

Documents Needed for Submitting Applications

**Please DO NOT send original documents, as they will not be returned.*

❑ Service Record:

- ✓ **Member 4 Copy of a DD214/** Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty documenting receipt of the SWAM during the period from August 2, 1990 to August 31, 1991 and a discharge from military service under honorable conditions.
- ✓ Official Military Records for individuals who are still on active duty showing receipt of the SWAM during the period from August 2, 1990 to August 31, 1991.
- ✓ If applicable, DD215/Correction to DD214 documenting receipt of the SWAM during the period from August 2, 1990 to August 31, 1991.
- ✓ If applicable, documentation to support any name change.

❑ Proof of Pennsylvania Residency at Time of Service:

- ✓ DD214 (Block 7b – Home of Record).
- ✓ DoD Leave and Earning Statements for the period August 2, 1990, to August 31, 1991.
- ✓ Voter's registration records for the period August 2, 1990, to August 31, 1991.
- ✓ Pennsylvania State Tax Return or Pennsylvania Drivers' License for 1990 or 1991.
- ✓ Form W2 Wage and Tax Statement for 1990 or 1991.

❑ Proof of Relationship: If you are applying on behalf of a veteran, you must provide proof of your relationship to the veteran.

- ✓ Spouse – Certificate of Marriage
- ✓ Child – Certificates of Birth Certificate for each surviving children
- ✓ Parent – Veteran's Birth Certificate
- ✓ Representative – Proof of authorization to represent

❑ Other:

- ✓ Death Certificate, if applicable
- ✓ DD1300 or Veterans Affairs Rating Decision, if applicable

❑ Application Form:

Applications for the Persian Gulf Veterans' Benefit Program must be made on an official application form, PG-1. A short version of the form (PG-1 Short) is available for veterans or service persons filing on their own behalf. A long version of the form (PG-1 Long) is available for persons filing on behalf of a deceased or incompetent veteran. The application must be complete and contain appropriate documentation. Applications will be available online from the program website at <http://www.persiangulfbonus.state.pa.us> and at each County Director of Veterans Affairs Office and Legislators' Offices and from Veteran Service Organizations.

Submit Application to:

Persian Gulf Conflict Veterans' Benefit Program
PO Box 1109
Harrisburg, PA 17108-1109

Deadline: The deadline for submitting applications for the Persian Gulf Conflict Veterans' Benefit Program is August 31, 2015.

Recommended Documents to support in theater dates or SWAM

Marine Corp Personnel

- NAVMC 118(9), Combat History-Expeditions-Awards Record
- NAVPERS 1070 (If you were assigned to a ship)
- NAVMC 118(3), Chronological Record

Navy Personnel

- NAVPERS 1070/605 (History of Assignment Form)
- NAVPERS 1616/24 Enlisted Personnel Evaluation Report

Air Force Personnel

- AF104 – Service Medal Award Verification
 - AF910 – Personnel Evaluation
 - DD1351 – Travel Voucher
- ** Note:** Qualifying dates are normally reflected as the dates for "Area of Responsibility".

Army Personnel

- PG 2-1 (DA form 2-1) Personnel Qualification Record
- ERB – Enlisted Record Brief
- ORB – Officer Record Brief

Service Members still on active duty may also use the *Desert Shield/Storm Deployment Period Certification* form to support current active status and dates in theater. A copy of this form is available at: <http://www.persiangulfbonus.state.pa.us>.

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA Department of Military and Veterans Affairs Office of the Deputy Adjutant General for Veterans' Affairs



pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY
AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

Digest and Explanation Act 29 of 2006 Persian Gulf Conflict Veterans' Benefit Program



Hours of Operations: Monday thru Friday 9 AM to 5 PM
Telephone: 1-866-458-9182 (TTY: 1-866-835-8983)
Visit the program's website: <http://www.persiangulfbonus.state.pa.us>

Updated JAN 2011

Persian Gulf Conflict Veterans' Benefit Program

Act 29 of 2006

(House Bill 1820)

Background: On April 24, 2006, House Bill 1820 was signed into law as Act 29 of 2006. This Bill establishes the Persian Gulf Conflict Veterans' Benefit Act. On November 7, 2006, Pennsylvania voters gave overwhelming approval to a ballot question to fund the program. The bond issue created a fund for the payment of compensation to, or on behalf of, eligible current and former members of the United States Armed Forces, a reserve component of the United States Armed Forces, or the Pennsylvania National Guard.

Eligibility: The program allows for compensation to be paid to eligible service members (current and former) as well as certain surviving relatives of deceased veterans. In each case, the service member/veteran must have:

- Served with the United States Armed Forces, a reserve component of the United States Armed Forces or the Pennsylvania National Guard.
- Served on active duty service in the Persian Gulf Theater of Operations during the period from August 2, 1990 to August 31, 1991.
- Received the Southwest Asia Service Medal (SWAM) for the period from August 2, 1990 to August 31, 1991.
- Been a legal resident of Pennsylvania at the time of active duty service in the Persian Gulf Theater of Operations during the period from August 2, 1990 to August 31, 1991.
- Been discharged from active duty under honorable conditions, if not currently on active duty.

Eligible beneficiaries of deceased veterans include, in the following order of precedence:

- Surviving spouse.
- Surviving children.
- Surviving parents.

Active Service: For purposes of calculating the amount of the benefit payment based on months of service, "active service" is defined as :

- For a member of an active component of the Armed Forces of the United States, time served on active duty for which the member has received the SWAM for service related to the Persian Gulf Conflict Theater.
- For a member of the Pennsylvania National Guard or a reserve component of the armed forces of the United States, time served on active duty for the support of operations in the Persian Gulf Conflict Theater whether or not that service was in Theater, provided the member was on active duty in the Persian Gulf Theater of Operations during the period from August 2, 1990 to August 31, 1991 and received the SWAM.

Exceptions: Service members, veterans or their surviving beneficiaries are not eligible for the program, if a bonus, gratuity, or compensation similar to that provided by this Act has been received from any other state or if the service member or veteran has:

- Renounced his or her US citizenship.
- At any time during the Persian Gulf Conflict or thereafter, been separated from the armed forces under less than honorable conditions.

Evidence of Eligibility. ****Please DO NOT send original documents, as they will not be returned.*** All applicants will be required to provide evidence of eligibility, including:

Service Records.

- **Member 4 Copy of a DD214**/Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty documenting receipt of the SWAM during the period from August 2, 1990 to August 31, 1991 and a discharge from military service under honorable conditions.
- Official Military Records for individuals who are still on active duty and have not received a DD214/DD215 – These documents must show receipt of the SWAM during the period from August 2, 1990 to August 31, 1991.
- If applicable, DD215/Correction to DD214 documenting receipt of the SWAM and the dates in Theater.

Note: If current name differs from that on service record, applicants must provide marriage or divorce certificates documenting the name change.

Note: This Digest and Explanation is a brief summary of laws (Act 29 of 2006) and regulations (43 Pa. Code Ch. 9) applicable to the Persian Gulf Conflict Veterans' Benefit Program. The text of the laws and regulations govern the determination of eligibility for benefits and amounts of benefits. This Digest and Explanation is for information purposes and is not a substitute for the governing legal authorities.

Proof of Legal Residence. The applicant must prove that the veteran was a legal resident of Pennsylvania during the period of August 2, 1990 to August 31, 1991. Proof of residence should be contained in official military records:

- DD214 (Block 7b – Home of Record)

If military records do not contain proof of legal residence in Pennsylvania during the period of August 2, 1990 to August 31, 1991, the Department will consider other evidence including:

- DoD Leave and Earning Statements for the period August 2, 1990, to August 31, 1991.
- Voter's registration records for the period August 2, 1990, to August 31, 1991
- Form W2 Wage and Tax Statement for 1990 or 1991.
- Pennsylvania State Tax Return or Pennsylvania Driver's License for 1990 or 1991.

Note: A veteran cannot claim legal residence in Pennsylvania during the qualifying period of service if he or she was a resident of another state at the same time.

Proof of Relationship. For those applying as a beneficiary, a copy of the Veteran's death certificate must be provided along with a DD1300 or Veterans Affairs Rating Decision, if applicable. In addition, proof of relationship is required as follows:

- Surviving spouse – Certificate of Marriage
- Surviving child – Certificates of Birth for each surviving child
- Surviving parent – Certificate of Birth for the deceased veteran, naming the applicant as a parent or proof of adoption or guardianship

Certification of Representation. If a veteran's competence prevents him or her from personally filing, the application may be filed by a legal guardian (court verification required). If no legal guardian has been appointed, the qualifying beneficiary may file the application. If there is no legal guardian or qualifying beneficiary, the person in charge of the facility in which the veteran resides may complete application.

Amount of Compensation:

Eligible Pennsylvania veterans of the Persian Gulf Conflict are entitled to receive:

- A one-time benefit of \$75 per month for each month (or major fraction thereof) of active service in the Persian Gulf Conflict Theater of Operations during the covered period. The maximum compensation is **\$525**.
- An additional one-time benefit of \$5,000 if the service member was declared a prisoner of war at any time while on "active service" in the Persian Gulf Theater during the period of August 2, 1990 to August 31, 1991.

Eligible beneficiaries of deceased veterans are entitled to receive:

- A one-time benefit of \$75 per month for each month (or major fraction) of the veteran's active service in the Persian Gulf Conflict Theater of Operations during the covered period. The maximum compensation is **\$525**.
- An additional one-time benefit of \$5,000 if the service member died while on "active service" in the Persian Gulf Theater during the period of August 2, 1990 to August 31, 1991 or died as a result of service connected wounds, diseases or injuries sustained during such active service as certified by DoD or the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.
- Payment shall be made to eligible beneficiaries, as defined by the Act, in the order named, to: surviving spouse, surviving children (to be divided evenly), and surviving parents (to be divided evenly).

Obtaining a DD214: Applicants who cannot locate their Military Records should contact:

National Personnel Records Center
Military Personnel Records
9700 Page Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63132-5100
314-801-0800

<http://www.archives.gov/veterans/evetrecs>

Additional Provisions of Act 29

Fees: It is unlawful to charge or collect a fee for assisting a veteran in obtaining benefits under Act 29 or in filing an application.

Exemptions: Persian Gulf Conflict Veterans' Benefit Program payments are exempt from attachment or seizure and are exempt from all state taxation. Payments may not be assigned or serve as security for loans.

Administration: The Adjutant General of Pennsylvania and the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs administer this program.