
From: DC METRO AREA BRANCH OF COA [mailto:COA@LIST.NIH.GOV] **On Behalf Of** Julian Canizares
Sent: Monday, June 14, 2010 11:55 PM
To: COA@LIST.NIH.GOV
Subject: [COA-DC-BRANCH] Smart Brief - Benefits Available to PHS Officers

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA METROPOLITAN AREA BR



To members of the D.C. Metropolitan Area Branch,

This Smart Brief is a journal style email message intended to help keep you informed about various uniformed service benefits available to PHS officers. Please note that some offers may only apply to Armed Forces members; however, these Smart Briefs will help promote awareness and push toward including the common language of "Uniformed Services" in more legislation and benefits packages.

For the current posting, please forward any questions or comments to LCDR Robert Windom at robert.windom@foh.hhs.gov. We also welcome any hot topics or special discounts that you wish to share with your fellow officers. Thank you.

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Current Posting

1. Presidential Memorandum Signed
2. Track Highlights and Progress of the FY11 National Defense Authorization Legislation
3. President Signs the VA Affirmation Act
4. Residential Partnership Program
5. Museums Offer Free Admission to Military Families
6. Military Offers In Chicago

Previous Posting

1. Latest Update on Post 9-11 G.I. Bill and the Senate VA Committee
 2. Lowe's and Home Depot Military Offers
 3. Job Fair for Transitioning Military
 4. Joint Service Open House Air Show, Andrews AFB, May 14-16, 2010
 5. Ocean City Air Show, Ocean City, MD June 5-6, 2010
 6. Commissary Case Lot Sale Information for May 2010
 7. Health Care Reform Act
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Current Posting

1. Presidential Memorandum Signed

Presidential Memorandum--Delegation of Authority to Appoint
Commissioned Officers of the Ready Reserve Corps of the Public Health
Service

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN
SERVICES

SUBJECT: Delegation of Authority to Appoint Commissioned Officers of
the Ready Reserve Corps of the Public Health Service

By virtue of the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, including section 301 of title 3, United States Code, I hereby assign to you the functions of the President under section 203 of the Public Health Service Act, as amended by Public Law 111-148, to appoint commissioned officers of the Ready Reserve Corps. The exercise of this authority is limited to appointments of individuals who were extended offers of employment for appointment and call to active duty in the Reserve Corps of the Public Health Service with an

appointment date subsequent to March 23, 2010, the date of enactment of Public Law 111-148, but who were not on active duty on that date, and those individuals who are selected for the 2010 Commissioned Officer Student Training and Extern Program. This authority may not be re delegated. You are authorized and directed to publish this memorandum in the Federal Register.

BARACK OBAMA

2. Track Highlights and Progress of the FY11 National Defense Authorization Legislation

May 20 – Vote passed House Armed Services Committee

May 28 – Vote passed full House of Representatives

May 28 – Senate Armed Services Committee completed Mark-up of National Defense Authorization Act for FY11

June 8 – The full House will continue its work this week on Mark-ups to legislation. House began debating floor amendments to its version (H.R. 5136) of the Defense Bill prior to weeklong Memorial Day recess

For more information go to thomas.loc.gov

3. President Signs the VA Affirmation Act

"The VA Affirmation Act" (H.R. 5014) became law last week, clarifying that Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) health care programs meet the minimum coverage requirements under recent health care reform legislation. Specifically, the legislation clarifies that the Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs (CHAMPVA), Spina Bifida Health Care Program, and the Children of Women Vietnam Veterans Health Care Program meet the "minimum essential coverage" requirement under the health care law. In April the President signed the "The TRICARE Affirmation Act" (H.R. 4887) that makes similar clarifications for TRICARE beneficiaries. Both measures reflect FRA's work to ensure TRICARE and VA health care benefits are not impacted by national health care reform.

4. Residential Partnership Program

Residential Partnership Program (Courtesy of LCDR R. Toblin). Through this program, you pay your rent directly with your BAH and the credit check, application fee, and security deposit are waived and you get a rent discount up to 5% a month. You have to go through a base housing office such as the NNMC Housing Office. Some leasing offices may be unfamiliar with Commissioned Corps, but with the assistance of the Compensation Branch at OCCSS, it can be worked out. The link below gives some information, though it is somewhat different for the actual step-by-step for PHS.

<https://www.cnmc.navy.mil/NewLondon/OperatingForcesSupport/OperatingSupport/HousingTypes/index.htm>

For questions regarding this program you may contact LCDR Toblin via the Benefits Committee.

5. Museums Offer Free Admission to Military Families

Active duty service members and their families will gain free access to hundreds of museums throughout the nation this summer, thanks to a partnership between the National Endowment for the Arts and Blue Star Families. More than 600 museums in 50 states and the District of Columbia have signed up so far to participate in Operation Appreciation: Blue Star Museums. The program offers active duty service members -- including activated Guard and Reserve -- and up to five of their immediate family members free admission to participating museums from Memorial Day through Labor Day. For more information visit <http://www.arts.gov/national/bluestarmuseums/index.php>

6. Military Offers In Chicago

The Windy City offers several discounts for Active Duty Members. Active Duty in Uniform or with proper military ID can access the public transportation system (bus & metro rail) for free. Active Duty members also can receive great discounts at the famous Navy Pier, including a free 75-minute architectural cruise where you have a full view of the Chicago skyline from Lake Michigan, a \$24.00 value. You can also tour the dozens of skyscrapers including the Willis Tower, which also provides free entry for military personnel.