

Windom, Robert A. (FOH)

From: DC METRO AREA BRANCH OF COA [COA@LIST.NIH.GOV] on behalf of Julian Canizares [jcanizaresjr@GMAIL.COM]
Sent: Monday, April 06, 2009 12:15 AM
To: COA@LIST.NIH.GOV
Subject: [COA-DC-BRANCH] Smart Brief - Benefits available to PHS officers
Attachments: MOAA National and Chapter Application Form.doc; MOAA National and Chapter Application Form.pdf

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. This journal also provides status of legislation/s in both the Federal and local State governments that could potentially affect the benefits available to PHS officers, dependents, as well as retirees.

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Current Posting

1. DC COA Branch Committee on Benefits Members

2. **Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) 1-year Free Membership**
3. **Are Commissioned Officers of the PHS & NOAA eligible for benefits under the Post 9/11 G.I. Bill?**

Previously Posted

1. **Calls for Members, DC COA Branch Committee on Benefits**
2. **Free Membership, MOAA (Montgomery County Chapter)**
3. **On Legislation, in the State of Maryland**



1. **DC COA Branch Committee on Benefits Members**

Congratulations and thank you to the following PHS officers who volunteered to assist the DC COA

Branch Committee on Benefits!!!

Robert A. Windom, MPH, MBA

LT, United States Public Health Service

Occupational Health Consultant

Federal Occupational Health

Kimberly G. Love

LT, United States Public Health Service

Product Evaluation Analyst, Respiratory & Radiology Devices

FDA/CDRH/OSB/PEBII

Acting Deputy Planning Chief and Training Unit Director, PHS-1 RDF

Eduardo Y. Lim

LT, United States Public Health Service

Software Engineer

FDA/OC/OO/OIM/OITSS/DAE

Michael Lackey

LCDR, United States Public Health Service

USPHS Commissioned Corps Liaison

Tricare Management Activity, Military Health System

Office of the Secretary of Defense

US Department of Defense

Lou Ann Rector

CDR, United States Public Health Service

USPHS Commissioned Corps Liaison

Food Safety and Inspection Service

US Department of Agriculture

Melissa Merideth, MD, MPH, FACOG, FACMG

CDR, United States Public Health Service

Obstetrician/Gynecologist, Office of Rare Diseases

NIH/NHGRI

Karen Hench, RN, MS

CAPT, United States Public Health Service

Deputy, Division of Healthy Start and Perinatal Services

MCHB, HRSA, DHHS

Shirley A. Blakely, PHD, RD

CAPT, United States Public Health Service

Senior Nutrition Policy Advisor

Center for Food and Nutrition

US Food and Drug Administration

2. **Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) 1-year FREE Membership**

One-year FREE memberships to the **Military Officers Association of America (MOAA)** are currently being offered to active duty PHS Commissioned Officers.

Interested officers should refer to the membership benefits section of the **MOAA** website. If you wish, you may send the completed attached application forms via the following.

a) Snail Mail

MOAA, Montgomery County, MD Chapter

P.O. Box 34127

West Bethesda, MD 20827

b) E Mail: MOAA05@verizon.net.

c) Fax: (301)-460-2848

3. **Are Commissioned Officers of the PHS & NOAA eligible for benefits under the Post 9/11 G.I. Bill?**

From the US Department of Veterans Affairs Website, Questions & Answers, Answer ID number 968,

Commissioned officers of the Public Health Service (PHS) and the National Oceanic Atmospheric Association (NOAA) who served at least 90 days of active duty service after September 10, 2001, will qualify for the new Post-9/11 GI Bill. To qualify for the full benefit, individuals must have served at least 3 years of active duty after September 10, 2001

For individuals with active duty service after 9/10/01, the following chart applies:

Member Serves	Percentage of Maximum Benefit Payable
At least 36 months	100%
At least 30 continuous days on active duty and must be discharged due to service-connected disability	100%
At least 30 months, but less than 36 months	90%
At least 24 months, but less than 30 months	80%
At least 18 months, but less than 24 months	70%
At least 12 months, but less than 18 months	60%
At least 06 months, but less than 12 months	50%
At least 90 days, but less than 06 months	40%

This is a milestone and a cause for celebration!!!

On behalf of the DC COA Benefits Committee, I would like to thank the Commissioned Officers Association (COA) thru the leadership and unwavering efforts of COA Executive Director Gerry Farrell, Judith Rensberger (COA Governments Relations Director) and their staff, as well as all the PHS officers who storm the hill by sending letters to their legislators in order to correct the final draft of Post 9/11 GI Bill to include PHS officers as beneficiaries.

Here is the “catch 22” though!

Can I transfer benefits to my dependents under the Post 9/11 GI Bill? Again, from the US Department of Veterans Affairs Website, Questions & Answers, Answer ID number 940, states,

“If you are a member of the Armed Forces on August 1, 2009, the Department of Defense (DoD) may offer you the opportunity to transfer benefits to your spouse or dependent children. However, commissioned officers of the Public Health Service (PHS) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) are not eligible for the transferability option. DoD and the military services will issue policy on use of transferability in the coming months”.

Please check New GI Bill Benefits: VA Rules PHS Entitled to All but 'Transferability', for more information. To read the full text of the final rule click here. Since this will take an amendment of the law, we need to be more vigilant in continuing the efforts we started in communicating this injustice to our legislators.

Thanks,

JULIAN

LCDR Julian Canizares, USPHS
Acting Chair, DC COA Benefits Committee &
USPHS Liaison with the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA)
Montgomery County, MD Chapter

Visit the DC COA Website at

4/28/2009

**THE MILITARY OFFICERS
ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA**
(MD05 ~ Montgomery County, MD)



For a limited time, the National Organization of MOAA will provide active duty uniformed service officers and warrant officers of all 7 Services with a free membership IF the member simultaneously enrolls in one of MOAA's local chapters.

The Montgomery County Chapter in Maryland is pleased to announce that we also will provide active duty uniformed service officers with free Chapter membership if you enroll simultaneously in National MOAA.

This one-page form facilitates enrollment by active duty personnel. No funds will be collected and you'll be put on the membership list at National (for distribution of monthly Military Officer and Today's Officer [electronically]).

PLEASE COMPLETE THE NATIONAL APPLICATION FORM (ON THE RIGHT) AND THE CHAPTER'S FORM (BELOW). WE'LL TAKE CARE OF ALL THE REST ELECTRONICALLY! SIGN UP NOW AND HELP MOAA TO PROTECT OUR NATION AS WELL AS THE BENEFITS OF OUR ACTIVE AND RETIRED UNIFORMED PERSONNEL (in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Air Force, Public Health Service, and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) and ALL VETERANS!

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**Application for Montgomery County
Chapter Membership:**

I hereby certify that the information on my National MOAA application [on the right] is correct and hereby apply for free Chapter membership:

[Signature] _____

Rank & Name _____

Branch of Service _____

Status: Active Duty Service

Date of Application: _____

Preferred Mailing Address

ZIP Code _____

Spouse's Name _____

Date of Birth _____

Preferred Phone # _____

E-Mail Address _____

Chapter Name (for simultaneous enrollment): **Montgomery County, MD**

Chap. Recruiter: COL Harvey T. Kaplan
U.S. Army (Ret.)

[Give the completed form to recruiter; please do not mail to MOAA National or the Chapter.]

