



## Military Community and Family Policy Fact Sheet

### A Survivor's Guide to Benefits: Taking Care of Our Families

#### Data

- ✓ *The guide is updated biannually to ensure that the information is as current as possible.*
- ✓ *The guide was developed in collaboration with the service Casualty Affairs offices and direct input from primary next-of-kin.*

#### Additional information

**A Survivor's Guide to Benefits**  
<http://www.militaryonesource.mil/12038/MOS/ResourceGuides/A-Survivors-Guide-To-Benefits.pdf>

**Casualty assistance**  
<http://militaryonesource.mil/family-and-relationships/casualty-assistance-and-surviving-loss>

**Non-medical counseling**  
 Military OneSource: 800-342-9647  
<http://www.militaryonesource.mil/confidential-help/non-medical-counseling>

**Bereavement counseling**  
[http://www.vetcenter.va.gov/Bereavement\\_Counseling.asp](http://www.vetcenter.va.gov/Bereavement_Counseling.asp)

#### Background

The Department of Defense designed “A Survivor’s Guide to Benefits: Taking Care of Our Families” to provide information for families as they work through the difficulty and pain of losing a loved one who was serving in the military. The summer/fall 2015 update of the guide is now available.

#### Highlights

To honor the sacrifice of those who have died, the Department of Defense is committed to doing all it can to support the surviving families of service members. “A Survivor’s Guide to Benefits: Taking Care of Our Families” offers information to address the needs of survivors during this difficult time, such as:

- An explanation of the role of the casualty assistance officer, who offers compassionate support and assists with issues including burial arrangements, legal matters, applying for benefits and relocation assistance
- Information about funeral and memorial services, transportation of remains, military honors and return of personal effects
- An overview of the federal benefits, privileges and entitlements that may be available to survivors, as well as a detailed list of survivor support organizations
- Financial information that will help survivors plan for immediate and future needs

