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# Kasich Order Will Reward Returning Vets For Experience

By Jim Heath

COLUMBUS, Ohio - Gov. John Kasich is calling on employers to take veterans' military skills and service into account when they look for civilian jobs.

"If you're driving a truck in Afghanistan, when you come back to America, you should be certified to drive a truck," said Kasich. "If you've been on the battlefield as a medic, saving people's lives, you ought to be able to come back here and get a certification as an emergency responder. These just make common sense."

Kasich signed an executive order on Tuesday requiring state agencies to translate military training for job licensing requirements.

He's also ordering the Ohio Board of Regents to work with the state's university system to find ways to award more college credit for what vets learn in the military.

"Credit can be given, just like it is at the federal level," said Colonel Tom Moe, director of the Ohio Veterans Services. "We've talked about the formulas, what kind of a certification, what kind of a specialty did they have? We're working to make that connection and that's where the challenge is."

The order notes the annual unemployment rate for Ohio's nearly 900,000 veterans was 7.6 percent last year.

"When we connect a veteran to a job, the employers love them," said Moe. "We hear this across the board, but we need to make the connection."

Kasich says he wonders why Ohio, and most other states, didn't credit military experience a long time ago.

"If you're in Afghanistan, you're in Iraq, then you've learned an enormous amount of things and we need to look through your experiences not only to help them get certified but to give them credit for higher education," said Kasich. "It makes all the sense in the world."

**Read full article here:** <http://www.10tv.com/content/stories/2013/06/11/columbus-kasich-order-will-reward-veterans-for-experience.html>



06/11/2013

# Ohio Gov. John Kasich wants job credit given for veterans' skills

By Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio - Veterans' military skills and service must be taken into account for civilian job licensing and college credits, according to an order by Gov. John Kasich to state agencies Tuesday.

The order requires state agencies to consider relevant military training when licensing and certifying veterans for civilian jobs. Kasich also is requiring Ohio's Board of Regents to work with the state university system to find ways of awarding more college credit for military training and education.

The order notes the unemployment rate among Ohio's nearly 900,000 veterans was 7.6 percent last year and 12.8 percent for post-9/11 veterans.

Kasich said after signing the order at an Executive Workforce Board meeting in Columbus that it "just makes common sense."

"You're driving a truck in Afghanistan, you come back to America, you should be certified to drive a truck," he said. "If you've been on the battlefield and you're a medic, and you're saving people's lives, you ought to be able to be back here and get a certification as an emergency responder."

The order also says more than 22,000 people are attending Ohio colleges and universities using federal veteran education benefits.

The action is "a great thing for veterans," said Michael McKinney, spokesman for the Ohio Department of Veterans Services.

"This shows veterans in Ohio that their training and experience counts and that it can lead directly to a job or give them credit to a college or university that gets them closer to their goals," McKinney said.

He said the order addresses an issue facing many veterans. Some who train as medics or in other military occupations with direct applications to civilian jobs later find they have to get additional training and certification after leaving the service.

"But by the time they do that, jobs may be filled," he said.

The Ohio Board of Regents chancellor and university presidents also will must review current policies on identifying military education and training and suggest ways to simplify the awarding of appropriate credits. Regents spokesman Jeff Robinson says the order "puts everyone on the same page to better serve veterans."

Army veteran Buck Clay, a University of Cincinnati student, supports the order and says "it's about time."

**Read full article here:** <http://www.newsnet5.com/dpp/news/state/ohio-gov-john-kasich-wants-job-credit-given-for-veterans-skills#ixzz2W0TXScR3>

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