

## VA Announces Expanded Home Loan Eligibility for Certain National Guard Members

### FAMILY PROGRAMS, JSS

Guard troops who have served at least 90 days of qualifying Title 32 active duty service, including a stint of at least 30 days, will be newly eligible for VA Home loan. The expanded eligibility is applied retroactively, too. The eligibility expansion also means that periods of annual training orders — most of which are under section 503 of Title 32 — can count towards the VA loan, as long as the service member has completed at least one order of more than 30 days. For example, under the new law, a Guard member who has completed an 89-day Title 32 order

for coronavirus response — as some did, due to a political kerfuffle over extending Title 32 authorizations in summer 2020 — is eligible for the VA home loan benefit if they have completed even one day of annual training in their career.



To find out more please visit: <https://bit.ly/3fgGCwu>

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# Joint Services Support



# Cares

June  
2021

Joint Services Support.....Service When You Need It.....The Support You Expect!

## Whether it's a Tune-UP an Oil Change, or Possibly an Overhaul That Initial Call is all it Takes!

Last month was Mental Health Awareness month. I wanted to make sure that you are aware of the various mental health resources in your area. Vet Centers are located across the state, you can find your local Vet Center at [www.vetcenter.va.gov](http://www.vetcenter.va.gov) or at 1-877-927-8387.

Give An Hour offers free counseling in your local area with licensed mental health counselors, you can find a local provider at [www.giveanhour.org](http://www.giveanhour.org). Military One Source offers 24/7 counseling at 1-800-342-9647. In the JSS office there is a Mili-

tary Family Life Counselor, who can be reached at 253-310-1919. Military Family Life Counselors are located at each military installation across the state. You can also reach out to MEDCOM Behavioral Health or your unit Chaplain. Make sure you or your Family members take advantage of these many resources.

During Strong Bonds retreats I would tell couples that they all come for different reasons. Some need an oil change or a tune up. Others need an engine overhaul. Whichever one you

need, reach out today. The hardest part is making that initial phone call.



*Carl N. Steele*  
Carl N. Steele, Director-  
Joint Services Support





# Reaching the top is Only the Beginning

**"Empowering veterans to thrive in environments where most people merely attempt to survive"**



The Veterans Adventure Group is a 501c3 nonprofit organization whose mission is to empower veterans to find their next mission in life. They do this by building, training, and equipping small teams of veterans to thrive in extreme sports and environments. This supports their vision of building highly effective teams of veterans across the nation who can operate as teams independently in their extreme sport. These teams are also their solution to bridge the gap between veterans and civilians by inserting veterans in a likeminded civilian community centered around the extreme sport.

Aside from serving veterans through extreme sports, they also strive to break the "broken veteran" narrative. Although many veterans may have struggles related to their service, they

are not broken. Veterans Adventure Group wants to showcase veterans thriving in environments where most people merely try to survive. They do not advertise as a therapeutic, healing, or recovery program. Sure...their programs may provide this for many veterans, but their goal is instead to empower veterans to be the badassess they once were. They do not assume any veteran wishing to be involved is struggling as they refuse to strengthen the broken veteran image.

The Veterans Adventure Group offers a wide range of activities in numerous parts of the nation. They currently offer drag racing, skydiving, SCUBA, kite boarding, adaptive ski clinics, weekend lake retreats, caving, and mountaineering. One of their events is a yearly Mt. Rainier climb. They have been climbing

Mt. Rainier yearly and have grown from taking four veterans up the mountain in 2016 with current numbers now reaching 36 each year, with an 85% summit success rate! This is a three-day climb up the Disappointment Cleaver Route and consists of two nights tent camping at Camp Muir, a mountaineering school, and a summit attempt. They also do yearly climbs on Mt. Hood and Mt. Adams with future goals of running trips up the Grand Teton and North America's tallest peak, Denali.

As an all-volunteer staff, 100% of the donations go directly to support these veteran teams. Donations can be made through their Facebook page or the website at [www.veteransadventuregroup.org](http://www.veteransadventuregroup.org). If you are a veteran looking to get involved or would like to volunteer, please contact the Veterans Adventure group via Facebook or emailing [justin.m@veteransadventuregroup.org](mailto:justin.m@veteransadventuregroup.org).



## 6th Annual Mt. Rainier Climb

JUN 13 AT 8 AM PDT – JUN 19 AT 8 PM PDT

Mt Rainier National Park Event

by Veterans Adventure Group

Mt Rainier National Park

Price: Free · Duration: six days

This is the 6th year leading veterans up Mt. Rainier!

There are 36 slots, with three summit pushes.

June 13th to 15th

June 15th to 17th

June 17th to 19th

To learn more or become a volunteer contact

the Veterans Venture Group by visiting:

<https://veteransadventuregroup.org/>



## You Already Know How Much We Like You; Now, How About Liking Us!

## Like us on Facebook



When you like us on the Joint Services Support Facebook page, you'll get up-to-date content related to current event activities; access to need to know department information; posts of current event pictures; links to useful resources as they relate to each department's specialty, plus much, much MORE!

Simply click on the Facebook icon above, visit the JSS Facebook page and if you like what see, then by all means "Like Us"!

FREE training for all first responders, military, veterans and family members to learn about PTSD/PTSI and recovery.  
 Presented by: Deer Hollow Recovery & Wellness Centers-Hosted by: Washington National Guard & Tacoma-Pierce County Peer Support Team  
 Where: Camp Murray Building 91  
 When: Thursday, June 3rd 0800-1400  
 Simply "Click" The Flyer Below to Register

### Free PTSD/PTSI Training

open to all  
**First Responders, Military, Veterans & their Families**  
 Thursday, June 3rd 0800-1400  
 Camp Murray, WA Building #91

**Jared Nesary**  
  
 A Former Marine and retired Yakima Police Officer Jared Nesary will share his personal battle with PTSD and recovery. He will speak about the courage needed to reach out in his darkest hour that saved his career and his life.

**Matt Quackenbush, LMFT**  
  
 LMFT Matt Quackenbush has spent the last 15 years crafting a unique and powerful approach to trauma-focused therapy combining EMDR, CPT, MME, IPS and DBT. His discussion will include understanding PTSD/PTSI and how it affects us all.

**Amy Crawford**  
 PH.D, LMFT & Trauma Specialist  
  
 Amy Crawford has been in the field of mental health and addiction medicine for the last 15 years. Throughout this journey, trauma has become her passion and specialty. She has spent the majority of her career treating the invisible wounds of trauma in varied settings with a focus on Military Service Members and First Responders.



Although this is a free event, registration is required through eventbrite:  
<http://bit.ly/TraumaFocusedMHT2021>  
 Complementary lunch & social hour provided by: Deer Hollow Recovery & Wellness Centers.  
 For questions please contact:  
**Erin McMichael 253-512-1342**  
[erin.mcmichael.ctr@mail.mil](mailto:erin.mcmichael.ctr@mail.mil)  
 Bring your business card and enter to win a \$50 Visa gift card!

Presented by: Deer Hollow Recovery & Wellness Centers  
 Hosted by: Washington National Guard & Tacoma-Pierce County Peer Support Team.

## Virginia Mason Franciscan Health Awarded Patriot Award

As the COVID-19 pandemic spread across the United States, and the world, hospitals found themselves on the forefront in the fight against COVID-19. From suspending non-emergency surgeries, adding intensive care unit bed capacity, and developing Covid-19 units to isolate and treat patients with the virus while safeguarding the health of other patients and hospital staff, all of which required getting additional personal protective equipment, ventilators and therapeutic medications. At the same time hospitals were dealing with the pandemic, the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) also responded to the pandemic, which included one of the largest domestic mobilization of Reserve forces in history that included calling up Reserve medical professionals. These mobilizations, some with as little as 24 hours' notice, found medical professionals having to leave their community clinical practices or hospitals to support the national pandemic response. In recognition of the extraordinary support they provided their employees who serve in the Air Force Reserve and were deployed to support DoD COVID-19 operations, Virginia Mason Franciscan Health Assistant Nurse Managers Stephanie Brazil, Amy Hander, Leslie Pounds, and Julie Hamner were awarded the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Patriot Award.



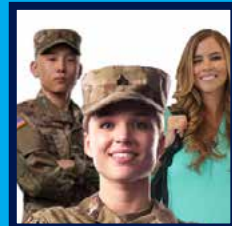
## We're Searching for the Career That's Right for You!

If there is one thing for certain, this last year has been full of surprises. Many of you may be on COVID-19 related orders that could be ending shortly as the world starts slowly returning to normal. Wondering what your next step should be? Work for Warriors can help! We hold a wide array of knowledge and can help steer you in

the direction of different kinds of trainings and certifications to expand your career choices. For example, Onward to Opportunity can provide funding for one industry certification exam in fields such as Human Resources and Information Technology. We can also assist in reviewing and offering guidance on your civilian and federal resume,



help target your resume to specific job listings, and even practice with mock interviews. Our goal is to make sure everyone is working in a career that they are happy with; don't hesitate to reach out to the Work for Warriors team and see what paths lay ahead in your future! Please reach out to the program lead Shannon Leacy with any inquiries at [shannon.l.leacy.ctr@mail.mil](mailto:shannon.l.leacy.ctr@mail.mil).



## Keeping You in the KNOW

### -Transition Assistance Management Program: (TAMP)

Many of our Families are missing out on the amazing resource. Don't let it be your Family! Did you know if you are on orders for more than 30 days, your entire Family is eligible to Tri-care for 180 days? Take your DD-214 in to your local DEERS office.

### -Joint Ready & Resilient Training

June 15-17, 2021 Camp Murray, WA  
 August 18-20, 2021 Yakima

The Joint Ready and Resilient training provides members with the tools, insight and resources to manage difficult situations that are a part of our daily lives. interested in attending? please contact the ARMY: R3SP Ms. Jennika Cardenas Email: [jennika.m.cardenas.civ@mail.mil](mailto:jennika.m.cardenas.civ@mail.mil)  
 AIR: DPH Mr. Gilberto Maldonado Email: [gilberto.maldonado@us.af.mil](mailto:gilberto.maldonado@us.af.mil)

### -Soldier and Family Readiness Group Searching for Volunteers

Do not hesitate to reach out if you're interested in Volunteering.  
 Training opportunities: Virtual  
 16 June: Soldier and Family Readiness Lead Training  
 17 June: Commander Training  
 If these dates don't work for you, we can do one on one training. Feel free to call 253-512-7869 or email [Deborah.f.discolo.civ@mail.mil](mailto:Deborah.f.discolo.civ@mail.mil)

## Useful Numbers

Jennika Cardenas R3SP  
 Program Coordinator  
 253-512-1357  
[jennika.m.cardenas.civ@mail.mil](mailto:jennika.m.cardenas.civ@mail.mil)  
<https://www.facebook.com/pg/JSSWA>  
 Call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (Veterans and Military Crisis Lines)

North America:  
 1-800-273-TALK (8255); Press 1

Online chat:  
<https://www.veteranscrisisline.net/get-help/chat>  
 or <https://suicidpreventionlifeline.org/chat>

Text: 838255

Family Programs After Hours:  
 800.364.7492



Angela Taylor, SHARP  
 WAARNG JFHQ State SARC  
 Program Manager  
 o: 253.512.1365  
[angela.c.taylor33.civ@mail.mil](mailto:angela.c.taylor33.civ@mail.mil)

Sean "Smitty" Smith  
 WAARNG JFHQ State,  
 Victim Advocate Coordinator  
 Camp Murray, WAANG  
 o: 253.512.7881  
[sean.m.smith166.civ@mail.mil](mailto:sean.m.smith166.civ@mail.mil)

WA State Hotline:  
 253.307.6483  
 24/7 DoD SAFE Helpline  
 1-877-995-5247  
[www.safehelpline.org](http://www.safehelpline.org)

4 If you are struggling with thoughts of suicide and need immediate assistance: Dial 911 (U.S.)