

News Release

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Workshop offers eligible veterans opportunity to apply for benefits, file for health care, and much more

MELFA—At a workshop to be held on June 26 at the Eastern Shore Community College, eligible veterans will be able to apply for VA benefits, file for health care, sign up for free counseling, enroll with the Virginia Employment Commission, and work with representatives from a half-dozen state and federal agencies. The event is being sponsored by the Virginia Department of Veterans Services and the Eastern Shore Community College and will be held from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Workforce Development Center at the college.

“This really is a workshop,” said Wendy Ainsworth, Veterans Services Representative, emphasizing the word “work.” “We wanted to hold an event where veterans can actually start the application process for VA benefits, fill out the VA health benefits enrollment form, request a copy of their DD214, and complete a lot of other processes, all at one location.”

Representatives will be available from the Virginia Department of Veterans Services, including Benefits, Education and Training, and the Virginia Wounded Warrior Program; Eastern Shore Community College; Virginia Employment Commission; Norfolk Vet Center; and the Rural Health Team Hampton VA Medical Center.

Monica Hall, Local Veterans Employment Representative with the VEC, said, “Veterans may be unaware of all services available to them at the Employment Commission.”

During the three-hour workshop, veterans and their family members will be able to complete more than half-a-dozen processes:

- Begin the claims process for VA benefits
- File the VA Health Benefits Enrollment Eligibility Form 1010EZ
- Apply online for their Post 911 G.I. Bill benefits

- Sign up for free counseling and referral services from the Norfolk VET Center.
- Get help from the Virginia Wounded Warrior Program for combat stress and traumatic brain injuries
- Enroll with the Virginia Employment Commission and begin the job search process
- Order a copy of their DD214

“Many veterans may not realize all the benefits that they qualify for such as disability compensation, VA Health Care, or G.I. Bill benefits. That’s why this kind of event is so important—it gives everyone an opportunity to find out what they’re eligible for and to start the process,” said Ainsworth.

For more information about the workshop, contact Wendy Ainsworth, (757) 787-5862; Jim Brofee, (757) 789-1777; or Monica Hall, (757) 302-2014.

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