

THE AMERICAN VETERAN

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SEGMENT TITLE: NEWS YOU CAN USE

JENNIFER BRADEN, HOST: NOW FOR SOME NEWS YOU CAN USE.

VA IS LOOKING FOR A FEW GOOD BUGLERS. A FEW THOUSAND, THAT IS. IF YOU CAN PLAY TAPS, OR WOULD LIKE TO LEARN, ECHO TAPS WORLDWIDE IS RECRUITING BRASS PLAYERS FROM AROUND THE COUNTRY TO PLAY ON MAY 19TH, ARMED FORCES DAY, AT NATIONAL AND STATE CEMETERIES ACROSS THE COUNTRY AND AT AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENT CEMETERIES OVERSEAS. TO VOLUNTEER FOR ECHO TAPS WORLDWIDE, LOG ONTO ECHOTAPS ALL ONE WORD DOT ORG

THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS IS PROVIDING TWO GRANTS TOTALING ONE POINT TWO MILLION DOLLARS FOR IMPROVEMENTS AT THE GEORGIA STATE VETERANS' HOME IN MILLEDGEVILLE. THE GRANTS WILL COVER 65 PERCENT OF THE COST OF THE PROJECTS. TOTAL COST FOR THE UPGRADES TO MILLEDGEVILLE'S RUSSELL AND VINSON BUILDINGS ARE EXPECTED TO TOTAL \$1.9 MILLION.

VETSUCCESS DOT GOV IS A NEW VA WEB SITE TO HELP SERVICE-DISABLED VETS GAIN MAXIMUM INDEPENDENCE IN DAILY LIVING AND EMPLOYMENT. YOU CAN LEARN ABOUT THE FIVE TRACKS TO EMPLOYMENT, WATCH INTRODUCTORY VIDEOS AND FIND LINKS FOR EXPERT ADVICE ON RESUMES, INTERVIEWING AND JOB APPLICATION TIPS. CHECK IT OUT.

HERE ARE SOME TIPS ON NAVIGATING THE VA SYSTEM FOR MEDICAL AND OTHER BENEFITS: KEEP COPIES OF ALL SERVICE AND MILITARY RECORDS, INCLUDING MEDALS AND RECORDS OF COMBAT SERVICE. BEFORE LEAVING THE SERVICE, OBTAIN A COMPLETE COPY OF EVERYTHING IN YOUR MEDICAL RECORDS. UNDERGO A FULL PHYSICAL EXAMINATION AND DOCUMENT ALL INJURIES OR MEDICAL PROBLEMS. BE SURE TO APPLY FOR EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS TO EARN COLLEGE DEGREES, VOCATIONAL TRAINING AND OTHER PROGRAMS.

ENSURE YOUR MILITARY SERVICE SENDS COPIES OF DISCHARGE PAPERWORK, CALLED A DD 214, TO THE STATE COMMISSION OF VETERANS AFFAIRS. THIS WILL PROVIDE A PERMANENT RECORD OF YOUR SERVICE.

NEVER PART WITH YOUR ORIGINAL DD 214. IF NECESSARY, USE CERTIFIED COPIES FOR THE VA OR OTHER ORGANIZATIONS. V-A USUALLY ACCEPTS APPLICATIONS UP TO SIX MONTHS BEFORE DISCHARGE OR RETIREMENT. AND YOU SHOULD APPLY FOR BENEFITS AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE.

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