



DEPARTMENTS OF THE ARMY AND THE AIR FORCE
NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU
1411 JEFFERSON DAVIS HIGHWAY
ARLINGTON, VA 22202-3231

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
THE NATIONAL GUARD
AND
AMERICAN VETERANS (AMVETS)

SUBJECT: Expand Outreach Support for National Guard Service Members and Families

1. **PURPOSE:** To establish a memorandum of understanding (MOU) that describes the parameters of association between the National Guard and the American Veterans (AMVETS) of the United States and to serve as acknowledgement by the National Guard Bureau and State Joint Force Headquarters of the availability of services provided through the AMVETS-in order to expand outreach support to National Guard Service Members and their Families.
2. **BACKGROUND:** All parties recognize the value of a relationship between the National Guard and Veteran Services Organizations will enhance our capabilities to provide additional quality of life services and support to all members of the National Guard and their Families.
3. **RELATIONSHIPS:**
 - a. The National Guard Family Programs Division: Will establish the lines of communication with the National Headquarters of the AMVETS and will serve as the conduit for the State Joint Force Headquarters. The National Guard Bureau will request each State Joint Force Headquarters family services representative contact the AMVETS State Headquarters within their boundaries to establish awareness and a working relationship.
 - b. Each State and local AMVETS unit/Post: Will contact the State Joint Force Headquarters within their boundaries to establish a working relationship with the family services representative.
4. **DISCLAIMER:** The National Guard in accordance with the Joint Ethics Regulation is prohibited from endorsing or implying to endorse a non-Federal entity, event, product, service or enterprise. All parties recognize that this memorandum of understanding is not of that intent and, that it is not intended to violate any existing laws, regulations, or policies of either party.

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5. RESPONSIBILITIES:

a. The National Guard shall:

(1) Provide the AMVETS an updated list of State Joint Force Headquarters.

(2) Provide an updated list of family services liaisons, State Family Directors, Wing Family Coordinators, and Family Assistance Centers to the National Headquarters of the AMVETS.

(3) Advise Family Program workers and volunteers of the ability to share informational materials such as bulletins, brochures, and newsletters where applicable as a means to obtain information regarding AMVETS activities, programs, initiatives, and special community events in local areas of National Guard members and their families.

(4) Inform National Guard Family Volunteers of the opportunity to liaison with AMVETS volunteers to enhance quality of service for families and communities at large.

(5) Inform AMVETS volunteers of the opportunity to participate in Family Program Training events to foster the building of a stronger volunteer base.

(6) Inform National Guard members of the various programs available to them through the AMVETS such as Youth Leadership Seminars, scholarship initiatives, Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service, Grants for emergency relief, and Dependents State/Federal entitlements. This list is not all-inclusive.

(7) Inform National Guard members of the services available to them provided by the AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary and Service Officers during readiness processing and home station reunion, when applicable.

b. AMVETS shall

(1) Provide an updated list of State/Department Headquarters to include contact information for each Commander, Adjutant and Executive Director.

(2) Encourage all AMVETS Departments to promote community support for all mobilizations and demobilizations.

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(3) Provide an updated list of all Post Commanders and POC's to the Joint Force Headquarters within their State and or Territory.

(4) Encourage all AMVETS Posts where appropriate to serve as an extension POC for National Guard State Family Programs Family Assistance Centers coordinated through each State Family Program Director's office.

(5) Encourage AMVETS members to provide information on National Guard-AMVETS relationship activities.

(6) Provide link from the AMVETS website to the National Guard Bureau and the State Joint Force Headquarters family programs websites.

(7) Encourage advocacy and support of the ESGR Ombudsman program that works to provide mediation services to employers and members of the National Guard and Reserve.

(8) Encourage volunteers to cross train with National Guard Family Program Volunteers to enhance the volunteer base in support of Families and Service Members.

(9) Encourage the use of AMVETS Veterans Affairs Service Officers as a vehicle to assist any veteran, or their dependants in obtaining state or federal entitlements.

(10) Encourage the use of AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary in support of National Guard Volunteer support base.

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6. RENEGOTIATION/TERMINATION OF THIS MOU: The effective date of this agreement is as of the signing below and will remain in effect until terminated by either party.



H STEVEN BLUM
Lieutenant, General, US Army
Chief, National Guard Bureau

MARCH 23, 2005

(DATE)



WILLIAM A. BOETTCHER
National Commander
American Veterans

MAR 23 2005

(DATE)