

State Veteran's Affairs (VA) Bonuses to Servicemembers For the Afghanistan/Iraq Theatre

Fort Sam Houston Legal Assistance

Due to the current conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan, a handful of state Veteran's Affairs offices are offering a one time bonus to eligible servicemembers that have served during specified times. Generally, in order to be eligible, you must have lived in the state immediately prior to your service in the combat theatre. However, this is only a thumb rule, and there are other restrictions on eligibility. There are some states that may still offer bonuses for prior conflicts. Contact your state VA office for more details. Below is a current list of the states that offer such bonuses, with contact information:

N. Hampshire: Global War on Terrorism Operations Service Bonus of \$100. Must have served on or after 11 SEP 01 and earned the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal. The program ends on 11 JUN 09, but there are provisions that allow for acceptance of applications after that date. For questions concerning these benefits, contact the State Veterans Council at 275 Chestnut Street Room 321, Manchester, NH 03103-2411 or telephone (603) 624-9230 or 1-800-622-9230 (in NH only). Applications may also be found on the internet at: <http://www.nh.gov/nhveterans/bene.html>

South Dakota: All active duty between the dates of 11 SEP 01 through a date to be determined qualify for a bonus payment. Application forms may be obtained by writing to: SD Veterans Bonus, 500 E. Capital, Pierre, SD 57501 or by calling 605.773.4656. A form may be requested by e-mail by writing to john.fette@state.sd.us. Be sure to include your name, street, or P.O. Box number, city, state, and zip code.

West Virginia: Servicemembers who served in a combat zone and received a campaign badge or expeditionary medal are eligible for a \$600 bonus. Servicemembers who had active service outside a combat zone during the time specified for Afghanistan and Iraq are connected with service and resulted from service during the time periods specified. Servicemembers who served in WWI, WWII, Korea, and Vietnam may also be eligible. Applications are available by mail at: West Virginia Division of Veterans Affairs, 1321 Plaza East Suite 101, Charleston, WV 25301 or by calling 1-888-838-2332 (within WV), 304.558.3661 (outside WV) or by email at WVDVA@state.wv.us. Applications may also be downloaded at: <http://www.wvs.state.wv.us/va/forms.htm>

Many state legislatures may choose to add a bonus payment for their state in the future. More information and a link to state VA websites may be found at the Department of Veterans Affairs website at: <http://www.va.gov/statedva.htm>, or by calling your state VA office listed under government agencies in your phonebook.