usually will perform notary services for their customers free of charge. In addition, the Ohio Attorney General's assistants at regional offices in Toledo, Columbus, Cleveland, Cincinnati, and Youngstown will notarize the Veteran's signature at no cost to the Veteran.
- Remember, Veterans should not sign the bonus application until they appear before the notary or at the office of the clerk of courts of common pleas.
- A Veteran is anybody who wears or ever has worn a uniform of the United States armed forces. (Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, Coast Guard and Ohio National Guard)
- Veterans may be eligible for a bonus if they served in the United States armed forces on active duty anywhere in the world for purposes other than training between August 2, 1990 and March 3, 1991 or any time since October 7, 2001.
- To be eligible for a bonus, a Veteran must have been an Ohio resident at the start of active duty service and also must be an Ohio resident when he or she applies for the bonus.

- To be eligible for a bonus,
 - a. The Veteran must have been separated from the armed forces under honorable conditions, or
 - b. the Veteran remains on active duty service, or
 - c. after active duty service, the Veteran remains in any reserve component of the armed forces, including the Ohio National Guard.
- Eligible Veterans may receive \$100 for each month spent on active duty service in the following theaters during these specified dates:
 - a. Persian Gulf between August 2, 1990 and March 3, 1991, the date when Iraq accepted the conditions for a permanent cease fire. Eligible Veterans can apply for a bonus until December 31, 2013.
 - b. Afghanistan since October 7, 2001. Eligible Veterans can apply for a bonus for up to three years after the President declares an end to U.S. involvement in Afghanistan.
 - c. Iraq since March 19, 2003. Eligible Veterans can apply for a bonus for up to three years after the President declares an end to U.S. involvement in Iraq.
 - d. The maximum benefit for in-theater service is \$1,000.
- Eligible Veterans serving on active duty (except active duty for training only) anywhere else in the world during the above specified dates may receive \$50 a month up to a maximum benefit of \$500.
- Partial months of service during the compensable period will be paid at the rate of 1/30 of the monthly rate per day served.
- Veterans may receive a bonus up to a maximum of \$1,500 for all eligible service during the compensable periods.
- Eligible Veterans who were medically discharged or medically retired from service due to combat-related disabilities sustained during their Persian Gulf, Afghanistan or Iraq service, can apply for a \$1,000 bonus, regardless of their length of service in those theaters. In addition, these veterans may also apply for \$50 for each month of active duty, non-theater service, up to a maximum of \$500.

- Family member(s) of deceased veterans may be eligible for:
 - a. A benefit of \$5000, if the service member lost his or her life as a result of injuries or illness sustained in Persian Gulf, Afghanistan or Iraq service, plus whatever bonus the Veteran had earned per month, up to a maximum total bonus of \$6,500, or
 - b. the same benefit the deceased Veteran would have received if the Veteran's death was not the result of injuries or illness sustained in Persian Gulf, Afghanistan or Iraq service, up to a maximum total bonus of \$1,500.
- Family members of a Veterans Missing in Action (MIA) or a Prisoner of War (POW) may be eligible to receive \$5,000 if the veteran was designated Missing In Action or a Prisoner Of War by the U. S. Department of Defense.
- Family members include a spouse, child or children, parent(s) or person(s) legally acting as a parent for a least one year preceding commencement of service in the United States armed forces. Payment shall be made first to the spouse. If there is no spouse, payment shall go to the child or children. If there is no child or there are no children, payment shall go to the parent(s) or the person(s) legally acting as a parent. No other family members are eligible for the Veteran's bonus.
- Applicants can find a list of supporting documents that may be required at www.veteransbonus.ohio.gov
- Veterans should receive a bonus payment about eight weeks after they submit a completed and correct application.
- Ohio Veterans Bonus payments are exempt from the Ohio income tax. However, Veterans should consult a tax expert regarding federal income tax obligations.
- Veterans with specific inquiries may call 1 - 877 - OHIO VET.