

Veteran to Civilian EMS Transition Project

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

between and among

The National Association of State Emergency Medical Services Officials (NASEMSO)

and

The State Emergency Medical Services Authorities of the States, the District of Columbia, and Territories

1. Background and Purpose

This MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) among the State Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Authorities (“EMS Officials”) of the states, District of Columbia and territories (“the states”) recognizes the importance of establishing a collective commitment to the goals of streamlining and expediting the EMS licensure process for military service members, veterans and their spouses.

In the pursuit of these goals, the EMS Officials agree to strive for consistency to the extent possible and in concert with their respective state laws and regulations, and to continue to reduce barriers to licensure that may be present in existing policies, procedures, and rules. This MOU seeks to foster mutual understanding, shared responsibilities, and a commitment to working together for the improvement of the transition process for military service members, veterans and their spouses. Ongoing communication and coordination with the Department of Defense and the Department of Homeland Security through the Federal Interagency Committee on Emergency Medical Services and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration will afford the focused effort a continuous opportunity to assist states in achieving the goals of this MOU.

This MOU underscores the importance of education programs that bridge the gap in meeting civilian emergency medical technician, paramedic and other credentialing by recognizing military service members’ military EMS experiences, training and credentials. It also recognizes that access to these education programs is critical for military service members to achieve civilian licensure in the shortest period of time possible so that they may be best integrated into civilian EMS systems and help to meet local EMS manpower needs.

2. Effect, Date, Term and Scope

This MOU is hereby made and entered into by the EMS Officials, as empowered by their states, who have signed at the end of this document.

This MOU will become effective upon signing by any EMS Officials and will commence immediately among those states.

This MOU is intended to streamline and improve the state EMS licensure processes for military service members, veterans and their spouses.

3. Mutual Responsibilities

Signers of this MOU will:

- Work cooperatively to ensure appropriate, efficient communication in support of the goals of this MOU;
- Regularly share information about successes and barriers to success with the intent to improve processes and ensure licensing of veterans, military service members, and their spouses in state EMS systems;
- Collect measures of impact from streamlining licensure processes for military service members, veterans, and their spouses and share them among signers of this MOU and federal and military leadership; and will
- Work jointly to facilitate availability of bridge programs required for licensure.

4. State EMS Officials' Responsibilities

State EMS Officials who have signed this MOU will:

- Share the goals of this MOU with staff and identify needs for additional information, education and sources of expertise in military related education, training, experiences and document interpretation (e.g., DD 214, websites for military service training information, etc.);
- Identify the barriers to streamlining licensure and improve licensure processes for military service members, veterans, and their spouses;
- Integrate improvements into policy, procedure and rules for the state striving for consistency among the states;
- Work closely with training and education institutions with nationally accredited EMS programs to encourage "bridge" programs that recognize education, training

and experience of a military service member, veteran and spouse and provide opportunities for those requirements to be met in a condensed time and through methods that include technology for improved access; and will

- Share successful strategies and changes in streamlining the transition of military service members, veterans and credentialing recognition of spouses with other states through regional and national meetings, messaging among states and with NASEMSO and other communication methods available to the state.

5. National Association of State EMS Officials (NASEMSO) Responsibilities

The National Association of State EMS Officials will:

- Share information resulting from the Veteran to Civilian EMS Transition Project among EMS Officials in the states;
- Provide data collection guidelines and information to states to assist them in performance measurement, process improvement and understanding military service members' needs regarding licensure;
- Maintain a website with state and territory links as a resource for military service members, veterans and their spouses and as a resource for each state to learn from each other;
- Encourage the increased availability of 'bridge' programs in each state by providing them with information gathered from existing bridge programs;
- Provide opportunities through NASEMSO's website, spring and fall meetings and access to subject matter experts; and will
- Encourage the participation of state EMS Officials in this MOU.

FOR THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE EMS OFFICIALS:

President Signed, this _____ day of _____, 201__

Executive Director Signed, this _____ day of _____, 201__

FOR EACH STATE, the DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, AND TERRITORY:

Official for _____ (State/Territory)
Signed, this _____ day of _____, 201__

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6/12/15