

# VETERANS AND MILITARY SUPPORT

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The programs that make up the VFW Veterans and Military Support Programs are Adopt-a-Unit, Military Assistance, Operation Uplink, Sports Clip Scholarship Program and Unmet Needs.

**MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (MAP)** – The Military Assistance Program is working to give service members and their families the help they need before, during and after their deployment. We provide this through farewell events, welcome home celebrations, or family readiness group activities. The Posts/Auxiliaries should consider the Adopt-A-Unit Program. The program is an initiative way to involve in sponsoring military units or ships whether they are Active Duty, Reserve, or National Guard units. The sponsoring VFW Post/Auxiliary is required to keep in touch with the unit and assist with family and community needs. The Post/Auxiliary is required to file an Adopt-A-Unit Activity Report at least once a year to the National organization, failure to comply with this requirement will result in removal from the program. For details on Adopt a Unit go to <http://www.vfw.org/TroopSupport/>

**OPERATION UPLINK** – Virtual PINs are available for deployed service members, wounded warriors and VA Hospitals. Visit <http://www.vfw.org/TroopSupport/> for details.

**SPORTS CLIPS HELP A HERO SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM** -Scholarships of up to \$5,000 help our veterans complete their educational goals. Contact [HelpAHero@vfw.org](mailto:HelpAHero@vfw.org) with questions. Application is available online only at [www.vfw.org/scholarship](http://www.vfw.org/scholarship).

Eligibility requirements include:

- Retired or honorably discharged, active duty or a member of the National Guard/Reserves;
- Military rank E-5 or below;
- Demonstrate a need for financial assistance;
- Participate in, be accepted to or currently enrolled in a VA approved program or school

**UNMET NEEDS** – This program helps service members and their families who face unexpected financial difficulties, often as a result of unexpected or extended deployments. They can apply for cash grants of up to \$5,000 to cope with emergencies and help them get through tough times. To qualify for this grant you must have served on active duty (Any branch of the military including Guard and Reserve units) within the past 72 months and have an Honorable or General Discharge, or individuals who have a financial crisis resulting from Military Service, medical emergency, death of a service member or their dependent or natural disaster. Unmet Needs assists with basic life needs such as: mortgage and rent, home or auto repairs, insurance, utilities, food and clothing. All grants are paid directly to the “creditor” and not the individual. Each case is reviewed individually and acceptance determined by a committee. To file an application for a grant go to <http://www.vfw.org/UnmetNeeds/>

**MONETARY DONATIONS:**

Both the State and National Veterans of Foreign Wars have obligated funds established to support the different Veterans and Military Support Programs. You can either donate to the individual programs (Military Assistance, Operation Uplink, Sports Clips Help a Hero Scholarship and Unmet Needs) or to the Veterans and Military Support Program. They prefer to have the donations to the Veterans and Military Support Program so that they can utilize the funds where they are needed most.

**AWARDS**

Awards are based on Chairman's recommendation and will be presented in both categories at the State Convention as follows unless otherwise noted elsewhere in this guide:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place (Post & District) will be awarded a plaque.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Place (Post & District) will be awarded a certificate.