

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

## Washington

### ARNG

[WA State National Guard](#)  
(253) 512-8000

### Branches of Service

[WA State Agencies](#)

### Employment Services

[WA Labor Relations Office](#)  
(360) 725-5154

### FAC

### Garrison

#### Air Force

[Fairchild AFB](#) (509) 247-1212

[McChord AFB](#) (253) 982-1110

[Army](#)

[Fort Lewis](#) (253) 967-1110

#### Navy

[NAS Whidbey Island](#) (360) 257-2211

[NS Bremerton](#) (360) 476-3711

[NS Everett](#) (425) 304-3000

[NSB Bangor](#) (360) 396-4840

### Human Services

[WA State Dept. of Health](#)  
800-525-0127

### ISFAC

### JFHQ

Building 33  
Camp Murray  
Tacoma, WA 98430  
(253) 512-7600  
Cell: (252) 359-5292  
Toll Free: (800) 364-7492

### Military State Office

[WA Military Dept.](#) (253) 512-8000

### Other Critical

### State Department of Education

[WA State Board of Education](#)  
(360) 725-6025

### State Vocational Rehabilitation

[Washington State Division of Vocational Rehabilitation](#)  
800-637-5627

### VA

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

### VSO

[WA State Dept. of Veterans' Affairs](#)  
800-562-2308

# State of Washington

## Military Benefits Fact Sheet

**Summary:** Washington offers special benefits for its military service members and veterans including property tax exemptions, state employment preferences, education and tuition assistance, 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:**

**State Tax Advantage:** None

**Property Tax Exemption:** The Senior Citizen and Disabled Person Property Tax Exemption Program freezes the value of your residence, exempts all excess levies, and may exempt a portion of regular levies. This results in: 1) freezing the value of your residence as of January 1, 1995, or January 1 of the initial application year, whichever is later; 2) providing you with a reduction in your property taxes. The assessor will continue to establish the market value of the property; however, you will only be billed for the taxes on the frozen value.

**Eligibility:** Must be a veteran with a 100 percent service connected disability. Your application must include proof of your age or disability. [http://dor.wa.gov/Docs/Pubs/Prop\\_Tax/SeniorExempt.pdf](http://dor.wa.gov/Docs/Pubs/Prop_Tax/SeniorExempt.pdf)

### **Education Benefits:**

**Loan Forgiveness Program:** The state of Washington will forgive education loans for recipients who complete contracted term of service in the Washington National Guard.

**Eligibility:** Honorable Discharge from National Guard

**Tuition Assistance:** Washington tuition may be waived on all or a portion of tuition and fees on a space available basis.

**Eligibility:** Member of National Guard.

### **Employment Benefits:**

**Employment Assistance:** State employee receives 15 days military leave per year.

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

**Employment Preference:** Veterans may receive preferential scoring criteria status in competitive examinations for public employment.

**Eligibility:** Must be a veteran with Honorable Discharge.

**Reemployment and Layoff Rights:** Veterans are protected by State laws pertaining to returning veterans. There is a 90-day limit after date of discharge. Please call the US Department of Labor – VETS, 1-866-487-2365 or Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, 1-800-336-4590.

**Eligibility:** Army Reserve or National Guard service members who were activated either for Federal or State service.

**Military Retirement Credit:** Washington State Department of Retirement Systems offers military retirement credit to qualified public employees. 1-800-547-6657

**Eligibility:** Military Retiree; <http://www.drs.wa.gov/Member/Publications/Military/wsprsMillInterruptive.htm>

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

**Special Vehicle License Plates:** Washington State Department of Licensing offers six Armed Forces License Plates for honorably discharged veterans, active duty military, Reservists, and National Guard. In addition, it offers several distinctive license plates for veterans, to include Former Prisoners of War, Medal of Honor, Purple Heart and Pearl Harbor Survivors as well as free license plates for 100% service connected disability. All services have a plate offered for a fee too include the National Guard.

**Eligibility:** Service member must provide DD214 when applying for special plates. Veterans rated at 100% disabled must present VA documentation as proof of disability.

**Former Prisoners of War:** A qualified prisoner of war may receive an exemption from license fees on one vehicle each year. Special plates are available with a permanent registration to qualified recipients.

**Eligibility:** Those who qualify for free licensing: have received an honorable discharge - or received a discharge for physical reasons with an honorable record, have been captured or incarcerated for more than 29 days by an enemy of the United States during a period of war with the United States, or are the surviving spouse of a deceased former prisoner of war. A surviving spouse of a former prisoner of war may be issued a regular or special license plate even if the deceased had not been issued a plate.

**Disabled Veteran:** Certain disabled American veterans may be exempt from license fees on one vehicle each per year. A permanent registration is issued with these special plates.

**Eligibility:** Applicants need to have served in any branch of the armed forces of the United States, Reserves, or National Guard, and received: an honorable discharge - or - received a discharge for physical reasons with an honorable record, and A 100% service connected disability rating from the Veteran's Administration or the military service from which the veteran was discharged.

**Medal of Honor:** Washington residents who have received the Congressional Medal of Honor may receive a license plate representing that award. You must submit proof from the Department of Veteran Affairs that you have received the Congressional Medal of Honor.

**Eligibility:** Obtain letter of eligibility from Dept. of Veteran's Administration verifying that you have received the Congressional Medal of Honor. Complete a [Military License Plate Application](#) Mail the completed application with letter of eligibility to:

*ATTN: Special License Plate Unit  
Department of Licensing  
PO Box 9043  
Olympia, WA 98507-9909*

**Purple Heart:** Any person who was issued the Purple Heart from any branch of the US Armed Forces, including the Merchant Marines, may be issued a special set of license plates indicating that they were injured in one of this nation's wars or conflicts.

**Eligibility:** Be a Washington resident, have been wounded in combat during one of this nation's wars or conflicts, have been awarded a Purple Heart as evidenced by Armed Forces documentation (such as a DD-214), and be an owner, co-owner, lessee or co-lessee of the vehicle the Purple Heart plate will be issued to.

**Pearl Harbor Survivors:** Washington residents who are Pearl Harbor survivors are eligible to apply for Pearl Harbor survivor license plates.

**Eligibility:** Be a Washington resident, have been a member of the US Armed Forces on December 7, 1941, have been on station on December 7, 1941 during the hours of 7:55am and 9:45am (Hawaii time) at Pearl Harbor, or the island of Oahu, or offshore at distance not to exceed three miles, have received an honorable discharge from the US Armed Forces, or received a discharge for physical or medical reasons with an honorable record, and Be certified by a Washington state charter of the Pearl Harbor Survivor's Association as satisfying the qualifications above.

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

**Medical Benefits:** Medical and hospital coverage equivalent to Worker's Compensation.

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

**Group Insurance:** National Guard Association offers a variety of life, vehicle, medical and dental insurance at low cost.

**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:** Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife offers reduced licensing fees.

**Eligibility:** Qualified disabled veterans rated 30% service connected or more.

#### **Miscellaneous Benefits:**

**Recording of Discharges:** County Clerks will provide free recording of the official discharge of each veteran who served in the U.S. Armed Forces, as a confidential record.

**Eligibility:** Military veteran with DD214.

**State and National Park Passes:** Washington State Parks and Recreation offers reduced and/or free passes. For State Park Passes, call 360-902-8500. For National Park Passes call 1-888-467-2757.

**Eligibility:** Qualified disabled veterans rated 30% service connected or more.

**Reduced Public Transportation Fees:** Washington State Ferries and local participating transit authorities, offer disabled veteran passengers travel at a reduced rate. Please contact your local transit authority for more information. For reduced ferry rate information, please contact the WA State Ferries at 206-515-3460.

**Eligibility:** Disabled veteran passengers.

**Post Traumatic Stress Disorder Counseling:** WDVA provides an outreach/counseling program to veterans with war-era and PTSD-related problems. For more information, please call 1-800-562-2308.

**Eligibility:** All honorably discharged veterans and family members – including WWII, Korea, Vietnam and the various recent periods of conflict and peace-keeping operations – are eligible for counseling.

**Homeless Veterans Reintegration Project:** WDVA provides an individually designed case management plan to help homeless veterans find employment and offers assistance with housing, food, transportation, and employment support services. For more information, please call: 1-800-562-2308

**Eligibility:** Military veterans

**Veterans Estate Management Program:** WDVA acts as fiduciary/payee for veterans and their family members incapable of managing their own financial affairs. The program ensures basic needs such as housing, food, clothing and medical care are provided. For more information, please call: 1-800-562-2308

**Eligibility:** Military veterans

**State Veterans Homes:** WDVA operates three long-term nursing and assisted-living care homes in Orting, Retsil, and Spokane. (Spokane provides long-term nursing care only.) For more information, please call: 1-877-838-7787

**Eligibility:** Honorably discharged veterans

## **Military Installations and Veterans Affairs Facilities in Washington**

### **Active Duty:**

#### **Army**

Ft Lewis: <http://www.lewis.army.mil/>

Provides services for DEERS enrollment, ID cards, and has a PX and base Commissary.

#### **Navy**

Naval Air Station (NAS) Whidbey Island: <http://www.naswi.navy.mil/pao/index.htm>

Naval Base Kitsap—Bangor and Naval Base Kitsap—Bremerton: <https://www.nbk.navy.mil/index.asp>

Naval Station (NAVSTA) Everett: <http://www.navylifepnw.com/site/147/Default.aspx>

#### **Air Force**

Fairchild Air Force Base (AFB): <http://public.fairchild.af.mil/>

McChord AFB: <http://public.mcchord.af.mil/>

### **National Guard:**

**Washington National Guard:** <http://www.washingtonguard.com/HRO.htm>

Washington Army National Guard <http://www.washingtonarmyguard.com/>

Washington Air National Guard <http://www.washingtonairguard.com/>

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

**Regional Readiness Command (RRC) Headquarters, 70<sup>th</sup> RRC:**

<http://www.armyreserve.army.mil/USARC/RRC/0070RRC>

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

**VA Medical Centers**

Seattle: [VA Puget Sound Health Care System](#)

Spokane: [Spokane VA Medical Center](#)

Tacoma: [VA Puget Sound HCS American Lake Division](#)

Vancouver: [Portland VA Medical Center - Vancouver Campus](#)

Walla Walla: [Jonathan M. Wainwright Memorial VA Medical Center](#)

**Integrated Clinical Facility**

Yakima: [Yakima Mental Health Outreach Clinic](#)

**Community Based Outpatient Clinics**

Bellevue: [Factoria CBOC](#)

Bremerton: [Bremerton Outpatient Clinic](#)

Federal Way: [UW Physicians Federal Way Clinic](#)

Kent: [Kent CBOC](#)

Richland: [Richland Outpatient Clinic](#)

Seattle: [UW Physicians Shoreline Clinic](#)

Woodinville: [UW Physicians Woodinville Clinic \(Seattle\)](#)

Yakima: [Yakima Outpatient Clinic](#)

**Resources**

<http://1800goguard.com/WA/index.html>

[http://www.1800goguard.com/money/money\\_state.html](http://www.1800goguard.com/money/money_state.html)

<http://fortress.wa.gov/esd/portal/employment/veterans> <http://www.dva.wa.gov/>

<http://www.retirementliving.com/RLstate3.html#WASHINGTON>