

ISSUE 13 - DEC, 2011

"SERVING THOSE WHO SERVE"

Office of Military Services

The mission of the Office of Military Services at Mason is to assist veterans, active duty service members, guardsmen and reservists, and dependents in making a successful transition into the Mason community. Our goal is to help these students in a number of capacities including counseling and advising on benefits, academic and admissions advising, and career transition. Few schools have a dedicated staff to help transition from a military environment to college life and we are proud to be able to assist our students in any way.

Location and Hours

Johnson Center, room 245

Mon-Fri 830-5 / Tues 830-6

Contact

703.993.1316 or military@gmu.edu

Visit us on the web!

www.military.gmu.edu



MEET THE STAFF



Jennifer Connors - Director



Aaron Emery - Office Manager and Transition Coordinator

What's Happening Now

Submit Your VRRF in Order to Use Benefits for Spring

Remember to submit your VRRF (Veterans Registration Reporting Form) to use benefits for the upcoming spring semester. You'll notice that it's been streamlined in order to prevent mistakes in submission. In order to ensure that payments from the VA are timely, including BAH and book stipend (Ch. 33), submit by mid-December. Late submission is the cause of most late payments by the VA. If you incur late fees from Mason due to submitting your VRRF after tuition is due, you will be charged and the VA will not cover it. Please ensure that you have submitted your VRRF prior to tuition becoming due. To access the VRRF go to our website, military.gmu.edu, and click on "Certify Your GI Bill Benefits".

Veterans Resume Development Workshop

The Office of Military Services has teamed up with Career Services at Mason to host a workshop to help veterans with resume writing skills. Join us on Feb. 2 in the Office of Military Services (JC 245) for this special presentation by Career Services. This event is targeted specifically to veterans and service members; please plan on attending if you've been looking to polish-up your resume. RSVP to military@gmu.edu.

Like Us on Facebook

Our facebook page is updated frequently with job and internship opportunities, news, and other events. Stay connected to what's going on with benefits, the VA, and more by visiting our facebook page: Office of Military Services at Mason. Please "like us" and help spread the word.

All Hands Message

Several students using Post 9/11 GI Bill benefits have received letters from the VA stating that "zero tuition" was billed to them by Mason and thus, no tuition will be paid.

Mason has a dual process in regards to certification and billing for the Post 9/11 GI Bill. When a student submits their VRRF, Mason will certify the credits they are taking so BAH and book stipend money can be paid to the student. Tuition will not be billed until after the entire add/drop period ends, usually a month or more after the semester starts. This is to prevent overpayments and re-payments, but will not affect BAH or book stipend. If the VA sends this letter prior to Mason billing tuition, it will appear as if nothing will be paid but that is incorrect. We have contacted the VA to suggest re-wording of the letter to avoid confusion. If you've received one of these letters and have questions please feel free to email us at military@gmu.edu.

Veteran Internships

The Aurora Foundation provides select internships for student veterans. These internships are very high quality and can lead to greater opportunities for motivated self-starters.

Internships are open to student veterans using the GI Bill. Must have relevant coursework and at least a 2.0 GPA.

Send resume, transcripts, DD214, and two letters of recommendation from non-family members to:

Ms. Ellen Baumgardner,

Internship Coordinator

Internships@Aurora4Vets.org

On Campus

Veterans Resume Development Workshop

The Office of Military Services has teamed up with Career Services at Mason to host a workshop to help veterans with resume writing skills. Join us on Feb. 2 in the Office of Military Services (JC 245) for this special presentation by Career Services. This event is targeted specifically to veterans and service members; please plan on attending if you've been looking to polish-up your resume. RSVP to military@gmu.edu.

Military Alliance Program Training

We will be providing another M.A.P. workshop on Jan. 17 from 1-3:30pm. The last workshop was very successful and overbooked. If you are staff or faculty and would like to work toward becoming a "Military-Friendly" staff or faculty member, please RSVP to military@gmu.edu. We will cover several issues about veterans and military attending school, transition issues unique to military, etc. For more info about the M.A.P. Program [click here](#). To see a full listing of M.A.P. Members [click here](#).

UNIV 300 for Veterans

The Office of Military Services offers a 1 credit course for veterans to help them transition to Mason and develop resume writing, interviewing, and networking skills. Classes are on Thursday nights from 5:55-7:10pm. Students using the Post 9/11 GI Bill who need to take 7 credits in order to receive BAH are encouraged to register as this course applies to 300/400 level requirements. To register through Patriot Web select UNIV 300 and look for the course title Veteran Transition. For more info [click here](#).

Career Services

Employer Info Sessions

-US Peace Corp, February 10 & March 1

-CIA, February 23

-White House Office of Presidential Correspondence Intern Program, February 24

-US Census Bureau, February 24

-CGI, March 7

-Korean Education Center, March 7 & May 4

-FedBid, March 27

-Lockheed Martin, March 27 & April 21

-Prince William Co. Public Schools, March 23

Workshops

-Veterans Resume Development Workshop, February 2

-Career Jumpstart Workshops Day, January 20

Resume and Cover Letter Writing, On-Campus Interview Orientation, Behavioral Interviewing, Networking Skills and Practice, Federal Job and Internship Search.

-Job Hunting in a Tight Market, February 1

-Planning for Graduate School, February 2

Job Fairs

-Mason Spring Internship & Job Fair, February 23 & 24, JC Dewberry Hall

Career Counseling Services

Meet individually with the Career Counselor that works with your major or graduate program.

University Career Services, SUB I, Room 3400

Career Counseling & Advising Appointments: 703.993.2370

Our Website and Spring 2012 Workshop and Event Calendar: <http://careers.gmu.edu/>

Veterans Society

The Veterans Society serves as a social and professional student-lead organization that advocates for and engages student veterans in networking and activities.

studentvets@gmail.com

vetsoc.org

Schedule of Events

-2011 End of Year Gala Night-

Saturday, December 10, 2011

Research 1, Room 163

***RSVP to studentvets@gmail.com**

Please stay posted for upcoming events or visit our website at vetsoc.org.

ROTC

Mason Army ROTC is designed to prepare the next generation of officers. It is centered around the aspects of leadership, tactics, and policy. Labs and lectures designed to reinforce practical training meet once per week and physical training three times per week. What separates Mason ROTC from the rest is the level of cadet control. We feel the only real way to train a leader is to allow them to lead and provide guidance. ROTC functions are largely cadet controlled from planning to execution and instructors provide input.

703.993.2706
goldbar@gmu.edu
arotc.gmu.edu

**If you'd like to volunteer your services contact:

CPT Mariah Doolittle: mdoolitt@gmu.edu
MAJ Paul Kremer: pkremer@gmu.edu

Maximizing Your GI Bill Benefits

Extending Benefits Beyond 36 Months

Students using the Montgomery or Post 9/11 GI Bill **may** be able to use benefits beyond 36 months. If at least one day of benefits remains when a semester starts the VA will continue to pay benefits for the entire term. This does not give the student additional months of eligibility, rather it will pay out for the remainder of the semester provided the student doesn't go beyond 48 months of benefits across all chapters. Below are two examples:

- 1) A student has one month of benefits remaining at the start of the fall semester, which is about 3.75 months. The student has not used his full allotment of 36 months, so the rest of the semester will be covered, including BAH, if he is using the Post 9/11 GI Bill.
- 2) A student has used 36 months of Montgomery GI Bill benefits and was approved for an additional 12 months of Post 9/11 GI Bill benefits. At the start of the spring semester (about 3.75 months) she has two months of benefits remaining. By the time the remaining two months have been used she would have used a total of 48 months of benefits between Montgomery and Post 9/11 GI Bill, thus, she will not receive benefits beyond the two months remaining. Because she is using the Post 9/11 GI Bill, tuition and fees will be paid for the entire semester but BAH will not exceed the remaining two months.

Need Help with Finals? Tutorial Reimbursement May Help

Students using the Post 9/11 GI Bill may be eligible for tutorial reimbursement. Eligible students may receive up to \$100 per month with a limit of \$1,200 total. Tutors must be approved by Mason in order for the student to be reimbursed. Along with that there are specific requirements to be reimbursed. For more info contact us at military@gmu.edu

This Month in Military History

December 7, 1941

Japanese Attack on Pearl Harbor

At 0755 local time, six Japanese aircraft carriers attacked the main base of the U.S. Pacific Fleet at Pearl Harbor. The carriers Akagi, Kaga, Hiryu, Soryu, and Shokaku sent 423 planes in the attack. The next day President Roosevelt spoke to a joint session of congress and is famously quoted for saying Dec. 7 is "a date which will live in infamy."

The attack, which killed 2,330 American service members and destroyed eight battleships, nine cruisers, 188 planes, and a number of cruisers, was not meant to be a surprise attack. A message was sent to the Japanese embassy but slow decoding caused the message to be received almost an hour after the start of the attack. Upon learning of the magnitude of the attack Admiral Yamamoto of Japan stated "I can think of nothing that would infuriate the Americans more. I fear that all we have done is to awaken a sleeping giant and fill him with a terrible resolve." Time would prove him right.

December 16, 1944

Battle of the Bulge

Beginning on Dec. 16 and lasting 42 days, the Battle of the Bulge was one of the costliest battles during WWII. In a daring assault the German Army sent troops forward and surrounded the town of Bastogne. American forces counter-attacked but were outmanned and outgunned. Against all odds, General McAuliffe's forces managed to hold Bastogne. By Christmas Eve, American planes were striking German supply lines regularly and soon ground the German drive to a halt.

In total American forces took 89,500 casualties with 19,000 killed and 23,000 missing.



Recreation of Attack on Pearl Harbor



"A Day Which Will Live in Infamy"



Battle of the Bulge

RESOURCES

Off Campus

GI Bill: Web: [Site](#) Phone: 800.827.1000

VONAPP (Veterans Online Applications): Web: [Site](#) Phone: 888.442.4551

VA Application for Health Benefits: Web: [Site](#)

eBenefits: Web: [Site](#) Phone: 8..983.0937

Virginia Dept. of Veterans Affairs: Web: [Site](#) Phone: 804.786.0286

Virginia Wounded Warrior Program: Web: [Site](#) Phone: 877.285.1299

Wounded Warrior Project: Web: [Site](#) Phone: 877.832.6997

Veterans Crisis Line: 800.273.8255 (press 1): Web: [Site](#) Confidential Live Chat: [click here](#)

DAV (Disabled American Veterans): Web: [Site](#) Phone: 877.426.2838

American Women Veterans: Web: [Site](#) Email: info@americanwomenveterans.org

On Campus

Office of Military Services: Web: [Site](#) Phone: 703.993.1316 Email: military@gmu.edu

Clinic for Legal Assistance to Service Members: Web: [Site](#) Phone: 703.993.8214 Email: clasv@mail.gmu.edu

Disability Services: Web: [Site](#) Phone: 703.993.2474 TTY: 703.993.2476 Email: ods@gmu.edu

Counseling and Psychological Services: Web: [Site](#) Phone: 703.993.2380 Email: mvanepcc@gmu.edu
Contact: Morgan Cutlip

Certifying GI Bill Benefits: Web: [Site](#) Phone: 703.993.2428 Email: military@gmu.edu

Battle Buddies Program: Web: [Site](#) Phone: 703.993.2428 Email: aemery4@gmu.edu Contact: Aaron Emery

Admissions: Web: [Site](#) Phone: Email: military@gmu.edu Contact: Office of Military Services

Career Services: Web: [Site](#) Phone: 703.993.2370 Email: careerhp@gmu.edu

ROTC: Web: [Site](#) Phone: 703.993.2706 Email: goldbar@gmu.edu

Tutoring: Web: [Site](#) Phone: 703.993.2999

Student Accounts: Web: [Site](#) Phone: 703.993.2484 Email: student_accounts@gmu.edu

Third Party Billing: Web: [Site](#) Phone: 703.993.2484 Email: student_accounts@gmu.edu

Financial Aid: Web: [Site](#) Phone: 703.993.2353

