

ARMED FORCES DIGEST

MILITARY EDITION | 17 August 2020



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Navajo Code Talker Day

EST. August 14, 1982

Viewed as a day of recognition, August 14 is dedicated to the Navajo Code Talkers recruited during WWII. These brave men developed and memorized a special code using their everyday tribal languages to send encoded messages in battle. During the invasion of Iwo Jima, six Navajo Code Talkers sent more than 800 messages that were transmitted without error. Major Howard Connor, who was the signal officer of the Navajos at Iwo Jima, said, "Were it not for the Navajos, the Marines would never have taken Iwo Jima."



VA Begins Clinical Trials for COVID-19 Treatment

The Department of Veteran Affairs has begun conducting trials at the Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center to evaluate the therapeutic benefit of Tocilizumab (TCZ) as a treatment for Veterans with COVID-19 severe pneumonia.

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The VA Lends a Helping Hand to Veteran Business Owners

The VA's Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (OSDBU) has been working to provide small Veteran-owned businesses the resources they need to keep their businesses open. The VA has currently awarded over \$8 billion to Service Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Businesses and Veteran-Owned Small Businesses for fiscal 2020.

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Help Is Available for Veterans Having Trouble Making Their VA Home Loan Payments

Do you have a VA loan for your home purchase? Did you know that you can request a forbearance from the loan company and all you need to provide is a written statement? Through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) a mortgage payment forbearance option is available for all borrowers who are suffering financial hardship due to the COVID-19 national emergency.

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High-Quality Education for Military Kids with Special Needs

Our children's education is very important to us. As parents, we want to ensure they are receiving the best instruction and resources they need to succeed, particularly children with special needs. The National Military Family Association (NMFA) helps military families by providing all the facts, tools, and resources military families need to advocate for their children's K-12 special needs education.

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Edith Nourse Rogers Science Technology Engineering Math (STEM) Scholarship

The Department of Veteran Affairs Edith Nourse Rogers STEM Scholarship program is now available to qualifying Veterans and Fry Scholars. The scholarship provides up to nine months of additional Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits!

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Earn Your Degree in Cyber Security



Networks are always on and a constant vigilance is needed to protect corporate data, government confidential information, and classified military information. Students who earn a Bachelor of Science degree in Cybersecurity and Policy will be prepared for a challenging and rewarding career field fighting worldwide cybercrime and protecting the digital world from hacking, fraud, and malware. Cybersecurity students will be in a growing field of study with multiple opportunities to assist businesses, governments, and the military to protect their networks, data and systems. With a B.S. degree in Cyber Security from the UOTP graduates are prepared for a burgeoning career field fighting worldwide "cybercrime" and protecting digital resources from hacking, fraud, and malware viruses.

[REQUEST INFORMATION](#)

Military News Release

- \$29 Billion in Military Funding Tucked Inside Proposed Coronavirus Relief Package
- Severely Disabled Veterans Will Soon Be Eligible for Bigger Adaptive Housing Grants
- Free Quarantine Craft Kits from Help Heal Veterans
- Going Back to School? Here's the 2020 GI Bill Rates
- Pentagon Bans Confederate Flag on Military Bases Without Mentioning It by Name
- PCS Assistance
- VA Partially Suspends Debt Collections on Veterans Through End of Year
- Virtual Mental Health Care through Cohen Veterans Network

Upcoming Dates

- Aug 23, 2020: 2020-08A Ends
- Aug 24 - 29, 2020: Summer Break - NO CLASSES
- Aug 31, 2020: 2020-10A Virtual Session Begins

Celebrating the 3rd Anniversary of the Colmery Act

The Colmery Act helped make educational benefits more accessible to the Veteran community and their families, It has also introduced additional support programs and improvements over the past three years.



What provisions are included in the Colmery Act?

- Restoration of entitlement due to school closure or disapproval with over 18,000 months of benefits restored to date
- Launch of Veteran Employment Through Technology Education Courses (VET TEC) pilot program (which has already helped more than 300 Veterans find employment after program completion)
- Independent Study Programs increased by 300%

[VAntage Point Post](#)

- Elimination of the time limit for using benefits
- 100% guaranteed benefit level for Purple Heart Award recipients
- \$47 million in additional benefits awarded to recipients of the Edith Nourse Rogers Science Technology Engineering and Math (STEM) Scholarship
- Elimination of 40% benefit level and expansion of the 50% and 60% levels

[3rd Anniversary Video](#)