

# Front Lines

## June 2019 Edition

Greetings and welcome to this the June 2019 edition of *Front Lines*, the unofficial newsletter of Cuyahoga Community College's Veterans Initiative Program. Here is a very full look at what is happening...



**Military Spouse Friendly:** Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C®) has again been named a Military Spouse Friendly® School for its commitment to serving those married to active duty service members and veterans. Tri-C received the honor on June 13 for the third consecutive year from VIQTORY, a veteran-owned organization that connects the military community to education and employment opportunities in civilian life. Nearly 200 schools across the nation earned the title. Those earning the designation were evaluated using both public data sources and survey responses. The review covered more than 8,800 institutions.

**Fall 2019 Registration:** Registration for Fall 2019 classes is underway. Now is the time to begin thinking about appointments with a counselor for scholastic and career path guidance.

**Fall 2019 Registration cont.:** The following are important steps for all to follow:

- **Make sure to see your GI Bill® Certifying Officer at your respective campus Admissions & Registration Office ASAP.** Now there is no guarantee that Post 9-11/CH 33 benefits (BAH and book stipend) will arrive immediately after the start of the semester.
- **Note also that anytime you adjust your schedule (i.e., add classes, drop classes, etc.) YOU MUST SEE THE GI BILL® CERTIFIER.** Simply going to the Registration Office does not complete the process for student veterans using the GI Bill®. The Certifiers are the link with the VA. They handle the submission of paperwork to insure you are getting the proper benefit payment and conversely to insure you are not caught in an overpayment situation.

**Your GI Bill® Certification Form: Electronic Submission Now Available:** We are pleased to inform you that the GI-Bill® certification form is now available for electronic submission. This form must be completed at the start of each semester in which you intend to use your VA education benefits. Please note that when you access the form you will be prompted to log in using your Tri-C ID number and My Tri-C Space password. Once you complete and submit the form it will be sent directly to the certifier at your selected campus. Here is the live link: <https://portal2.tri-c.edu/VaCertification/>

Here are the steps for completing the form:

- Log in to My Tri-C Space
- Click on the Student tab
- Scroll down, and on the right hand side of the page under "Academic Support -> Specialty Services", click "Veterans Services"
- Once the Veterans Services and Programs page loads, click "Education Benefits Information & Resources"
- On the right hand side under "Additional Resources" click "GI Bill® Semesterly Certification Form"



### Veteran Services & Programs Updates

- [2019 Veterans Enrollment Guidelines](#)
- **View new information** on our [website](#) for career fairs, job postings through Ohio Means Jobs, web and community resources.
- RTA U-Pass Program: provides FREE unlimited RTA ridership to Tri-C credit students.
- Graduation Calculator to ensure your personal and academic goals
- Don't want to take classes in summer, but still want to earn rewards? Check out our 15+ Perks Program!

Complete the form, paying close attention to the dialogues that appear when clicking certain drop downs and fillable boxes.

You will receive a confirmation email once the form is successfully submitted.

**FAFSA - Get ahead of the game and submit your 2019-20 FAFSA!** Call us at [216-987-4938](tel:216-987-4938) to schedule an appointment or to have your financial aid questions answered. Filing near or after the deadline may affect your access to Financial Aid. Note also that the new Ohio College Opportunity Grant (OCOG) requires that you have filed for FAFSA to be eligible for this grant.

**Campus Support Teams at the Ready:** An important reminder to all that the Cuyahoga Community College Veteran's Initiative has been organized in an effort to provide a broader range of services to you. Part of that re-organization has been the development of Veteran Campus Support Teams. The Veteran Campus Support Teams are comprised of specialists from key departments which data tracking has shown are those departments in which veterans require services. Those departments include:

- GI Bill® Certification
- Counseling
- Financial Aid
- Recruiting
- Student Accessibility Services
- Key Career Transition Centers
- Veterans Education Access Program

As noted, the documented experience of the Veterans Initiative has shown that these are the major areas of inquiry from our student veterans. A complete list of your respective Campus Veteran Support Team members is found on the Veterans' website at: [www.tri-c.edu/veterans](http://www.tri-c.edu/veterans)

**Veterans Education Access Program – At the Ready:** The Veterans Education Access Program (VEAP) at Tri-C provides FREE comprehensive support services to eligible veterans who need additional help in Math, English and Science to complete their first degree. If you are enrolled or have been placed in a remedial Math or English course and are in need of additional help in these areas, please call the VEAP main office at 216-987-4938 to schedule an appointment with our Student Advisor. Classes are already underway, so do not delay!

**VEAP Tutoring Information:** All should also note that VEAP provides tutoring services.

**Monday:** Metro Open Tutoring 10-2

**Tuesday:** East Tutoring by appointment 10-3 (Call 216-987-4938 for appointment time)

**Wednesday:** Metro Open Tutoring 11-3 *except* days of Education Workshops (workshops are usually the 1<sup>st</sup> Weds of each month), West Tutoring 2:00-6:30

Metro Computer Lab hours 9-4 M-Th. Fridays by apt.

**County Scholarships Available Again For Fall Semester:** Thanks to the generosity of the Cuyahoga County Executive and the Cuyahoga County Council, the Tri-C Veterans Initiative has again been awarded an allotment of dollars from the Cuyahoga County Veterans Fund. In turn these funds are being used to create general scholarships to assist student veterans, military affiliates (including spouses and dependents of disabled veterans), and Active Duty and Reserve personnel **who no longer have any military-related educational benefits remaining or has exhausted all funding sources (partial GI-Bill®, FTA, FASFA-Pell grant, OCOG).**

This **non-refundable** general scholarship will be distributed as **one award per semester**. Unused funds will be returned back to the general scholarship fund at the end of the semester. *You cannot apply twice for an award in the same semester.* Scholarship dollars can be used for **both** credit and non-credit courses (workforce certification courses) and books. Awards will be on a case-by-case basis for students that are full time or part time. If approved, the scholarship dollars will be credited directly to your student account.

You will have an option to select \$500 **or** \$1,000 general scholarship. You may **either** directly apply the funds towards your tuition **or** have the amount desired separated into tuition and book money. *If you opt into separating your chosen amount this decision cannot be reversed.* Applicants must have the following completed: Must be an active and registered Tri-C student (current student photo ID and student ID number) and registered for classes for the semester of scholarship use. Students that receive FASFA-Pell and/or Ohio College Opportunity Grant (OCOG) must have **exhausted** those benefits before being considered for this scholarship. Check [www.tri-c.edu/veterans](http://www.tri-c.edu/veterans) to download a copy of the application, or stop by your respective campus Veterans Service Office. All applications will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

**Smartphone feature provides immediate access to Veterans Crisis Line:** The VA is excited to announce that service members and Veterans can connect to the [Veterans Crisis Line](#) using these simple words. The Siri function on Apple's iPhone and the Google Assistant function on Android phones now automatically dial the [National Suicide Prevention Lifeline](#) which also serves the Veterans Crisis Line, even if the number (1-800-273-8255) is not saved in the phone's contact list. **Callers will need to Press 1 in order to reach the Veterans Crisis Line.**

**Pets For Vets:** Pets For Vets is a program is designed to match Veterans in the Cleveland and surrounding communities who could benefit from having a companion animal, with local shelter dogs. Each dog is trained as a **companion dog** specifically to meet the needs of that individual Veteran. The main goal of the program main goal is to help our U.S. Military Veterans and at the same time, rescue our local shelter animals. It is a win-win for both of them!

Pets for Vets is a national organization founded in 2009. The organization was recently approved with its 501c3 designation to begin making matches as the only Cleveland Chapter! Currently they have 6 certified trainers (the average number of trainers in the 26 other national chapters is 4, so the group is starting off strong!), and we are hoping as time goes on, to find more trainers in order to facilitate more matches and grow the Cleveland chapter. All trainers must be approved by the National Offices and only 20% of those who apply are approved.

Each match consists of finding and training the dog specifically chosen for each individual Veteran, all veterinary care including neuter/spaying, microchipping and all vaccines and well care treatments as well as a complete welcome package provided to the Veteran on the day we hand the dog to them. The Veteran is supported every step of the way and once they have their dog, the Veteran will continue to be supported by the Pets for Vets organization as they become part of the Pets for Vets "family".

There is NO COST to the Veteran to receive his or her dog, however once they are given the dog, they do have to be able to financially support the dog and provide it with a safe and healthy home. Should the dog ever require major medical care (ie: diabetes or major surgery) which presents a financial burden for the Veteran, Pets for Vets will step in to support the cost so the Veteran does not have to give up the dog.

Please contact Joan Tiefel with any questions at [330.348.4000](tel:330.348.4000), or email: [cleveland-oh@petsforvets.com](mailto:cleveland-oh@petsforvets.com). Additionally, if you would like more information about the organization, please visit [www.petsforvets.com](http://www.petsforvets.com)

## **Employment Opportunities / Links**

[Department of Veterans Affairs Link with the VA on Facebook](#)

[City of Cleveland](#)

**Veteran Job Search Assistance:** If you know a Veteran or Military Spouse who could benefit from FREE, UNLIMITED job search coaching, please have them visit [www.gunnyret.com](http://www.gunnyret.com) to schedule a "First Call".

[Ohio National Guard Employment Enhancement Support:](#)

[VA JOBS Home](#)

[Ohio.gov](#)

[USAJobs](#)

[Veterans MilitaryJobs.com](#)

[Ohio Federal Government Jobs](#)

**FedVTE:** Spread the word to Veterans! In partnership with Hire Our Heroes, FedVTE is now accessible to US veterans.

Encourage veteran coworkers, colleagues, and friends to register at <https://hireourheroes.org/veterans-training>.

**Unsure of a career path? Check out Career Coach:** Create an Account, discover your interests, potential career stats, and career scopes in your local area that are adjacent degree paths with Tri-C programs. Make sure to check out the MOS option to see what your military skills transfer to in our programs.

**Additional Resources:** More links to resources of which you can take advantage...

[Scholarships for Military Spouses & Children](#)

[Student Loan Forgiveness: Joining the Military](#)

[VA Home Loan Calculator](#)

[The Ultimate Military Moving Guide for Your Next PCS](#)

[How to Help Your Child Cope When Your Spouse Has a Military Deployment](#)

[Jobs for Veterans: How to Find a Civilian Career](#)

[Resources for Military Families: A Path to Advocacy for Your Child](#)

[The Funeral Planning Guide for Veterans](#)

[Women Veteran Resources](#)

**VOLUNTEERISM:** Here are some great opportunities to put your military experiences to work benefiting others in need.

**National Park Service Volunteer Opportunities:** Make a vital contribution to Cuyahoga Valley National Park (CVNP) and our community! You can help the park fulfill its mission to provide visitor enjoyment and preserve resources. The mission of CVNP's Volunteers-in-Parks Program is to engage people in the park, building a community of park stewards. The volunteer program is co-managed by the National Park Service and the Conservancy for Cuyahoga Valley National Park. Depending on the volunteer position, volunteers will work with staff from National Park Service, the Conservancy for CVNP, Countryside Conservancy, and Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad.

<https://www.nps.gov/cuva/getinvolved/volunteer.htm>

<https://www.conservancyforcvnp.org/experience/volunteer/>

The **American Red Cross'** unwavering commitment to members of the U.S. military, its veterans and their families continues to grow and develop more than a century after Clara Barton first recruited nurses to support the U.S. Army. Today, the Red Cross is meeting the needs of a changing military and expanding services to veterans. Red Cross support of military members and their families enhances morale and contributes to increased operational capability in several ways. New volunteers: visit <https://redcross.org/neo> Click on "volunteer" tab.

**Cleveland Municipal Court's Veterans Treatment Docket** needs volunteers – preferably military veterans to help Veterans transition to a successful life. If you are interested in volunteering to help our veterans successfully re-enter civilian life, please contact Derek Moore at (216) 664-4712 or via email at [moored@cmcoh.org](mailto:moored@cmcoh.org) for additional information.

**Needed: 'A few good mentors': The Cuyahoga Common Pleas Veteran Treatment Court (VTC)** is a judge-monitored treatment program for military veterans. A key component of the program is volunteer Veteran Mentors who volunteer their time to help veterans re-adapt to civilian life. For more information visit: [https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B1NiwCZ\\_V-9iTF8wYXhqcE4yWm8/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B1NiwCZ_V-9iTF8wYXhqcE4yWm8/view?usp=sharing)

## Applying for Benefits

First-time users of educational benefits must complete the 22-1990 form at [www.vets.gov/education/apply/](http://www.vets.gov/education/apply/).

The VONAPP system (old 22-1990 site) still contains other important forms such as compensation, pension, vocational rehabilitation, employment, burial benefits, change in place/training and dependent application for VA benefits.

Do not use forms 22-1990N or 22-1990E to apply for Post 9/11 GI Bill, CH30 or CH1606. The 22-1990N is for National Call to Service only. The 22-1990E is for family members to use transferred benefits.

### CONTACTS:

VA Regional Office  
(St. Louis, MO)  
1-888-GIBILL-1  
(1-888-442-4551)

Direct Deposit Center  
1-877-838-2778

Enrollment Certification  
1-877-823-2378

## Military Transcripts

Be sure to have your transcripts evaluated to determine if you can receive academic credit for your military training. The process can take up to four weeks, so keep an eye on your Tri-C email for notification that your transcripts have been evaluated. A counselor and program manager will advise you on how credits can be applied to your specific degree. The primary contact for military transcripts is Chris Dorsten at 216-987-3664 or [chris.dorsten@tri-c.edu](mailto:chris.dorsten@tri-c.edu).

### Joint Services Transcript (JST):

Order your free official transcripts and review unofficial transcripts and summaries of equivalent credits. Register at <https://jst.doded.mil>.

### Air Force veteran?

Check out Air University at [www.airuniversity.af.mil/Barnes/CCAF/](http://www.airuniversity.af.mil/Barnes/CCAF/) to review various options for ordering your transcripts.



## Which Veterans Education Benefit Should I Use?

### DEPENDENT

- Chapter 33: Post 9/11 GI Bill
- Chapter 35: Dependents Educational Assistance

### VETERAN

- Chapter 30: Montgomery GI Bill (exhaust, then switch to Chapter 33)
- Chapter 31: Voc Rehab (Service-Connected Reability)
- Chapter 33: Post 9/11 GI Bill (cannot switch after applying)

PLEASE NOTE: The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs determines eligibility for veterans education benefits.

## STILL SERVING?

### ACTIVE DUTY

- Tuition Assistance

### RESERVIST OR NATIONAL GUARD

#### Deployment

- **ONGSP:** NG only (exhaust, then switch to Chapter 33)
- **Chapter 33:** Post 9/11 GI Bill (cannot switch after applying)
- **Chapter 1607:** REAP\*
- **Tuition Assistance**

#### No Deployment

- **ONGSP:** NG only (Montgomery GI Bill for Selected Reserves)
- **Chapter 1606**
- **Tuition Assistance**

\*REAP has been terminated for all applicants, with complete termination expected in November 2019.

Disclaimer: This is a visual aid and not an exhaustive explanation of benefits; nor does it include every possible scenario of benefits eligibility.





# Education Benefits Deadlines & Reminders

## Ohio National Guard Scholarship Program Application Deadlines:

November 1<sup>st</sup> for Spring Semester

April 1<sup>st</sup> for Summer Semester

July 1<sup>st</sup> for Fall Semester

CAC ONLY Access

Scholarship letter changes to another school?

NOBE issue? [see link](#) for NG contacts

## GI Bill Semester Certification Form Submission

**Dates:** Need to be submitted in advance to the academic start date of intent (typically 30 prior window).

### [GI Bill Semester Certification Form](#)

### Transferring benefits to another school?

#### [VA Form 22-1995](#)

#### But I am a dependent?

#### [VA Form 22-5495](#)

Make sure you turn these in to your certifier to report changes in class schedule, major, transferring from one school to another so you are certified correctly.

## VETERANS' SPECIAL EVENTS & NEWS

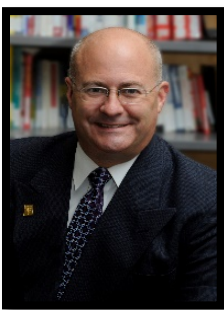
**2019 Cleveland National Air Show dates released, featuring U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds: August 31 through September 2, 2019**

<https://fox8.com/2019/01/04/2019-cleveland-national-air-show-dates-released-featuring-u-s-air-force-thunderbirds/>

**National Veterans Memorial & Museum in Columbus, Ohio**

For more go to: <https://clecityhall.files.wordpress.com/2018/09/nvmm-dedication-and-grand-opening.pdf>

That's all for now...



Signing off.... Sincerely,

*CDR Rick DeChant, (USCG, ret)  
Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame – 2017 Inductee  
Executive Director  
Veterans Initiative  
Cuyahoga Community College*