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ON POINT Newsletter

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Volume 1 Issue 2

January 20, 2018

N.C. Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA)

"Helping military families and veterans get the support and services they need."



Message from Secretary Larry Hall

Welcome to the first edition of the "ON POINT" newsletter for 2018. I hope the information provided will be beneficial to you and your networks. Please feel free to share with your family, friends and colleagues.

As always, thanks for your continued support for veterans & Happy New Year!

Secretary Larry D. Hall

2018 Federal Government Shutdown

At the time of this writing, the federal government is experiencing a partial shutdown as President Trump and Congress negotiate a spending plan for 2018. The full impact of the shutdown on the military, veterans and their families is uncertain as of now. However please know that our offices across the state remain open and we are available to assist you and your family as much as possible.

To learn more about the shutdown and the Department of Veterans Affairs shutdown contingency plan, visit the [Department of Veterans Affairs](#) site. If I or my staff can be of any assistance, please don't hesitate to contact me by email at larry.hall@milvets.nc.gov.

VA Announces New Veterans Identification Card (VIC)

The Dept. of Veterans Affairs (VA) has announced that it will provide national Veterans' Identification Cards (VIC) to veterans. The cards are now available for veterans who have provided honorable service to the nation. The new VIC will be a safe and convenient way for veterans to provide proof of service and no longer have to carry a paper DD-214. The VIC will allow honorably discharged veterans to obtain retail discounts as well as other services.

The card provides a convenient and secure alternative for those who served the minimum obligated time in service, but did not meet the retirement or medical discharge threshold.

To request a VIC visit [vets.gov](https://www.vets.gov), and click on "[Apply for Printed Veteran ID Card](#)". Veterans who apply for a card should receive it within 60 days of application.

Department of Defense, Homeland Security, and Veterans Affairs to Develop Mental Health Plan

This month President Trump signed an [executive order](#) on "Supporting our Veterans during their Transition from Uniformed Service to Civilian Life."

The order mandates new mental health options for recently separated service members, aimed at helping prevent veterans' suicides, and requires the Departments of Defense, Veterans Affairs (VA) and Homeland Security to establish new plans for seamless mental health care for services members leaving the military and includes more outreach to at-risk veteran populations.

VA Secretary Dr. David Shulkin has identified suicide as a top clinical priority, noting that individuals who have left the military within a year are almost twice as likely to commit suicide.

The order will take effect on March 9, 2018, giving the departments 60 days to iron out details and develop plans.

The full VA 2016 report on mental health can be found [here](#); state by state data [here](#).

N.C. Governors Working Group

The GOVERNOR'S WORKING GROUP on Veterans, Servicemembers and their Families (GWG) which is chaired by Secretary Larry Hall, is a referral and collaborative network linking decision makers, service providers, and military members (current and former) and their families together in a best-practices sharing environment.

GWG is charged with facilitating collaboration and coordination among federal, state, local, and non-profit partners who work with North Carolina's nearly 800,000 veterans and their families. The GWG has grown to become a nationally recognized forum and hosts monthly meetings, a newsletter, and website (<http://ncgwg.org>).

The next monthly meeting of the GWG will be on Thursday, January 25, 2018, from 2-4pm and will feature the Veterans Benefits Administration and the Veterans Health Administration. UNC-TV will host the meeting at their studio, 10 TW Alexander Drive, RTP 27616

If you are interested in attending the upcoming meeting, please register no later than **January 22**. To join the meeting by phone, call 1-800-767-1750, access code **47578**.

[Register Here](#)

UNC-TV WANTS YOU

Beginning Saturday, February 10 at 3:00pm, UNC-TV's Military and Veterans Affairs, with host Jeff Smith, is launching *Situational Report*, a weekly informational show for veterans, military members, and their families on the North Carolina Channel (Channel 4-4 over the air in the Triangle and channel 1276 on Time Warner/Spectrum). *Sit-Rep* will cover topics that are current for military and Veterans, mental health concerns, historic observances, VA questions and answers, and more.

We need everyone to contribute to the show by providing interviews and content that is important to the viewers. We encourage you to reach out throughout the year to the show so that this one-of-a-kind service can be provided across the State for our military and Veteran community. If you have ideas or suggestions for the show, contact Jeff Smith at jsmith01@unctv.org. [Click here for more information on the show.](#)

Picturing Nam: Traveling Exhibit Showcases Images Of Vietnam War

To commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Tet Offensive (launched in January of 1968), the North Carolina Museum of History will host a new exhibit called *Picturing Nam*. This traveling exhibit which is on loan from the National Archives, features hundreds of thousands of photographs taken by military photographers stationed in Vietnam to document American Armed Forces activities.

The exhibit is made possible by many organizations including the National Archives and Records Administration, the Lawrence F. O'Brien family, the Pritzker Military Museum and Library, AARP, the Museum of History Foundation and the Associates.

To learn more about the exhibit, [click here](#).

UPCOMING EVENTS

[NC4ME](#) Veterans Hiring Event: Tues, Jan 23, 2018 – Goodwill of Charlotte, Charlotte, NC – 9:00am - 2:00pm.

NC Military Advisory Commission Meeting ([NCMAC](#)): Tues, Feb 20, 2018 – NC Department of Insurance, Raleigh, NC – 12:30pm - 4:30 pm.

"In the Eye of the Storm: How Elder Abuse, Fraud and Exploitation are Fueled by the Opioid Epidemic": Wed, Feb 21, 2018 – Surf City Welcome & Visitors Center, Surf City, NC – 9:00am - 1:45pm. To register for this event call (910) 395-4553 ext. 205 or email jpadavich@capefearcog.org

UNC Charlotte Veterans Health Conference: Tues, Feb 27, 2018 – Popp Martin Student Union, Charlotte, NC – 8:00am - 4:30pm. [Register here](#).

SAVE THE DATE - DMVA Women Veterans Summit and Expo: Wed, May 2, 2018 Raleigh, NC – 8:00am - 4pm. More details to come. [Click here](#) for updates.

For questions or to contact DMVA, e-mail: angella.dunston@milvets.nc.gov

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