

## AUSA – Sixth Region – Military - VA Information by State

### Montana

#### **ARNG**

[MT National Guard](#) (406) 324-3006

#### **Branches of Service**

[MT State Directory](#)

#### **Employment Services**

[MT Dept. of Labor, Employee Relations Division](#)

(406) 444-2840

#### **FAC**

#### **Garrison**

##### **Air Force**

[Malmstrom AFB](#) (406) 731-1110

#### **Human Services**

[MT Dept. of Public Health and Human Services](#)

(406) 444-5622

#### **ISFAC**

#### **JFHQ**

1900 North Williams Street  
Fort Harrison, MT 59636-4789  
(406) 324-3239

#### **Military State Office**

[MT Office of Military Affairs](#)

(406) 324-3000

#### **Other Critical**

#### **State Dept. of Ed**

[MT Dept. of Public Education](#)

(406) 444-6576

#### **State Vocational Rehab**

[MT Vocational Rehabilitation Programs](#)

877-296-1197

#### **VA**

[State Directory](#)

[Regional Office](#) 800-827-1000

#### **VSO**

[MT Veterans' Affairs Office](#)

(406) 324-3740

# State of Montana

## Military Benefits Fact Sheet

**Summary:** Montana offers special benefits for its military service members and veterans including Property Tax Exemptions, Montana National Guard Tuition Scholarship Program, Education and Tuition Assistance, Point Preference or Alternative Preference in Initial Hiring, Vehicle Tags, as well as Hunting and Fishing License privileges. Eligibility for some benefits may depend on residency, military component and veteran disability status.

## State Benefit Highlights and Eligibility

### State Taxes:

**Retired Military Pay:** The first \$3,600.00 of retired military pay is exempt from income tax; Survivor benefits are taxed following federal tax rules.

### Military Disability Retired Pay:

Disability Portion - Length of Service Pay; Member on September 24, 1975 - No tax; Not Member on September 24, 1975 - Taxed, unless combat incurred. Retired Pay - Based solely on disability: Member on September 24, 1975 - No tax; Not Member on September 24, 1975 - Taxed, unless all pay based on disability and disability resulted from armed conflict, extra-hazardous service, simulated war, or an instrumentality of war.

**VA Disability Dependency and Indemnity Compensation:** Not subject to federal or state taxes

**Certain Disabled or Deceased Veterans' Residences Exempt:** A residence, including the lot on which it is built, that is owned and occupied by a veteran or a veteran's spouse is exempt from property taxation. Property qualifying under sub-section is taxed at the rate provided in Montana Code [15-6-134](#), (2) (a) multiplied by a percentage figure based on income and determined from the following table:

Income	Income	Percentage
Single Person	Married Couple	Multiplier
\$0 - \$30,000	\$0 - \$36,000	0%
\$30,001 - \$33,000	\$36,001 - \$39,000	20%
\$33,001 - \$36,000	\$39,001 - \$42,000	30%
\$36,001 - \$39,000	\$42,001 - \$45,000	50%

**Eligibility:** The veteran was killed while on active duty or died as a result of a service-connected disability; or if living, was honorably discharged from active service in any branch of the armed services; and is currently rated 100% disabled or is paid at the 100% disabled rate by the U.S. department of veterans affairs for a service-connected disability, as verified by official documentation from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. The property tax exemption under this section remains in effect as long as the property is the primary residence owned and occupied by the veteran or, if the veteran is deceased, by the veteran's spouse and the spouse:

(a) is the owner and occupant of the house;

(b) is unmarried; and

(c) has obtained from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs a letter indicating that the veteran was rated 100% disabled or was paid at the 100% disabled rate by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs for a service-connected disability at the time of death or that the veteran died while on active duty or as a result of a service-connected disability.

Property qualifying under subsection (3) is taxed at the rate provided in Montana Code [15-6-134](#), (2)(a) multiplied by a percentage figure based on income and determined from the following table (Montana Code [15-6-211](#)):

Income	Percentage
Surviving Spouse	Multiplier
\$0 - \$25,000	0%
\$25,001 - \$28,000	20%
\$28,001 - \$31,000	30%
\$31,001 - \$34,000	50%

**Education Benefits:**

**Montana National Guard Fee Waiver Account Program:** The Fee Waiver Account is a non funded program at this time.

**Eligibility:** The fee waiver account is for enlisted members of the Montana National Guard up to the grade of E-7. To be used at state supported schools only. Fee waiver account is for undergraduate studies only.

**Montana National Guard Scholarship Program:** Eligible applicants may receive up to \$1,200.00 per semester based on full-time student status on available funding.

**Eligibility:** National Guard members with less than 16 years service for pay and a 6-year service obligation.

**National Guard Tuition Assistance:** \$1450 per semester for a fulltime student (12 credits or more) attending a Montana State Institution of higher learning or VA approved Montana training program in an undergraduate/degree-granting program and having their Commander's recommendation.

**Eligibility:** National Guard service member.

**Fee Waiver for Children of Deceased Veterans:** Waiver of fees (depends on tuition at the school) These fee waivers are only available at: Montana State University at Billings, Bozeman, and Northern; the University of Montana at Missoula; Montana Tech of the University of Montana, the University of Montana College of Technology at Missoula; Western Montana College of the University of Montana; Montana State University College of Technology at Billings and Great Falls and Helena College of Technology of the University of Montana.

**Eligibility:** Children of Montana residents deceased from service in WWII, Korea, or Vietnam.

**Fee Waiver for Honorably Discharged Veterans:** Waiver of fees (depends on tuition at the school) These fee waivers are only available at: Montana State University at Billings, Bozeman, and Northern; the University of Montana at Missoula; Montana Tech of the University of Montana, the University of Montana College of Technology at Missoula; Western Montana College of the University of Montana; Montana State University College of Technology at Billings and Great Falls; and Helena College of Technology of the University of Montana.

**Eligibility:** Honorably discharged Montana residents who served during wartime and are ineligible for financial aid under federal laws.

**Dependents of POW/MIAs:** Waiver of fees (depends on tuition at the school) These fee waivers are only available at: Montana State University at Billings, Bozeman, and Northern; the University of Montana at Missoula; Montana Tech of the University of Montana, the University of Montana College of Technology at Missoula; Western Montana College of the University of Montana; Montana State University College of Technology at Billings and Great Falls; and Helena College of Technology of the University of Montana.

**Eligibility:** Dependent of MT resident who has been declared by SECDEF to be a POW, missing or captured in connection with the conflict in Southeast Asia after 1/1/91.

**Charges for Tuition:** The regents may prescribe tuition rates, matriculation charges, and incidental fees for students in institutions under their jurisdiction. The regents may waive nonresident tuition for selected and approved nonresident students, not to exceed at any unit 2% of the full-time equivalent enrollment at that unit during the preceding year; however, when necessary, tuition may be waived in excess of 2% of unit enrollment for nonresident students who enroll under provisions of any WICHE-sponsored state reciprocal agreements that provide for the payment, when required, of the student support fee by the reciprocal state.

**Eligibility:** Residents of Montana who served with the armed forces of the United States in any of its wars and who were honorably discharged from military service; children of residents of Montana who served with the armed forces of the United States in any of its wars and who were killed in action or died as a result of injury, disease, or other disability incurred while in the service of the armed forces of the United States; the spouses or children of residents of Montana who have been declared to be prisoners of war or missing in action; or the spouse or children of a Montana national guard member who was killed or died as a result of injury, disease, or other disability incurred in the line of duty while serving on state active duty. (Montana Code [20-25-421](#))

**Employment Benefits:**

**Point Preference or Alternative Preference in Initial Hiring:** Subject to the restrictions in subsections (2) and (3), whenever a public employer uses a scored procedure, an applicant for an initial hiring, as defined in Montana Code [39-30-103](#), must have added to the applicant's score the following percentage points of the total possible points that may be granted in the scored procedure:

(a) 5 percentage points if the applicant is a veteran; and

(b) 10 percentage points if the applicant is a disabled veteran or an eligible relative.

(2) A veteran, disabled veteran, or eligible relative may not receive the percentage points provided for in subsection

(1) unless the person:

(a) is a United States citizen; and

(b) meets the minimum qualifications required for the position. If no applicant meets the minimum qualifications and the public employer fills a training position, veterans' preference must be applied.

(3) A disabled veteran who receives 10 percentage points under subsection (1) (b) may not receive an additional 5 percentage points under subsection (1)(a).

(4) Whenever a public employer uses a selection procedure other than a scored procedure, the public employer shall give preference to a disabled veteran, eligible relative, or veteran, in that order, over any non-preferred applicant holding substantially equal qualifications, as defined in Montana Code [39-30-103](#).

**Eligibility:** A veteran, disabled veteran, or eligible relative. Montana Code [39-29-102](#)

**Employment Assistance:** Public employees receive 15 days military leave per year.

**Eligibility:** Public employee on orders for Annual Drill.

### **Special Vehicle License Plates:**

Active military personnel, veterans, or the surviving spouse of an eligible veteran, if the spouse has not remarried, may be issued special military or veteran license plates. Special military or veteran license plates may not be issued for a motorcycle, quadricycle, travel trailer, trailer, semi-trailer, or pole trailer. Special military or veteran license plates bearing a wheelchair as the symbol of a person with a disability may be issued to a person who meets the qualifications under [61-3-332\(9\)](#) and this section. Upon application, after paying all applicable motor vehicle, trailer, semi-trailer, or pole trailer registration fees and special license plate fees and providing an official certificate from the applicant's Unit Commander verifying the individual's eligibility and authorizing the department to issue the plates to the individual, eligible military personnel may be issued one set of special military license plates as provided in this subsection. (Montana Code [61-3-458](#))

**Montana National Guard Plate:** A member of the Montana National Guard who is a state resident may be issued special license plates with a design or decal displaying the letters " NG" . However, the member shall surrender the plates to the department when the member becomes ineligible.

**Reserve Armed Forces Plate:** A member of the reserve Armed Forces of the United States who is a state resident may be issued special license plates according to the member's branch of service verified in the application with a design or decal displaying one of the following: United States Army Reserve, AR (symbol); United States Naval Reserve, NR (anchor); United States Air Force Reserve, AFR (symbol); or United States Marine Corps Reserve, MCR (globe and anchor). However, the member shall surrender the plates to the department when the member becomes ineligible.

**Regular Armed Forces Plate:** An active member of the Regular Armed Forces of the United States who is a state resident may be issued special license plates inscribed with a symbol signifying the United States Army, United States Navy, United States Air Force, United States Marine Corps, or United States Coast Guard, according to the member's branch of service verified in the application. However, the member shall surrender the plates to the department upon becoming ineligible.

**Special Vehicle License Plates for Veterans and Spouses: Motor vehicle registration fee and veterans' cemetery fee waivers** - A person eligible is exempt from the veterans' cemetery fee provided in [61-3-459](#) for two sets of special veteran license plates and all motor vehicle registration fees imposed by this chapter for two motor vehicles that are not used for commercial purposes.

The following persons are eligible for the waiver provided in subsection: (a) a veteran who was a prisoner of war who presents official documentation from the U.S. department of defense verifying the veteran's status, or the veteran's surviving spouse, if the spouse has not remarried;

(b) a veteran who is currently rated 100% disabled or is paid at the 100% disabled rate by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs for a service-connected disability, as verified by official documentation from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, or the veteran's surviving spouse, if the spouse has not remarried;

(c) a veteran determined by the U.S. department of veterans affairs to be 50% or more disabled because of a service-connected injury and who has been awarded the Purple Heart, as verified by official documentation from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and the veteran's military service record issued by the U.S. Department of Defense, or the veteran's surviving spouse, if the spouse has not remarried, except that the veteran or the surviving spouse shall pay the veterans' cemetery fee as provided for in [61-3-459](#);

(d) the surviving spouse, if the spouse has not remarried, of a military service member killed while on active duty as verified in official documentation issued by the U.S. department of defense; and

(e) the surviving spouse, if the spouse has not remarried, of a military service member or veteran who died of a service-connected injury or disability as determined by and verified in official documentation from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. (Montana Code [61-3-460](#))

**Eligibility:** Upon application, after presenting proper identification and a department of defense form 214 (DD-214) or its successor or documents showing an other-than-dishonorable discharge or a reenlistment verifying the applicant's eligibility and paying the veterans' cemetery fee specified in [61-3-459](#) and all applicable motor vehicle, trailer, semi-trailer, or pole trailer registration fees under this chapter, subject to the provisions of [61-3-460](#), an eligible veteran must be issued any set and more than one set of the special license plates that the member requests and is eligible to receive. (Montana Code [61-3-458](#))

**Armed Forces Veteran Plate:** A veteran may be issued special license plates displaying the word " VETERAN" and a symbol signifying the United States Army, United States Navy, United States Air Force, United States Marine Corps, or United States Coast Guard, according to the veteran's service record verified in the application.

**National Guard Veteran Plate:** A member or a former member of the Montana National Guard eligible to receive a military retirement may be issued special license plates displaying the Montana National Guard insignia and the words " National Guard veteran" .

**Ex-Prison of War Plate:** A veteran who was captured and held prisoner by the military force of a foreign nation may be issued special license plates with a design or decal displaying the words " ex-prisoner of war" or an abbreviation that the department considers appropriate.

**Pearl Harbor Survivor Plate:** If the veteran was a member of the United States Armed Forces on December 7, 1941, and during the hours of 7:55 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. (Hawaii time) was on station at Pearl Harbor on the island of Oahu or was offshore from Pearl Harbor at a distance of not more than 3 miles, the veteran may be issued special license plates designed to show that the veteran is a survivor of the Pearl Harbor attack.

**Purple Heart Plate:** A veteran who has been awarded the Purple Heart may be issued special license plates with the Purple Heart decal displaying the words " combat wounded" .

**Legion of Honor Plate:** A person who is a member of the Legion of Valor may be issued special plates displaying a design or decal depicting the recognized Legion of Valor Medallion.

**Deceased Veteran Plate:** Upon request, after paying the veterans' cemetery fee provided in [61-3-459](#) and all applicable vehicle registration fees under this chapter, subject to the provisions of [61-3-460](#), the surviving spouse of an eligible veteran, if the spouse has not remarried, may retain the special license plates issued to the deceased veteran, except the special " DV" plates provided for under subsection (3)(b).

**100% Disabled Veteran:** A veteran may be issued special license plates displaying the letters " DV" , which entitles the veteran to the parking privileges allowed to a person with a special parking permit issued under Title 49, chapter 4, part 3, if the veteran has been awarded the purple heart and has been rated by the U.S. department of veterans affairs as 50% or more disabled because of a service-connected injury or is currently rated 100% disabled or is paid at the 100% disabled rate by the U.S. department of veterans affairs for a service-connected disability.

#### **Health and Insurance Benefits:**

**Medical Benefits:** Workers Compensation equivalent to State employees.

**Eligibility:** Injury or illness occurs while incurred in Line of Duty (LOD).

**Group Insurance:** Montana Officer/Enlisted Association members and Montana National Guard Association offers \$5,000.00/\$2.00 month; \$15,000.00/\$5.33 month; \$30,000.00/\$10.34 month; \$50,000.00/\$17.00 month. Insurance also offered for family members.

**Eligibility:** Member of Army/Air National Guard.

**Workers Compensation:** Workers Compensation equivalent to State employees.

**Eligibility:** Injury occurs while serving on State Active Duty.

**Injury/Death Benefits:** Workers Compensation equivalent to State employees less any VA payments received.

**Eligibility:** Injury/Death occurs while serving on State Active Duty.

#### **Hunting and Fishing Licenses:**

**Hunting and Fishing Privileges:** Persons with disabilities are entitled to fish and to hunt game birds, not including turkeys, with only a conservation license. A person who is certified as disabled pursuant to subsection and who was issued a permit to hunt from a vehicle for license year 2000 or a subsequent license year is automatically entitled to a permit to hunt from a vehicle for subsequent license years if the criterion for obtaining a permit does not change. A resident of Montana who is certified as disabled by the department and who is not residing in an institution may purchase a Class A-3 deer A tag for \$6.50 and a Class A-5 elk tag for \$8. A resident of Montana who is certified by

the department as experiencing blindness, as defined in [53-7-301](#), may be issued a lifetime fishing license for the blind upon payment of a one-time fee of \$10. The license is valid for the lifetime of the blind individual and allows the licensee to fish as authorized by department rule. An applicant for a license under this subsection need not obtain a wildlife conservation license as a prerequisite to licensure. A person who is certified by the department as experiencing blindness, as defined in [53-7-301](#), may be issued regular resident deer and elk licenses, in the manner provided in subsection (2), and must be accompanied by a companion, as provided in subsection. A Montana resident who is a member of the Montana national guard or the federal reserve as provided in 10 U.S.C. 10101 or who was otherwise engaged in active duty and who participated in a contingency operation as provided in 10 U.S.C. 101(a)(13) that required the member to serve at least 6 months outside of the state, upon request and upon presentation of the documentation described in subsection (12)(b), must be issued a free resident wildlife conservation license or a Class AAA resident combination sports license, which may not include a bear license, for \$29.00, plus the resident hunting access enhancement fee provided for in [87-2-202\(3\)\(c\)](#), in the license year that the member returns from military service or in the year following the member's return, based on the member's election, and in the license year after the member's election. A member who participated in a contingency operation between September 11, 2001, and February 28, 2006, that required the member to serve at least 6 months outside of the state may make an election in 2006 or 2007 and be entitled to a free resident wildlife conservation license or a \$25.00 Class AAA resident combination sports license in the year of election and the license year after the member's election.

**Eligibility:** They are residents of Montana not residing in an institution and are certified as disabled as prescribed by departmental rule. To be eligible for the free resident wildlife conservation license or reduced-rate Class AAA resident combination sports license provided for in subsection (12)(a), an applicant shall, in addition to the written application and proof of residency required in [87-2-202\(1\)](#), provide to any regional department office or to the Department Headquarters in Helena, by mail or in person, the member's DD form 214 verifying the member's release or discharge from active duty. The applicant is responsible for providing documentation showing that the applicant participated in a contingency operation as provided in 10 U.S.C. 101(a)(13). (Montana Code [87-2-803](#))

#### **Miscellaneous Benefits:**

**Mileage Reimbursement:** Reimbursement for automobile mileage at approved Joint Travel Regulation rates.

**Eligibility:** National Guard service member while serving on State Active Duty.

**Veterans' Clubhouse Exemption -- Incompetent Veterans' Trusts:** A clubhouse or building erected by or belonging to any society or organization of honorably discharged United States military personnel that is used primarily for educational, fraternal, benevolent, or purely public charitable purposes rather than for gain or profit, together with the personal property necessarily used in the building, is exempt from taxation. The exemption provided for in this section applies even if a business, intended primarily for the use of the members, is required to be open to the public and is operated in a portion of the building. All property, real or personal, in the possession of legal guardians of incompetent veterans of U.S. military service or minor dependents of the veterans, when the property is funds or derived from funds received from the United States as pension, compensation, insurance, adjusted compensation, or gratuity, is exempt from all taxation as property of the United States while held by the guardian, but not after title passes to the veteran or minor in the minor's own right on account of removal of legal disability. (Montana Code [15-6-203](#))

**Interment Allowance for Veterans:** The veterans' interment supervisor shall cause to be decently interred the body or cremated remains. In performing this duty, the veterans' interment supervisor shall ensure that the desires of the veteran's personal representative or heirs are not violated. The veterans' interment supervisor may not receive any compensation for duties performed. The sum not to exceed \$250.00 to defer interment expenses must be paid by the veteran's county of residence. The veterans' interment supervisor shall, upon request of the deceased veteran's personal representative or heirs, assist in applying to the proper authority for a suitable headstone, as provided by act of congress, and in placing the headstone on the veteran's grave. The reimbursement costs for the shipping and raising of the headstone may not exceed an amount equal to the actual cost paid, up to \$70, and must be paid by the veteran's county of residence at the time of death.

**Eligibility:** Any veteran who was a resident of the state of Montana at the time of death. The interment benefits are not available in the case of a veteran whose personal representative or heirs waive the benefits. (Montana Code [10-2-501](#))

**Recording of Discharges:** Veterans receive free recording and copies of discharge papers by clerks of the court.

**Eligibility:** Military veteran with DD214.

## Military Installations and Veterans Affairs Facilities in Montana

### **Active Duty:**

#### **Army**

No active duty Army installations are located in Montana.

#### **Air Force**

Malstrom Air Force Base: <http://www.malmstrom.af.mil/>

[Malstrom](#) AFB provides services for DEERs enrollment and Military ID cards. Additional services also include a Base Exchange, Commissary, Medical and Dental Facilities, Family Services and many more.

#### **National Guard:**

Montana National Guard Joint Headquarters: <http://dma.mt.gov/default.asp>

Montana Army National Guard: <http://www.montanaguard.com/RR%20benefits.html>

Montana Air National Guard: <http://www.mtgrea.ang.af.mil/>

#### **United States Army Reserve (USAR):**

Regional Readiness Command (RRC) Headquarters, 96<sup>th</sup> RRC: <http://www.usarc.army.mil/96thrc/>

### **Veterans Administration (VA) Medical Facilities in Montana:**

#### **VA Medical Center**

Fort Harrison: [VA Montana Health Care System](#)

#### **Community Based Outpatient Clinics**

Anaconda: [Anaconda Outpatient Clinic](#)

Ashland: [Lame Deer VA Clinic](#)

Billings: [Billings Outpatient Clinic](#)

Bozeman: [Bozeman Outpatient Clinic](#)

Glasgow: [Glasgow Outpatient Clinic](#)

Great Falls: [Great Falls Outpatient Clinic](#)

Kalispell: [Kalispell Outpatient Clinic](#)

Miles City: [Miles City Outpatient Clinic / Nursing Home](#)

Missoula: [Missoula Outpatient Clinic](#)

Sidney: [Sidney Outpatient Clinic \(Montana\)](#)

## Resources

[Montana Code Annotated 2005](#)

<http://www.dphhs.mt.gov/index.shtml>

<http://education.military.com/Education/Content?file=ncenplns.htm%23Montana>

<http://www.dma.mt.gov/mvad/functions/state.asp>

[http://www.qbill.va.gov/Vet\\_info/statengaid.htm%23Montana](http://www.qbill.va.gov/Vet_info/statengaid.htm%23Montana)

<http://www.goang.com/benefits/state/default.aspx?stateprovince=Montana>

<http://www1.va.gov/directory/guide/home.asp?isFlash=1>

<http://www.defenselink.mil/specials/outreachpublic/mt.html>