

News from WDVA:

Follow Us on [FACEBOOK](#) and the WDVA Blog to read and comment on the latest agency information!

•Welcome New VAAC Leadership and Members!

- [Looking Forward to 2012!](#)
- [Focus on Employment Helps Veterans Combat Homelessness](#)
- [December/January 2012 Veteran Voices](#)
- On the WDVA [Facebook](#) page you'll find photos of volunteers bringing gifts to residents, wreaths at the State Veterans Cemetery, and more interesting information!

Why Hire a Veteran? Plenty of Reasons

Read the recent [Fox Business](#) article aimed at helping employers understand the value of hiring veterans and see how WDVA, WorkSource and the Military Department are helping employers connect with veterans who are ready to work – [Hire A Veteran!](#)

CAREER FAIR COMING TO KITSAP COUNTY

Puget Sound Naval Shipyard & Intermediate Maintenance Facility is holding a Career Fair on January 27 and 28 from 9:00 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Kitsap Sun Pavilion - Kitsap County Fairgrounds. For more information visit <http://www.navsea.navy.mil/shipyards/puget/page/EmploymentOpportunities.aspx>. Other job fairs are listed on the ESD [Job Fair Calendar](#)

HOW DOES A LICENSE PLATE HONOR VETERANS?

That's easy! Your [Armed Forces License Plate](#) pays for the operation of the [State Veterans Cemetery](#) – Medical Lake. It's the first and only State Veterans Cemetery in Washington and the only Veterans Cemetery east of the mountains. So if you already have and renew your plate each year – thank you! Each time you do, \$28 supports the Cemetery*. In the first 18 months of operation, the plates have funded over \$770,000 in operating costs at the Cemetery.

If you don't have yours yet, get your application [online](#) and order your plate today. Don't forget, each time you purchase or renew, you can deduct \$28 as a charitable contribution on your income taxes.

Number of Armed Forces Plates On the Road:

- Air Force: 2,259
- Army: 4,127
- Coast Guard: 670
- Marine Corps: 2,589
- National Guard: 427
- Navy: 2,668

Total: 12,740

*A small portion of the license plate proceeds also provides emergency funds for homeless veterans who are unable to qualify for other programs or services, and funds raised through the National Guard plates are sent to the National Guard Association of Washington to be used for the [Minuteman Emergency Assistance Fund](#).

Find PTSD Training and Education Opportunities at the [WDVA War Trauma and PTSD Counseling Page](#)

Attention Veteran and Service member Owned Businesses

- Be sure to complete your certification as a [Washington State Veteran or Servicemember Owned Business](#).
- [WSDOT Contracting Opportunities](#)

MILITARY RETIREE PAY DATES TO CHANGE

Paydays for military retirees and those who receive portions of retired pay were changed for September and December, as the Defense Finance and Accounting Service changed its pay schedule to comply with the 2011 National Defense Authorization Act. The 2011 NDAA requires military retiree pay to be processed on the first day of the month. When that day falls on a weekend or national holiday, the pay date is moved to the previous business day. This year payments normally scheduled for Oct. 3, 2011 were issued on Sept. 30, 2011 and payments normally scheduled for Jan. 3, 2012, will be issued on Dec. 30, 2011. For the calendar year 2011, this means military retirees will receive 13 rather than the normal 12 payments.

The 13th payday on December 30 falls within the 2011 tax year, which could affect the tax liability of some retirees and those who receive portions of their retired pay.

Customers should speak with a tax advisor, the Internal Revenue Service or their state tax authority to determine if their tax withholding will satisfy federal and state income taxes when they file returns next year. DFAS cannot provide tax advice. For tax year 2012 and beyond, retirees will receive their normal 12 payments.

This change affects regular retired pay, Concurrent Retirement and Disability Pay and Combat Related Special Compensation. The new rule also applies to retiree allotments, garnishments and court-ordered former spouse and child support payments. It does not affect annuity payments.

Upcoming Events: Do you have an event you would like posted? [Email your flyer and event details.](#)
[Vets Meet Vets Weekly Community Events](#)

Job Fair Calendar

Event	Date	Location
Puget Sound Career Fair	January 27, 28, 2012 9 am - 5 pm	Kitsap Sun Pavilion www.navsea.navy.mil/shipyards/puget
American Legion Mid-Winter Conference	Feb. 3-5, 2012	Red Lion 2525 N. 20th Ave. Pasco, WA
Governors Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee Meeting	February 23, 2012 10 am - 3 pm	Tacoma (location TBD)