

# THE PLAIN DEALER

## Veterans Resource Fair offers job, education opportunities and more

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By Brian Albrecht

They served their country, now they're looking for their country to return the service.

More than 400 veterans and members of veterans' families filled the Ohio National Guard Armory in Medina today to take advantage of services and information offered at a Veterans Resource Fair sponsored by the National Guard, and the Ohio departments of Veterans Services and Job and Family Services.

Some 68 exhibitors participated in the fair, offering details on education and job opportunities, federal and state benefits for veterans, and even a free haircut or blood-pressure check. The event also featured seminars on job-seeking strategies and insurance jobs in Ohio.

In publicly thanking the exhibitors, Tim Gorrell, director of the Department of Veterans Services, said, "Every day is veteran's day and this is just a small indication of that."

Army vet Bernard Nancy, 57, of Cleveland, came to the fair to get information about employment, education, health care -- "the whole nine yards," as he said.

"This is a great idea to help people who need help," he added. "They should have more of these and spread them out. I'm sure I'm not the only one who drove all the way out here for this."

He wasn't. Garth Proctor, 66, drove from Lakewood in search of possible job leads at the fair. "This is an incredible event, a really excellent idea," he said as he got a free haircut courtesy of representatives from the Ohio Academy Paul Mitchell Partner School in Twinsburg.

"A lot of the people here are real serious about taking care of veterans," the Army veteran, who has been unemployed since 2009, added.

**Article continued here:**

[http://www.cleveland.com/metro/index.ssf/2014/02/veterans\\_resource\\_fair\\_offers.html#ncart\\_river](http://www.cleveland.com/metro/index.ssf/2014/02/veterans_resource_fair_offers.html#ncart_river)

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