

Featured Topics

[www.Shiawassee.net /Departments/Veteran](http://www.Shiawassee.net/Departments/Veteran)

Paperless & Cashless
Beneficiary Travel

2017
Compensation
Rates

Non-VA Emergency
Care Fact Sheet



Serving Those Who Served

Shiawassee County

Veteran *News*

Welcome...

Vet Affairs Monthly Newsletter by Shiawassee County Veterans Affairs & Services.

Each month look for information and current events to keep you updated. All monthly newsletters will be available online and in our office. Sign up at vetaffairs@shiwasssee.net to receive monthly newsletter via email.



Calendar of Events:

- January 1 **New Year's Day**
- January 2 **Shiawassee County Veterans Affairs and Services/closed**
- January 16 **Martin Luther King Day/Office Closed**
- January 18 **Michigan Veterans Trust Fund Meeting /1pm**
- January 18 **Veterans Relief Fund Meeting/3pm**

2017
HAPPY NEW YEAR

*Wishing you and your family a
Happy New Year!*

Contact Us:

201 N. Shiawassee St.
3rd floor, Surbeck Building
Corunna, MI 48817
Phone: (989)743-2231
Fax: (989)743-2393
vetaffairs@shiwasssee.net

**Michigan Veterans Trust Fund
County Committee
Monthly Meeting Schedule**

January 18, 2017	July 19, 2017
February 15, 2017	August 16, 2017
March 15, 2017	September 20, 2017
April 19, 2017	October 18, 2017
May 17, 2017	November 15, 2017
June 21, 2017	December 20, 2017

Meeting Time: 1:00pm

Location

**201 N. Shiawassee St.
3rd Floor, Surbeck Building
Corunna, MI 48817**

Changes in meeting dates or times are posted to the public on County website, in the Clerk's office, Shiawassee County Veterans Affairs and Services office and the Administration office on the 1st floor Surbeck Building

**Shiawassee County Department of
Veterans Affairs and Services
Veterans Relief Fund
Committee Monthly Meeting Schedule**

January 18, 2017	July 19, 2017
February 15, 2017	August 16, 2017
March 15, 2017	September 20, 2017
April 19, 2017	October 18, 2017
May 17, 2017	November 15, 2017
June 21, 2017	December 20, 2017

Meeting Time: 3:00pm

Location

**201 N. Shiawassee St.
3rd Floor, Surbeck Building
Corunna, MI 48817**

Changes in meeting dates or times are posted to the public on County website, in the Clerk's office, Shiawassee County Veterans Affairs and Services office and the Administration office on the 1st floor Surbeck Building

The public is welcome to attend meetings.

Disabled Veterans Exemption Information

In order to be eligible for the exemption, the disabled veteran must have been honorably discharged from the armed forces of the United States. They must be a Michigan resident. Additionally, they must meet one of the following criteria:

(a) Has been determined by the United States department of veterans' affairs to be permanently and totally disabled as a result of military service and entitled to veterans' benefits at the 100% rate.

(b) Has a certificate from the United States veterans' administration, or its successors, certifying that he or she is receiving or has received pecuniary assistance due to disability for specially adapted housing.

(c) Has been rated by the United States department of veterans' affairs as individually unemployable.

The unremarried surviving spouse of the disabled veteran is eligible for the exemption based upon the eligibility of their spouse; therefore the spouse must also be a Michigan resident.

The exemption will continue only as long as the surviving spouse remains unremarried.

For more information or to download or print the State Tax Commission Affidavit for Disabled Veterans Exemption go to:

www.michigan.gov



This document explains what the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) can do for you if you ever need emergency care. When it is not possible for you to go to a VA Medical Center (VAMC), you should go to the nearest hospital that has an emergency room (ER). If you are in an ambulance, the paramedics will usually take you to the closest emergency room.

What is an emergency?

A medical emergency is an injury or illness so severe that without immediate treatment, it threatens your life or health. Your situation is an emergency if you believe your life or health is in danger. If you believe your life or health is in danger, call 911 or go to the nearest ER right away. You *do not* need to call the VA before calling for an ambulance or going to an emergency room.

When should I contact the VA regarding an ER visit?

You, your family, friends or hospital staff should contact the nearest VAMC as soon as possible, preferably within 72 hours of your emergency, so you are better aware of what services VA may or may not cover. Provide VA with information about your emergency and what services are being provided to you. Ask VA for guidance on what emergency charges are covered, so you can plan accordingly.

If the doctor then wants to admit me to the hospital, must I obtain advance approval from the VA?

If the admission is an emergency, advance approval is not required although prompt notification to the VA is necessary (within 72 hours). If the admission is *not* an emergency, then you must obtain advance approval from the VA.

Will I have to pay for transportation to a VA facility?

VA will assist with transportation arrangements and may be able to pay for such expenses. Contact the nearest VA Medical Center for guidelines.

If a VA bed is available and I can be safely transferred, do I have to move to the VA hospital?

Yes, if you want VA to continue to pay for your care. If you refuse to be transferred, VA will not pay for any further care.

If I am admitted to the hospital as a result of an emergency, how much will VA pay?

Depending on your VA eligibility, VA may pay all, some or none of the charges. Some highlights are listed in the next column, and you may ask your local VA Medical Center's Non-VA Medical Care Office for further eligibility guidance.

For service-connected conditions, some of the criteria that must be met are:

- Care or services were provided in a medical emergency, *AND*
- VA or another federal facility were not feasibly available, *AND*
- VA was notified within 72 hours of the admission.

For nonservice-connected conditions, some of the criteria that must be met are:

- Veteran is enrolled in the VA health care system, *AND*
- Veteran has received health care services from VA within the previous 24 months, *AND*
- Veteran has no other health insurance coverage.

How do I know if I have a service-connected condition?

A service-connected condition refers to an illness or injury that was incurred during or aggravated by military service, and has a rating assigned by the Veterans Benefits Administration.

How long do I have to file a claim for reimbursement for emergency medical care?

File your claim with the nearest VAMC quickly because time limits usually apply. For nonservice-connected care, the time limit is 90 days. Again, consult your local VA Medical Center for more information.

Will VA pay for emergency care received outside the United States?

VA will only pay for emergency care outside the U.S. if your emergency is related to a service-connected condition. For more information about care provided outside the U.S., contact the Foreign Medical Program at 1-877-345-8179, or visit the website at <http://www.va.gov/purchasedcare/>.

How do I get more information?

Visit the Chief Business Office Purchased Care website at <http://www.va.gov/purchasedcare/> for more information on non-VA emergency care.



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Veterans Health Administration
Aleda E. Lutz VA Medical Center
Saginaw, MI

November 29, 2016

Aleda E. Lutz VA Medical Center in Saginaw Implements Paperless and Cashless Beneficiary Travel Effective January 1, 2017

Beginning January 1, 2017, the Aleda E. Lutz VAMC in Saginaw will no longer make cash payments at the travel pay/agent cashier window, in order to comply with a U.S. Department of Treasury requirement.

For those Veterans who are eligible to receive Beneficiary Travel Pay, they will now request their beneficiary travel at the check-in kiosks. This will begin at the Community Based Out-patient Clinics, and Health Care Annex in Saginaw, on November 28, 2016. The VA Medical Center in Saginaw, located at 1500 Weiss Street in Saginaw, will implement this process in January 2017.

If the claim is approved, a payment will be issued to the Veteran through the United States (U.S.) Treasury by means of a treasury check or a direct deposit to their bank account. Direct deposit payments may be made in as few as five days, rather than the normal 14-day processing time for checks.

Direct deposit can be processed to a traditional bank account or to a personally-owned debit card. Many of our Veterans are already receiving direct deposit for travel pay, which is deposited into the same account used for their disability benefit payments. If they wish to receive beneficiary travel payments through direct deposit, forms are available at the front desk of any of our clinics at the CBOC's, Health Care Annex, and at the Agent Cashier's window at the VA Medical Center. Additionally, they may contact the Fiscal Office at (989) 497-2500, extension 13055, and a form will be mailed to them.

By completing a Direct Deposit Form, payments can be processed more quickly and easily. Veterans should ensure their address is correct on our files by talking with staff at check-in. As always, please keep in mind VA regulations require we pay eligible Veterans their travel benefits to the nearest VA location which offers the clinical care they required.

If you have questions about the beneficiary travel program, please contact us at (989)497-2500 extension 13333.

2017

Compensation Rates

The 2017 compensation rates are out...

Click below for the veterans Compensation Benefits Rate Tables-Effective 12/1/2016

Compensation

http://www.benefits.va.gov/COMPENSATION/resources_comp01.asp

Pension

http://www.benefits.va.gov/pension/current_rates_veteran_pen.asp

Survivors

http://www.benefits.va.gov/pension/current_rates_survivor_pen.asp



Rotating Shelter...

Stay Warm this Winter



Walls of Warmth (WOW) is a rotating homeless shelter in Shiawassee County and provides immediate, temporary housing to homeless individuals and families of all social and cultural identities. Beginning November 13, 2016 through April 15, 2017 anyone who is homeless can check in at WOW Welcome Center and have a warm place for the night. Check in at WOW Welcome Center between 4:30-5:45pm at 208 W. Main St., Owosso-Hope Vineyard Church.

National Cemeteries

The VA now allows the veteran to pre-apply for the National Cemeteries. For more information contact the Shiawassee County Veterans Affairs and Services office at (989)743-2231 or go to:

<http://www.military.com/daily-news/2016/12/09/va-to-let-vets-preselect-cemetery-burials-before-death.html>



Fact Sheet

Potential Infections Associated with Heater-Cooler Devices December 2016

Q-1. What exactly is the notification about?

A-1. The equipment that this notification concerns is called a Heater-Cooler System, which is connected to the heart-lung bypass machine that is used for heart surgery procedures. The equipment is routinely cleaned after surgery using multiple steps. However, the US Food and Drug Administration and the Center for Disease Control issued a national alert last month because several patients in Europe and the United States have become infected with a rare type of bacteria that was found in the heater-cooler machine and likely had been there since the time the machine was built. Out of an abundance of caution, VA is contacting all Veteran who may have come in contact with this equipment.

Q-2. What is the potential risk?

A-2. For patients who have had cardiothoracic surgeries, the CDC estimates the chances of acquiring the NTM infection is very low, or less than one percent.

Q-3. What steps are being taken to investigate this problem?

A-3. For any Veteran who had heart surgery over the last 5 years using this equipment, the VA has sent a letter (or, in some cases, make a phone call) to notifying the Veteran about the issue and advising them of their options to seek care at the VA.

Q-4. What kind of germs or infections are exposed patients at risk for?

A-4. The bacteria that have caused infection in relation to the heart surgery procedure is called Mycobacterium chimaera and is also referred to as nontuberculous mycobacteria or NTM. M. chimaera can cause damage to heart valves and other organs. Though the risk of transmission of these bacteria during procedure is extremely low, it is VA policy to inform Veterans who may have been exposed.

Q-5. What kind of testing is being offered to affected Veterans?

A-5. Not all Veterans require testing; the first step involves an evaluation by a clinical provider to determine whether there are any signs of infection with this bacterium. If there are symptoms, a simple blood test or culture that looks for evidence of the bacteria. VA will provide all necessary tests without any charges or co-payment.

Q-6. Do Veterans need to be tested more than once?

A-6. It can take up to 5 years for this infection to show symptoms. VA will continue to offer testing and ongoing monitoring for impacted Veterans.

Q-7. Are infections caused by NTM treatable?

A-7. Yes, this infection can be treated with antibiotics.

Q-8. Is this situation unique to VA?

A-8. No, heater-cooler systems are used by health care providers world-wide and all have been impacted by this alert.

Q-9. What is VA doing to prevent something like this from happening again?

A-9. A thorough investigation is being conducted by FDA, CDC and VA to understand what happened, and to put in place safeguards so that something like this cannot happen again.

Q-10. Is there a resource for additional information regarding CDC and FDA's alert?

A-10. Yes, the CDC has a web page, which provides additional information: <http://www.cdc.gov/HAI/outbreaks/heater-cooler.html>

Q-11. Who should a Veteran contact if they have questions about this notification?

A-11. Patients may contact their primary care provider with questions.



U.S. Customs and Border Protection

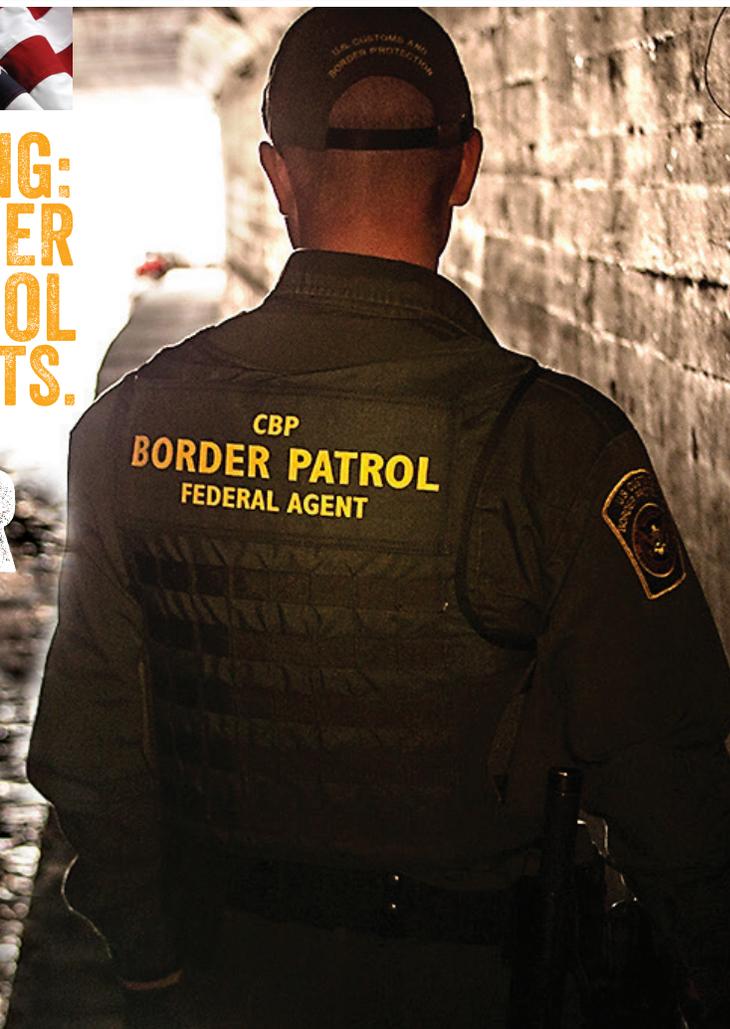


**HIRING:
BORDER
PATROL
AGENTS.**

**BUILT FOR
THE**

BORDER.

SINCE 1924



YOUR MIND IS SHARP. YOUR BODY IS TOUGH. YOUR SOUL IS DRIVEN. YOU'RE BUILT FOR THE BORDER.

The U.S. Border Patrol is focused 24/7 on securing our borders and safeguarding the American people from terrorism, drug smuggling and illegal entry to our country. Agents are built to protect. It's second nature. They use age-old techniques and cutting-edge technology in the face of uncertainty. Border Patrol Agents honor their heritage by protecting America today.

KEY REQUIREMENTS

- > Be under age 40 unless you are Veterans' Recruitment Appointment eligible or have previous federal law enforcement experience.
- > Be a U.S. citizen and a resident for the past three years
- > Have a valid state driver's license
- > Pass a thorough background investigation, polygraph examination, medical examination, pre-employment fitness tests and drug test

New hires must successfully complete 66 days of intensive instruction at the U.S. Border Patrol Academy in Artesia, NM. Coursework includes topics such as immigration and nationality laws, as well as physical training and marksmanship. An additional 40 days is necessary for those who require Spanish language instruction.

CONTINUE SERVING OUR COUNTRY AS A BORDER PATROL AGENT:

- Veterans' Preference
- Credit for military service
- VA benefits for approved on-the-job training programs

Are you **BUILT FOR THE BORDER?**

Find out. To apply, visit www.cbp.gov/careers



WE ARE AMERICA'S FRONTLINE



U.S. Customs and Border Protection

BUILT FOR THE BORDER



U.S. BORDER PATROL OFFERS A COMPETITIVE SALARY AND BENEFITS PACKAGE.

HERE'S A SNAPSHOT:

FINANCIAL & JOB SECURITY

- > Job Security
 - Salary/steady income
 - Starting salary \$39,400-\$50,016
- > Premium pay
 - Night Pay/Differential
 - Sunday premium pay
 - Holiday premium pay
- > Student Loan Repayment (available at some locations)
- > Uniform allowance
- > Personal/Sick Leave/Holidays
 - Paid personal (annual) and sick leave
 - 10 paid holidays per year
- > Paid job-related training
- > VA benefits for approved on-the-job training programs
- > Transportation subsidy

HEALTH BENEFITS

- > Federal Employee Health Benefits Program
 - Federal government pays up to 75% of medical premiums
- > Federal Dental & Vision Program
- > Federal Flexible Spending Account Program
- > Federal Long Term Care Insurance Program
- > Employee assistance program/WorkLife4You services

RETIREMENT & INSURANCE BENEFITS

- > Thrift Savings Plan
- > Federal retirement plan
- > Credit for military service
- > Law enforcement retirement benefits
- > Federal Employees Group Life Insurance

Are you **BUILT FOR THE BORDER?**



Find out. To apply, visit www.cbp.gov/careers

U.S. Customs and Border Protection is an Equal Opportunity Employer.



WE ARE AMERICA'S FRONTLINE

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