



American Legion Auxiliary

Department of Minnesota
State Veterans Service Building
20 W 12th St. #314 St Paul MN 55155
Telephone 651-224-7634 Fax 651-224-5243
Toll Free 1-888-217-9598
Email – deptoffice@mnala.org
Website - www.mnala.org

March/April 2018

VETERANS AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION



HOW DOES A GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN AFFECT THE MILITARY, MILITARY RETIREES AND FAMILIES?

Active duty troops, Guard and Reservists on active duty are expected to work during a shutdown, BUT THEY WILL NOT BE PAID UNLESS CONGRESS PASSES A SEPARATE PIECE OF LEGISLATION TO DO SO!

Military retirees will receive their pension checks, as would those receiving a [Survivor's Benefit Plan \(SBP\) payment](#).

For newly bereaved family members of a soldier killed in action, they would not receive the Pentagon's \$100,000 death gratuity or travel expenses to a base to receive the dignified transfer of remains or to attend the military funeral/memorial for their loved one.

VA [disability pay](#) AND [GI Bill](#) payments are not affected (They come from different legislation than a Congressional bill to keep the government running).

Military moves and transfers are placed on hold during a government shutdown.

(over)

Military hospitals and dental clinics will stay open only for emergencies, inpatient care and acute care. Basic elective procedures and primary care appointments are canceled until the shutdown is lifted. Off base medical care is not affected.

On-base military child care centers will stay open on a case-by-case basis. On-base schools will stay open. However, extracurricular activities (like sporting events) will be canceled.

Stateside commissaries will close, while those outside the U.S. and in some rural locations will remain open since they are considered "essential."

At the Sweetheart Rally in February, it was announced that several Minnesota National Guard troops will soon again be deployed. In reality, when a soldier is deployed, their whole family is deployed. Keep those at home in your thoughts and prayers. Please do what you can to assist them. A telephone call, a plate of cookies, an offer to babysit while the home-based family member runs errands are always appreciated.

I'm looking forward to reading your annual reports. Please include photos of your Veterans Day dinners, sewing projects, Gift Shops, etc.

HAPPY EASTER! HAPPY SPRING!

**Mary Hendrickson
VA&R Chairman
carmar21@msn.com
218-590-0344**