

TROOPS TO TEACHERS

January 2011

MISSOURI/IOWA

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National Troops to Teachers Office Holds Annual Meeting

By John Hose, Assistant Director, Veterans Education and Training Section

The national Troops to Teachers office conducted its annual conference Dec. 7-9 in Las Vegas. The national TTT program is a component of the Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support (DANTES) organization, which is headquartered in Pensacola, Fl.

The purpose of the meeting was to provide training and up-to-date information on the status of pending legislation that could impact the TTT program. For example, one proposal includes lowering the active duty requirement to four years of service after Sept. 11, 2001. Taking effect in fiscal year 2012, it would require a minimum of four years active duty and a minimum of three years in a National Guard or reserve unit. The goal of this would be to attract younger service members who are more mobile in their search for teaching positions.

The national recession and its impact on state and local budgets has affected the overall number of teachers being hired. This has resulted in a lower number of TTT participants being hired as well. However, recruitment efforts are ongoing. Openings are expected to increase in the next five years. It is still a good time for service members interested in teaching to complete the required coursework so they will be classroom-ready upon leaving the service. Visit www.proudtoserveagain.com for information on how to get started.



TTT Offices Scheduled to Regionalize this Summer

By John Hose, Assistant Director, Veterans Education and Training Section

Due to a reshuffling of Troops to Teachers state offices, several are slated for regionalizing effective July 1, 2011. Missouri and Iowa will become the Missouri Region with headquarters located in Jefferson City (where the Missouri/Iowa Consortium has been headquartered).

Also, Washington state, New York state and Alabama will no longer operate separate offices. Washington will be grouped with California and Oregon, Alabama with Georgia, and New York with the Northeast group. More regionalizing could occur as attempts continue to streamline the administration and delivery of TTT services.

For an updated list of TTT state and regional offices, go to www.proudtoserveagain.com. To contact the Missouri Region, call 877-530-2765.

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TO FIND OUT IF YOU ARE ELIGIBLE FOR GI BILL EDUCATION AND TRAINING BENEFITS, CALL 888-442-4551.

Meet Robert Hummel, Approval Developer, St. Louis Office

Robert Hummel recently joined the Missouri State Approving Agency's St. Louis office as an approval developer.

A lifelong resident of Richmond Heights, Hummel is a graduate of Southeast Missouri State University with a bachelor's degree in business administration. He worked for 3M for 22 years in sales and training and also spent time at R.J. Reynolds and Home Depot. He also was a columnist and worked in sales for a St. Louis publication for lawyers and ran a handyman repair business for five years.

"Bob brings a rich background in business and industry," said Chad Schatz, director of the Missouri State Approving Agency. "He has worked in large corporate environments and the small-business setting."

Hummel and his wife, Karen, have been married for 39 years. They have two children and two grandchildren.



Robert Hummel

VA Medical Centers in Missouri

COLUMBIA

800 Hospital Drive
573-814-6000

KANSAS CITY

4801 Linwood Blvd.
816-861-4700 or
800-525-1483

POPLAR BLUFF

1500 N. Westwood Blvd.
573-686-4151

ST. LOUIS

Jefferson Barracks
Jefferson Barracks Drive
314-652-4100 or
800-228-5459

ST. LOUIS

John Cochran Division
915 N. Grand Blvd.
314-652-4100 or
800-228-5459



John Gantz (left), former chief of the Troops to Teachers program and currently with Western Governors University, presented to participants at this year's national TTT conference in Las Vegas.

The national **Troops to Teachers** website is located at proudtoserveagain.com.



Missouri/Iowa

Chad Schatz, Director

John Hose, Assistant Director

Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

Veterans Education and Training Section

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In order to qualify for the Troops to Teachers program, a veteran must have at least six years of military service. Most have much more than that.

Often, a TTT veteran is a retiree with at least 20 years of service. This gives the school administrator a dependable teacher for today's challenging school environment.

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities. Inquiries related to Department programs and to the location of services, activities, and facilities that are accessible by persons with disabilities may be directed to the Jefferson State Office Building, Civil Rights Compliance (Title VI/Title IX/504/ADA/Age Act), 205 Jefferson Street, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0480; telephone number 573-526-4757 or Relay Missouri 800-735-2966.

VETERANS EDUCATION & TRAINING SECTION

January 2011

MISSOURI STATE
APPROVING AGENCY

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Special Points of Interest

- Changes to the Post-9/11 GI Bill go into effect throughout 2011.
- Mark your calendars with several upcoming job fairs for potential teachers.

The **Missouri State Approving Agency Directory** features all schools and colleges approved for the GI Bill. Request a copy by calling **877-530-2765**.

Upcoming Changes to the Post-9/11 GI Bill

This information originally appeared on the VA's GI Bill website. Visit www.gibill.va.gov.

The Post-9/11 Veterans Education Assistance Improvements Act of 2010 was recently signed into law. This article lists changes to the GI Bill made by this law.

Effective Aug. 1, 2009, but not payable until Oct. 1, 2011

- Expands the Post-9/11 GI Bill to include active service performed by National Guard members under title 32 U.S.C. for the purpose of organizing, administering, recruiting, instructing or training the National Guard; or under section 502(f) for the purpose of responding to a national emergency.

Effective March 5, 2011

- Limits active duty members pursuing a degree at more than half time to the net cost for tuition and fees prorated based on the eligibility tiers (40-100 percent) previously established for veterans.
 - ★ Same limitations apply to transferee spouses of active duty service members.

Effective Aug. 1, 2011

- For veterans and their transferees – simplifies the tuition and fee rates for those attending a public school and creates a national maximum for those enrolled in a private or foreign school.
 - ★ Pays all public school in-state tuition and fees.
 - ★ Private and foreign school costs are capped at \$17,500 annually.
 - ★ The Yellow Ribbon Program still exists for out-of-state fees and costs above the cap.
- For active duty members and their transferees – creates a national rate for those active duty members enrolled in a private or foreign school pursuing a degree at more than half time.
 - ★ Pays all public school in-state tuition and fees.
 - ★ Private and foreign school costs are capped at \$17,500 annually.
- Allows VA to pay MGIB (chapter 30) and MGIB-SR (chapter 1606) "kickers," or college-fund payments, on a monthly basis instead of a lump sum at the beginning of the term.
- Prorates housing allowance by the student's rate of pursuit (rounded to the nearest tenth).
 - ★ A student training at a rate of pursuit of 75 percent would receive 80 percent of the BAH rate.
- Break or interval pay is no longer payable under any VA education benefit program unless under an executive order of the president or due to an emergency, such as a

(Continued on the next page)

Changes to the Post-9/11 GI Bill *(Continued)*

natural disaster or strike.

- ★ This means that when your semester ends (e.g., Dec. 15), your housing allowance is paid for the first 15 days of December only and begins again when your next semester begins (e.g., Jan. 10) and is paid for the remaining days of January.
- ★ Students using other VA education programs are included in this change. Monthly benefits will be prorated in the same manner.
- ★ Entitlement that previously would have been used for break pay will be available for use during a future enrollment.
- Allows reimbursement for more than one “license or certification” test (previously only one test was allowed).
 - ★ However, entitlement is now charged.
- Allows reimbursement of fees paid to take national exams used for admission to an institution of higher learning (e.g., SAT, ACT, GMAT, LSAT).
- Allows those who are eligible for both Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (chapter 31) benefits and Post-9/11 GI Bill (chapter 33) benefits to choose the Post-9/11 GI Bill’s monthly housing allowance instead of the chapter 31 subsistence allowance.
- NOAA and PHS personnel are now eligible to transfer their entitlement to eligible dependents.

Effective Oct. 1, 2011

- Allows students to use the Post-9/11 GI Bill for:
 - ★ **Non-college degree (NCD) programs:** Pays actual net cost for in-state tuition and fees at public NCD institutions. At private and foreign institutions, pays the actual net costs for in-state tuition and fees or \$17,500, whichever is less. Also pays up to \$83 per month for books and supplies.
 - ★ **On-the-job and apprenticeship training:** Pays a monthly benefit amount prorated based on time in the program and up to \$83 per month for books and supplies.
 - ★ **Flight programs:** Per academic year, pays the actual net costs for in-state tuition and fees assessed by the school or \$10,000, whichever is less. This limit is applicable to flight programs at both IHLs and non-IHLs
 - ★ **Correspondence training:** Per academic year, pays the actual net costs for in-state tuition and fees assessed by the school or \$8,500, whichever is less.
- Housing allowance is now payable to students (other than those on active duty) enrolled solely in distance learning. The housing allowance payable is equal to one-half the national average BAH for an E-5 with dependents.
 - ★ The full-time rate for an individual eligible at the 100 percent eligibility tier would be \$673.50 for 2011.
- Allows students on active duty to receive a books and supplies stipend.

Meet Avis McFarland, Education Liaison Representative, and Don Bequette, Veterans Representative

Avis McFarland is the new Missouri education liaison representative (ELR) in the St. Louis VA regional office, replacing Jimmy Lomas. McFarland has worked for the VA for more than 26 years.



Avis McFarland

After retiring from the Air Force in 2007, Don Bequette began working for the Missouri Division of Workforce Development. He became a veterans representative in January 2010 and completed the Transition Assistance Program (TAP) facilitator’s course through the National Veterans Training Institute in June 2010. Bequette currently assists veterans at his office in Rolla and facilitates the TAP course at Fort Leonard Wood. He also does outreach in Phelps, Gasconade, Dent, Crawford and Maries counties.



Don Bequette

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **March 22: Columbia**
MOJOE 2011 Job Fair
University of Missouri-Columbia
10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Hearnes Center
*(Wear interview attire and bring résumé copies.
Candidate orientation begins at 9:30 a.m.)*
- **March 30: Warrensburg**
Teacher Placement Day
University of Central Missouri
9:00 a.m.-Noon, Multipurpose Bldg. Arena
- **April 6: Kansas City**
23rd Annual Veterans and
Military Personnel Career Fair
10:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
Ararat Shrine Temple
5100 Ararat Drive
Kansas City, MO 64129

TO FIND OUT IF YOU ARE ELIGIBLE FOR VETERANS EDUCATION AND TRAINING BENEFITS,
OR TO SEE HOW MUCH YOUR ENTITLEMENT IS, CALL 888-442-4551.