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MyCAA Restarts Effective Monday, October 25, 2010

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DOD to Resume Restructured Military Spouse Career Program

The Department of Defense announced today the resumption of a restructured Military Spouse Career Advancement Account program - MyCAA, following a comprehensive review. The program will be available to spouses of service members in the pay grades of E1-E5, W1-W2 and O1-O2 beginning October 25 at 8 a.m. EDT.

"The changes announced today reflect a return to the original intent of the program which is to help military spouses, with the greatest need, successfully enter, navigate and advance in portable careers," said Clifford Stanley, undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness. "We fully support the program and are committed to ensuring the program's sustainability. To that end, we are making several critical operational changes."

Amongst these changes, eligible spouses will receive a total of \$4,000 in DoD-funded financial aid, with an annual cap of \$2,000 per fiscal year; funding must be used within a three-year time period from the start date of the first class; and must be used to obtain an associates' degree, licensure or certification. A waiver may be granted when fees for licensure or certification require an up-front fee greater than \$2,000 and up to the total maximum assistance of \$4,000.

"The MyCAA program popularity grew beyond our expectations and became too expensive to continue. Therefore, we are returning to the original intent of the program in a way that is attainable and fiscally responsible for the Defense Department," said Stanley. "As we look to the future, we envision a program that is much broader than DoD's financial assistance component. Military spouses will be guided along a more holistic approach to career planning."

Under the long-term program guidelines, career counselors will continue to work with all military spouses to help develop career and education goals and plans, and assist them in identifying and accessing available federal education benefits toward these goals.

"Families play a crucial role in supporting our men and women on the battlefield. When service members are confident that their families at home have access to resources and

support, they are better able to focus on their mission," said Stanley. "The Defense Department is committed to investing in military families. When we invest in the well-being of the family, we invest in the well-being of the force."

More information can be found on the MyCAA Web site:

<https://www.militaryonesource.com/MOS/FindInformation/Category/MilitarySpouseCareerAdvancementAccounts.aspx>

Source of the above information:

U.S. Department of Defense, Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Public Affairs) On the Web: <http://www.defense.gov/releases/>

The Employment Readiness Center (ERC) of Rock Island Arsenal's (RIA) Army Community Service (ACS) is located in building 110, 1st floor, southeast wing. If additional information or assistance is desired, call (309) 782-0815 or email: ROCK-ACS@conus.army.mil. Military and civilian personnel are gently reminded to account for their duty time with their supervisors.

See www.riamwr.com/acsnew.htm



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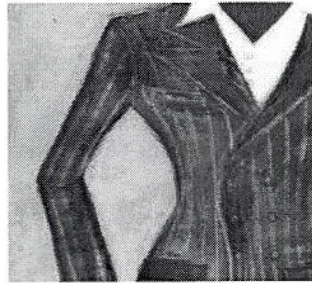
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Military Spouse Career Advancement Accounts (MyCAA)



DoD will resume the MyCAA program

The Department of Defense has completed the program review and will be making the necessary adjustments to resume the MyCAA program beginning in October 2010.

Starting 8 a.m. (EDT) Monday October 25, 2010, Military OneSource career and education counselors will have a much more active role in supporting military spouses. In addition to understanding resources available via DoD's financial aid support, they will provide support and assistance to identify and gain access to other federal, state, and local programs. All military spouses of active duty service members will be eligible for career counseling and support.

New financial assistance guidelines

With a focus on the original intent of the program, the Defense Department's financial assistance program will:

- Be available to spouses of active duty service members in pay grades E1-E5, W1-W2, and O1-O2
- Offer a maximum financial benefit of \$4,000 with a fiscal year cap of \$2,000. Waivers will be available for spouses pursuing licensure or certification up to the total maximum assistance of \$4,000
- Require military spouses to finish their program of study within three years from the start date of the first course
- Be limited to associate degrees, certification, and licensures

These new guidelines reflect a return to the original purpose of the program — to assist spouses of service members in achieving portable careers. These changes also align the program with responsible fiscal planning by the Defense Department to help sustain the program. Additional program details will be posted here when they become available. We encourage you to check the site often.

Spouses who currently have an active account

Spouses with an active account will be allowed to request financial assistance until Thursday, October 21, 2010. Beginning September 1, 2010, spouses may request financial assistance for classes that have a start date up to January 15, 2011. To ensure adequate time to plan for courses, no career plans will be accepted after August 31, 2010. All currently approved financial assistance documents will be honored.

Additionally, the review revealed that National Guard and Reserve members must be on active duty for their spouses to receive the MyCAA benefit. Spouses may no longer use the MyCAA benefit when the service member is in an alert or demobilization period. The new eligibility rule takes effect immediately.

Additional information

The program will be closed from Friday, October 22 to Monday, October 25, 2010, so that we may ensure the infrastructure is in place to implement the new program.

Military spouses are the backbone for military families, displaying strength of character to be admired by this nation. The Department of Defense remains committed to investing in military families, and appreciates the sacrifice of those who also serve.

Career and education information on Military OneSource

Our newly expanded Career and Education section offers tools and resources for [Career Exploration](#), [Education and Training](#), [Employment Readiness](#) and [Career Services](#) to help you navigate every step of the way.

Links and resources