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From: DC METRO AREA BRANCH OF COA [COA@LIST.NIH.GOV] on behalf of Julian Canizares [jcanizaresjr@GMAIL.COM]
Sent: Sunday, September 13, 2009 6:05 PM
To: COA@LIST.NIH.GOV
Subject: [COA-DC-BRANCH] Smart Brief - Benefits Available to PHS Officers
Attachments: MWR Ticket Info.pdf; Commissary Fall Case Lot Sales.doc

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. MWR InfoCenter NNMC Ticket Information
2. Space-A Military Lodging in Europe
3. Military Discount Offered By Wireless Cell Phone Carriers
4. Pending legislation - Military Spouse Residency Relief Act

5. **Service Members and Dependents Now Eligible for In-State Tuition**

6. **Commissary Fall Case Lot Sale dates**

Previous Posting

1. **Legal Services Benefits**

2. **Soldier's and Sailor's Civil Relief Act (SSCRA)**

3. **Thrift Savings Plan (TSP)**

4. **National Association for Uniformed Services (NAUS) Veterans Retired Activity Day, Orlando, FL**

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Current Posting

1. **MWR InfoCenter NNMC Ticket Information**

Please see attached for a list of discount tickets that are available at your local military installation MWR. NNMC MWR InfoCenter offers tickets for movies, amusement parks, local attractions, and much more.

2. **Space-A Military Lodging in Europe**

Please find below the links to both military clubs in London. Both allow USPHS Commissioned Corps to stay there and the accommodations are nice and very convenient to just about everything in London. These can also be found in Military Living's "Temporary Military Lodging Around the World" <http://www.militaryliving.com/>. Hope this provides an opportunity for travel for other officers as well. (Submitted by CDR K. Edelman)

Union Jack Club: <http://www.ujclub.co.uk/en-gb/index.htm>

Victory Services Club: <http://www.vsc.co.uk/>

3. Military Discount Offered By Wireless Cell Phone Carriers

Most major wireless cell phone carriers offer military discounts for uniformed service members enrolled in a calling plan. Below is just a quick snapshot of discounts that may be applied to your plan. For more information contact your wireless carrier.

Sprint Nextel's Sponsorship Program offers a 15% military discount on monthly service plans. A two year service agreement must be established or an existing Sprint Nextel service agreement must be renewed for an additional two years to qualify for the discount. Additionally, receive a free accessory pack on select devices - and there are additional monthly promotions. You may contact Sprint Nextel at 1-800-777-4681, 1-888-788-4727 or 1-800-639-6111. You may also access the [Sprint Nextel Discount webpage](#) or visit the nearest Sprint Store.

AT&T Military Discount offers 15% Monthly Service Charge discount available to active and retired military personnel, 2yr. contract required. Must show valid government employment ID at retail point of sale or validate online with a recognized government email domain (.gov, .mil, et al.) via our online [eCommerce site](#).

T-Mobile's Sponsorship Program offers two phones for free (Nokia 6103 and Samsung T209) and up to a 15% service discount per month. After a \$50 mail-in rebate, the Motorola RAZR (Magenta and Silver) and Samsung T509 are free. You may contact T-Mobile at 1-866-464-8662 and reference Promotion Code 1080TMOFAV or at [T-Mobile webpage](#)..

Verizon Wireless offers a 15% discount on monthly plans costing \$35 and above and 25% off accessories for all Federal Government employees through its Consumer Accounts Department. Verizon Wireless offers three phones for free (CDM 180, PN-120 and LGVX3450). The service agreement can be one or two years. The activation and shipping fees are waived. Go to www.verizonwireless.com/discount and enter in your official military email address (personal email addresses cannot be accepted). Verizon Wireless will send an email link showing the discounted equipment and rates, as well as allow you to register an existing line of service for discounting. Also you may contact Verizon Wireless at 1-800-922-0204.

ALLTEL Wireless

ALLTEL users in Virginia have recently been told that if you pay your bill online there is an "account information" update where you can list the active duty email address instead of your home email and receive a 15% discount on your bill.

NOTE: Most vendors are requiring a two year service agreement be established or an existing service agreement must be renewed for an additional two years to qualify for the discount.

4. Pending legislation – Military Spouse Residency Relief Act

U.S. Sen. Richard Burr (R-NC) offered the Military Spouse Residency Relief Act as an amendment to the Department of Defense Authorization bill currently under consideration in the Senate. The amendment, which was approved by voice vote on the Senate floor, would allow military spouses to maintain residency in their home state regardless of military placement of their families. Currently, service members have the ability to claim and maintain one state of residence, regardless of where military orders may send them. The Military Spouses Residency Relief Act would extend similar rights to military spouses, easing the burden and headaches they now face.

5. Service Members and Dependents Now Eligible for In-State Tuition

Service Members and Families Now Eligible for In-State Tuition: Beginning July 1, 2009, members of the armed forces (?) on active duty for a period of more than 30 days, their spouses, and dependent children, are now eligible to receive in-state tuition at public colleges and universities in the state where they reside or are permanently stationed. In addition, once a service member or their family members are enrolled and paying in-state tuition, they will continue to pay the in-state tuition rate as long as they remain continuously enrolled at the institution and if the service member is reassigned outside the state.

This new requirement benefiting military families was included in the Higher Education Opportunity Act (H.R. 4137), under section 135, and was signed into law on August 14, 2008. H.R. 4137 extends the Higher Education Act of 1965 (HEA), and applies to all public institutions that receive funds under the HEA program.

6. Commissary Fall Case Lot Sale dates

Commissary Case-Lot sale prices offer savings from 30% - 70%. *Please see attached* for a few of the local sale dates. Please contact your local commissary to confirm case-lot sale dates.

Smart Brief archives and future notices

For your convenience, a link has been created on the DC COA website that will allow you to access past Smart Brief editions. Please note that future Smart Briefs will be sent out on a monthly basis, unless there is a need to send more time sensitive information that we come across. Please look for future editions around the 2nd Monday of each month. We hope that you have enjoyed these Briefs and we continue to look forward to sharing and discussing