



Congress of the United States House of Representatives

Greetings:

Your congressional office has created this Veterans Resource Directory to provide a quick guide to the array of government services available to assist veterans, military personnel, and their families in the Northern Mariana Islands. In these pages you will find information covering federal and Commonwealth programs ranging from health, education and employment, to counseling, housing, transportation, and more.

As a nation and as a community, we value the sacrifices and service of our veterans, military personnel, and their families, and we continually look for ways to demonstrate our gratitude. This includes supporting our military personnel and their loved ones during active service and times of crisis. This also includes easing the transition of our warriors back to civilian and community life, once military service has ended. And this includes helping our veterans, service members, and their families access the quality benefits and care they deserve.

The publication of this guide is a step toward these ends. Better access to services begins with awareness that these services exist, and how they can address the unique needs of each veteran, service member, or family member.

We hope this guide is useful to you. Please contact your congressional office if you have any questions at all. We are here to help.

Sincerely,

GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLAN Member of Congress

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Office of U.S. Congressman Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan

Susupe, ICT II Building 4 PO BOX 504879 Saipan, MP 96950 670 323-2647 (Saipan) 670 433-2647 (Tinian) 670 532-2647 (Rota) 202 225-2646 (Washington, DC) 877 446-3466 (Toll Free)

https://sablan.house.gov

The congressional office provides individualized constituent services for veterans seeking assistance in obtaining military service or health records, following up on pension, medical, educational, or other veterans benefits claims, recovering service medals earned, and resolving other issues with federal agencies. The congressional office also collects the first-hand accounts of Marianas veterans for inclusion in the Library of Congress' Veterans History Project, and coordinates outreach programs to connect veterans with resources and services.



U.S. Army Reserve, Family Programs

Puerto Rico, U.S. Army Reserve Center PO BOX 501490 Saipan, MP 96950 670 322-6672 / 670 322-6680 www.arfp.org

The Army Reserve Family Programs provide relevant and responsive support services to soldiers, family members, command teams and civilians throughout the geographically dispersed Army Reserve community, including the Northern Mariana Islands. Through Fort Family Outreach and Support Center (1-844-ONE-FAMY), ARFP is able to respond, connect, refer or provide quality-of-life programs, services and resources 24/7, 365 days a year at any time, from anywhere, for needs that include temporary housing, emergency funds, disaster relief, debt management, emergency home repair, separation or coping issues, and more.

U.S. Department of Defense, Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve

430 Army Drive Bld 700, Rm 126, Barrigada, GU 96913

671 735-0456

www.esgr.mil/About-ESGR/Contact/Local-State-Pages/Guam.aspx



ESGR educates service members and their civilian employers about their rights and responsibilities under the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights of Act of 1994 (USERRA). The office advocates for employer support for Guard and Reserve members and serves as a neutral, free resource in resolving conflict between employers and service members.

U.S. Department of Agriculture

DY Building, Beach Road South Garapan PO BOX 5082-CHRB Saipan, MP 96950

670 233-3415

https://www.usda.gov/our-agency/initiatives/veterans/veterans-and-entrepreneurship



As a veteran, you may find it challenging to determine what to do after military service, and to figure out how your experience can transfer to other career fields. USDA wants you to know that your experience and skillset can immediately and directly transfer to the field of agriculture. New and Beginning Farmers are veterans who are part of the community of beginning farmers and are therefore eligible for programs to help start – and continue – a career in farming. USDA can help veterans transition into farming, ranching, and other agricultural opportunities by connecting you with financial, educational and training resources, and business planning support. Resources include:

- Agricultural Conservation Easement Program
- Crop Insurance
- Environmental Quality Incentives Program
- Farm Loan Program

- Noninsured Crop Disaster
 Assistance Program
- SCORE
- Texas A&M's AgriLife Extension Service
- <u>Transition Incentives</u> <u>Program</u>

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Veterans Benefits Administration

430 Army Drive Bld 700, Rm 126, Barrigada, GU 96913 **671 735-0456**

www.esgr.mil/About-ESGR/Contact/ Local-State-Pages/Guam.aspx

The VBA conducts periodic outreach visits in the Northern Marianas to answer benefits questions and assist eligible veterans and family members in processing and following up on their benefits claims. These benefits include VA compensation, education and career training, vocational rehabilitation and employment, home loans, life insurance, pension, and transition assistance. To research, apply for, and manage VA and military benefits online, visit www.ebenefits. va.gov, a free web-based portal for veterans, service members, and their families. Veterans must be listed in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) and obtain a DS Logon to access eBenefits.

Support for Caregivers

The VBA has two programs for caregivers:

The Program of General Caregiver Support Services (eligible Veterans all eras)- Provides resources, education and support to caregivers of Veterans. The Veteran does not need to have a service-connected condition, for which the caregiver is needed, and may have served during any era. No formal application is required.

Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers (eligible post-9/11 Veterans)- For eligible Veterans who have incurred or aggravated a serious injury in the line of duty on or after September 11, 2001. This program provides resources, education, support, a financial stipend, and health insurance (if eligible), beneficiary travel (if eligible), to caregivers of eligible Veterans.

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Veterans Health Administration

VHA and Saipan Outreach Clinic
Puerto Rico, Marina Heights Building II,
Suites 100 (clinic) and 206 (office)
PO BOX 500938 Saipan, MP 96950
670 323-9000 (clinic)
670 322-0035 (VHA office)

www.va.gov/health

The VHA office on Saipan enrolls eligible Northern Marianas veterans in VA healthcare, schedules appointments with the VA Saipan Outreach Clinic and visiting specialists, and coordinates mental health and telehealth services. The VHA office is open from 7:30am – 4:00pm, Monday through Friday. The outreach clinic provides primary care and is open from 8:30am – 4:00pm, Monday through Friday. To access and manage their personal VA health records online as well as information and tools to improve their health, veterans may register for My HealtheVet at myhealth.va.gov. In addition to providing veterans with online access to their VA health records, My HealtheVet allows veterans to communicate with their VA health provider, request and track prescription deliveries, record personal health information, and access a comprehensive Health Education Library.

Other useful VA health sites include:

- mentalhealth.va.gov (for mental health resources)
- womenshealth.va.gov (for women veterans)
- <u>caregiver.va.gov</u> (for caregivers)



VA MISSION Act

The MISSION Act gives Veterans greater access to health care in VA facilities and the community, expands benefits for caregivers, and improves VA's ability to recruit and retain the best medical providers.

Community Care Program

Through the Community Care Program established by the MISSION Act, the VA provides health care for Veterans from providers in the local community outside of VA. Veterans may be eligible to receive care from a community provider when VA cannot provide the care needed. This care is provided on behalf of and paid for by VA.

Community care is available to Veterans based on certain conditions and eligibility requirements, and in consideration of a Veteran's specific needs and circumstances. Community care must be first authorized by the VA before a Veteran can receive care from a community provider.

Expanding Benefits for Caregivers

As part of the VA MISSION Act, the VA is working to give more family caregivers access to the VA's Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers so that caregivers can be supported as they provide care for Veterans of all eras.

As of June 2020, this program is only available to eligible Veterans injured in the line of duty on or after September 11, 2001. The VA is currently not accepting applications for Veterans of other eras. Once the Secretary has certified that the VA's new caregiver information technology system is fully implemented, the VA will be expanding eligibility to the Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers. Once the system is certified, the VA will begin accepting applications in 2 phases:

- First, family caregivers of Veterans who were seriously injured in the line of duty on or before May 7, 1975, will become eligible for this program.
- After 2 years, family caregivers of Veterans who were seriously injured in the line of duty between May 7, 1975, and September 10, 2001, will become eligible.

CNMI Veterans Affairs Office

Capitol Hill, Building #1364 Anatahan Drive PO BOX 503416 Saipan, MP 96950 **670 664-2650/1 or 670 664-2660**



The CNMI Office of Veterans Affairs coordinates with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to assist veterans and their family members with benefits claims, including compensation. The office also serves as a resource for information and referrals for veterans and military families seeking assistance with employment, healthcare, social services, or other issues. Additionally, the office manages the CNMI Veterans Cemetery and coordinates burials for those who have served in the U.S. armed forces, and their immediate relatives. The office also organizes the annual Memorial Day and Veterans Day ceremonies in collaboration with other agencies and community groups and serves as a point of contact generally for events or functions that require military participation.

Small Business Development Center (SBDC) Saipan

Pohnpei Way Capitol Hill PO BOX 5795 CHRB Saipan, MP 96950 670 664-3018

https://www.pacificsbdc.com/locations/cnmi-sbdc



The CNMI SBDC supports the growth and economic development in the CNMI by providing high quality training and one-to-one confidential counseling to existing small businesses and to small business start-ups.

Education and Employment



CNMI Public School System

Susupe PO BOX 501370 Saipan, MP 96950 **670 237-3061**

www.cnmipss.org

The Public School System's Leadership Corps is a federally-funded program available to veterans who wish to pursue a career in education. Position vacancies are announced and filled through a competitive hiring process. The Leadership Corps requires a high school diploma and two years of military service experience. Employees in the program who wish to further their education may apply for training-and-education leave to take classes at the Northern Marianas College. Thus, a veteran employee in PSS has an opportunity to obtain a college degree and have her or his position reclassified from teacher aide to instructor, or instructor to classroom teacher.



Northern Marianas College

Fina Sisu PO BOX 501250 Saipan, MP 96950 **670 234-5498** www.marianas.edu

Student support staff at NMC assist veterans and their family members in navigating the academic and administrative pathways to enroll and achieve their college degrees. The Financial Aid Office guides veterans through the GI Bill application process and other financial aid applications. Veterans with a disability are encouraged to self-identify their disability with the college's Disability Support Services in the Counseling Department. Students with documented disabilities are provided accommodations to ensure equal access to education, which may include: access to tape recorders, magnifiers, and other aids; extended test time; separate testing sites; note takers, readers, scribes, and tutors; American Sign Language interpretation; classroom relocation; instructional materials provided in alternate formats; and priority registration.

Education and Employment

CNMI Department of Labor

Capitol Hill PO BOX 10007 Saipan, MP 96950 **670 664-3196 / 670 664-1704** www.marianaslabor.net



CNMI DOL provides a comprehensive job bank on its website where veterans can have full access to register and apply for jobs in the CNMI. DOL also enforces priority of service to veterans and their spouses as mandated by federal law for training programs funded by the U.S. Department of Labor. A veteran or spouse is entitled to receive priority of service if the veteran has served at least one day in the active military, naval, or air service, and was discharged or released from service under any condition other than dishonorable. Priority of service is also extended to those who served with Reserve and National Guard units activated for federal service.

CNMI Office of Vocational Rehabilitation

Navy Hill PO BOX 501521 Saipan, MP 96950 **670 322-6538** www.ovrgov.net/



Veterans or family members with disabilities may seek assistance from the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation for consultation on job accommodations and customized disability services. OVR also assists employers in identifying funding opportunities to help off-set the costs of providing training to an OVR consumer.

Health Services



Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation

Navy Hill PO BOX 500409 Saipan, MP 96950 **670 234-8950** www.chcc.gov.mp

CHCC operates the sole public hospital in the Northern Marianas, with services that include emergency medicine, obstetrics, post-partum care, nursery, adult and neonatal care, surgery, general medicine, pediatrics, nursing, physical therapy, respiratory care, radiology, medical social services, dietetic and food services, medical laboratory, pharmacy, hemodialysis, mental health, and various outpatient services. CHCC's Division of Public Health oversees programs in maternal and child health, immunization, non-communicable disease education and prevention, environmental health, HIV/STD education and treatment, health and vital statistics, and birth defects surveillance, intervention, and referral. CHCC also runs the only psychiatry unit in the islands, which provides care for individuals with post-traumatic stress, social and situational problems that trigger depression, suicidality, drug-induced psychosis, and acute and chronic psychiatric illnesses.



Community Guidance Center

Navy Hill
PO Box 500409 Saipan, MP 96950
670-323-6560/1 (Saipan)
670-433-9233 (Tinian)
670-532-9461/2/3 (Rota)
670-664-LIFE / LIVE (Suicide Prevention
Program)

A unit of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation, the Community Guidance Center provides services in behavioral health, mental health, addiction and substance abuse treatment, anger management classes, counseling for individuals, couples, and families, and community outreach and education programs. *For crises resources, see "Crisis Hotlines" on page 13.*

Rota Health Center

Songsong PO BOX 1249 Rota, MP 96951 670 532-9461 www.chcc.gov.mp/rotahealthcenter.php

Part of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation, the Rota Health Center operates a 24/7 emergency room, inpatient and outpatient clinics, public health programs, and nursing, pharmacy, laboratory, X-ray, ultrasound, medical referral, and social services.

Tinian Health Center

San Jose PO BOX 4466 Tinian, MP 96952 **670 433-9233** www.chcc.gov.mp/tinianhealthcenter.php

Part of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation, the Tinian Health Center has a 24/7 emergency room, as well as family practice, immunization, X-ray, and laboratory services. The health center also provides quarterly obstetrics and gynecology services, including outreach and home visits for pre-assessment of pregnant women in their first trimester. The health center additionally provides outreach and education on prescription drug, alcohol, and marijuana abuse, and assists with Medicaid applications and medical referrals.

Kagman Community Health Clinic

Kagman PO BOX 500409 Saipan, MP 96950 **670 256-5242** www.kagmanchc.org/



The Kagman Community Health Center provides primary and preventive health services, including primary care, child services and immunizations, women's care, prenatal and postpartum care, laboratory services, vision care services, and health education classes.

Transportation, Licensing, and Housing



Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority. **Call-A-Ride Program**

Susupe, Marianas Business Plaza Caller Box 10007 Saipan, MP 96950 670 664-2690

cota.gov.mp

Veterans, service members, and their families in need of transportation assistance on Saipan may contact COTA's Call-A-Ride Program, which offers shared rides on mobility equipped vans. The fare for a general rider is \$5; senior citizens (age 55 and older) and individuals with disabilities qualify for a discounted rate of \$3. Contact COTA for an application to obtain the discounted rate. The Call-A-Ride program operates Monday through Friday, 6:30am – 7:00pm and Saturdays 6:30am - 4:00pm.



CNMI Department of Public Safety Bureau of Motor Vehicles

Susupe Caller Box 10007 Saipan, MP 96950 670 664-9066 dps.gov.mp

The DPS Bureau of Motor Vehicles offers special license plates for U.S. Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Coast Guard, and Reserve veterans. These license plates are specially marked to signify veteran status and the branch of the military in which the veteran served. Veterans must be the registered owner of their vehicle to avail of the special license plate and must provide a copy of their DD214 and a copy of their identification. The fee for vehicle registration is \$50, plus \$18.75 for the special license plate. Upon renewal, BMV offers a discounted fee of \$37.50. Veterans with disabilities may also apply for a disability parking placard through BMV. The application for a disability parking placard must be signed by a healthcare provider. Disability parking placards are free.

Transportation, Licensing, and Housing

Northern Marianas Housing Corporation

Garapan PO BOX 500514 Saipan, MP 96950 **670 234-6866 / 670 234-9447 / 670 234-7670** www.nmhcgov.net



NMHC assists eligible veterans and their families in obtaining loans through the Veterans Affairs' Native American Direct Loan (NADL) program. Veterans may apply at NMHC and should bring their DD214 and certificate of eligibility for processing. NMHC also assists in obtaining certificates of eligibility. The NADL program offers fixed-rate 30-year mortgages, with low closing costs, no private mortgage insurance costs, and no down payment required.

Crisis Hotlines

If you or someone you know needs immediate assistance, especially if you believe your own or someone's life is in danger, please call 911.

Veterans Crisis Line

1-800-273-8255 Press 1

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline

(670)664-LIFE (5433) (670)664-LIVE (5483)

CHCC Suicide Prevention Program

(670)664-LIFE (5433) (670)664-LIVE (5483)

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