

MVA

YEAR IN REVIEW

2023
2024

AP Austin Peay
State University
CLARKSVILLE TENNESSEE

Military & Veterans Affairs



GENERAL THOUGHTS

MAJ. GEN. LORD

VICE PRESIDENT FOR MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS



I was blessed to join the Austin Peay family in May 2021 as the military advisor in residence. Since then, my pride in our University has grown steadily as our leaders have corrected one longstanding oversight after another. In the past three years, our president and senior leadership team have served as enthusiastic supporters as we've established the Governors Military Hall of Fame; offered in-state tuition rates to all military-affiliated students, regardless of where they're from or where they currently serve; worked with alumni donors to create a Gold Star Family scholarship; supported an Eagle Scout who dedicated a Gold Star Gobs Memorial in front of Browning; and celebrated "Veterans Week" on campus for the first time, hosting

daily activities to honor Gobs who have worn the cloth of our nation.

On July 1, 2023, our president made perhaps the biggest, boldest move yet to show the world that APSU is the most devoted institution of higher education in America when it comes to serving and supporting military-affiliated students. By establishing our Military and Veterans Affairs Division, he sparked a reorganization that has brought together 24 teammates, previously spread across three divisions, to provide that service and support. As our nation's largest unified university staff solely focused on that mission, we now enjoy a unity of effort that was previously not possible.

Our Veterans Education Benefits Office assists thousands of students every term; Veterans Upward Bound enrolls more than a dozen new student-veterans every month; our team at the Austin Peay Center at Fort Campbell faithfully serves our military-affiliated students and has achieved record-shattering enrollment levels; and our teammates at the Newton Military Family Resource Center provide comprehensive support from enrollment to advising to career services. Their work is guided by a first-class leadership team that has facilitated recruiting, communications, marketing, and programming efforts that are the envy of every college and university across

our nation. Together, they have helped our university achieve the amazing distinction of serving nearly 2,700 military-affiliated students throughout our inaugural academic year.

We could not have achieved this resounding success without the unwavering support of our University leadership team, terrific faculty and staff, devoted military-affiliated alumni and benefactors and wonderful community partners. We are deeply grateful for your support, we thank you on behalf of our military-affiliated students and we look forward to your continued support as we aggressively seek ways to get even better.



INTRODUCING THE CAMO LOGO



Traditionally, camouflage is designed to disguise one's appearance or blend in with one's surroundings. We bleed **RED** with PEAYPride, but a part of our heart is camouflaged with **GREEN!**

Alongside this organizational restructuring, APSU unveiled a new military logo—the Camo AP. This distinctive emblem will represent the Military and Veterans Affairs Division and symbolize the University's commitment to honoring its military-affiliated students. Watch for the Camo AP at events, sponsorships and initiatives connected with the division.



Military & Veterans Affairs

WHAT IS MAS?

At the heart of our division lies a commitment to supporting our military-affiliated Students (MAS). But who does MAS encompass? Here at Austin Peay we define military-affiliated students as military/veteran family members, active-duty military, veterans, reservists, National Guard members, ROTC cadets and retirees.





VETERAN
BRIAN MEREDITH:

- A 23-year Army veteran and former Airborne Ranger infantryman from Clarksville, Tennessee.
- Graduated in May 2024, pursued a degree in business management.



MILITARY CHILD:
ABIGAIL ISIKHUEMHEN

- A military child from Clarksville, Tennessee.
- Working toward her bachelor's degree and serving as a VA work-study student for the Newton Military Family Resource Center.



SVA PRESIDENT:
VINCENT VANBROCKLIN

- President of APSU's Student Veterans of America (SVA).
- An ROTC cadet hailing from Watertown, New York. A May 2024 graduate with a Master's of Science in Leadership. Commissioned as an Army second lieutenant through APSU Army ROTC.



MILITARY SPOUSE:
SHAWNAE TOWNER

- A current military spouse and Gold Star spouse from San Diego, California.
- Majoring in nursing, she represents the resilience and strength of military families.



ACTIVE DUTY: **CHEYENNE ROMANS**

- An active-duty sergeant and instructor at The Sabalauski Air Assault School at Fort Campbell from Lincoln County, Nevada.
- Pursuing a degree in liberal arts, showcasing the dedication of military personnel to education.

ROTC CADET: **JANINE BROXSON**

- APSU ROTC cadet and finance major from Nuremberg, Germany.
- May 2024 graduate from Nuremberg, Germany with a bachelor's degree in finance. Commissioned as a second lieutenant in the APSU Army ROTC.



NEW TRADITIONS

Starting with a Patch of History: Introducing MVA's First Custom Patch

The military patch, a symbol of pride and distinction, has a rich history dating back to the 1800s. Originating with British soldiers, the tradition soon crossed the Atlantic to America. These patches, worn to signify officers' ranks, became an effective way to distinguish between divisions in military units. Now, Austin Peay State University's Military and Veterans Affairs Division is making its mark with the introduction of its first custom division patch.



In July 2023, the Military and Veterans Affairs Division, which supports 27% of the University's student body, created a unique patch featuring a new Austin Peay logo with a camouflage design. The division produces only 500 patches annually, making them a sought-after item within the APSU community. Austin Peay President Mike Licari has granted the division exclusive rights to use the camo logo, acknowledging the importance of honoring the military-affiliated student community.

"As true Gavs, we bleed red, but in our division, we wear green to signify those we have lost, those who actively serve, the family members of our military community and those who have completed their service to keep our freedoms alive," said retired Maj. Gen. Walt Lord, Austin Peay's vice president for Military and Veterans Affairs.

Todd Hannah, the director of emergency and risk management within Austin Peay's Department of Public Safety and a 28-year veteran of the United States Air Force, understands the significance of the patch.

Hannah, who retired as a colonel, joined APSU in September 2022. In addition to his role in public safety, he teaches a class on leadership and problem-

solving to third-year scholars in the President's Emerging Leaders Program. With his extensive military background and academic achievements, Hannah embodies the spirit of the Military and Veterans Affairs Division.

"It's an honor to wear this patch and to support the Military and Veterans Affairs Division in any way that I can," Hannah said.

The Austin Peay camo logo symbolizes the University's commitment to the military community. APSU has a long history of supporting service members, veterans and their families, and is Tennessee's leading education provider for military-affiliated students.

The Military and Veterans Affairs Division will release its 2024-25 patch during Austin Peay's second annual Veterans Week from Nov. 4-9, further cementing the University's dedication to military-affiliated students.



MVA

SOARING TO NEW HEIGHTS: APSU'S COMMITMENT TO MILITARY AND VETERAN STUDENTS

Austin Peay State University's Military and Veteran Affairs (MVA) Division hit the ground running in its inaugural year. With the support of the University's faculty and staff, the MVA team implemented innovative programs and initiatives to serve our military-affiliated students.

DIVISION BREAKDOWN

- Launched Tech for MAS Loan Program, purchasing 40 TI-84 Plus calculators to support students
- Hosted successful events: 3rd Annual Education Summit for All Women Veterans, TN Reconnect Conference and 1st Annual Veterans Week
- Conducted Green Zone training for 18 participants in 2023-24, bringing the total number of trained staff, faculty and student employees to 548 since 2015
- Conducted first focus groups with 20 students
- Honored 447 military and veteran graduates at the Military & Veteran Graduate Recognition Ceremony
- Assisted 434 students (up 184) and loaned 728 textbooks (up 198) through the Texts for Vets program
- Approved in-state tuition rates for all military-affiliated students and reduced graduate-level tuition for uniformed military personnel
- Received national recognition through a feature article in Military HigherEd magazine, highlighting the division's achievements and impact.







SAVE THE DATE

NOV. 4-9, 2024

PROMOTING VETERANS WEEK

AP Austin Peay
State University
CLARKSVILLE  TENNESSEE

Military & Veterans Affairs



NEWTON MILITARY FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER



The Newton Military Family Resource Center celebrates three years of dedicated service to military-affiliated students, the APSU community and the surrounding area. Highlights of the year include:

- Hosting 84 APSU events, including:
 - Veteran Service Days
 - Lunch & Learns with Stephen A. Cohen
 - Military Family Clinic
 - Tutoring sessions
 - Writing labs
 - Various workshops supporting the unique needs of military-affiliated students
- Actively engaging with the local community by supporting 35 events, including:
 - Marine Corps League Scholarship
 - 2023 Leadership Exchange
 - Writing for Military & Families
 - Red Cross Blood Drives
- Welcoming 6,619 visitors who benefited from the center's resources and programs
- Collaborating with Operation Stand Down Tennessee to distribute 379 Operation Commissary bags to military-affiliated students facing food insecurity

With the ongoing dedication of its staff and support of the APSU community, the Newton Military Family Resource Center looks forward to continuing its prime mission of serving military-affiliated students.





MILITARY-AFFILIATED PROFESSIONALS PROGRAM (MAPP)

Introducing the Military-Affiliated Professionals Program (MAPP): Empowering Our Heroes Beyond the Classroom

We are always seeking new ways to support and empower our military-affiliated students in true Gov fashion, and one of our latest steps is the MAPP (Military-Affiliated Professionals Program). In January, we hired Juan “Tony” Munoz to lead MAPP as our new military-affiliated career specialist. He brings 20 years of experience as a career specialist in the U.S. Army to our team. MAPP is designed to assist our military-affiliated students with the tools needed to thrive after graduation. Through MAPP, students can access:

- Self-assessments for career exploration
- Career research assistance
- Personalized goal-setting sessions
- Specialized courses, workshops and training programs
- Resume and CV development support
- Networking opportunities and employer referrals
- Job search assistance
- Information on career events and fairs
- LinkedIn coaching and profile reviews

To ensure accessibility and convenience, MAPP Mondays have been established to provide weekly office hours at the Austin Peay Center at Fort Campbell. No appointment is necessary.

Looking ahead to the fall semester, MAPP will host tabling events across campus every Tuesday, bringing our services directly to students in their common space. We are also thrilled to announce the upcoming launch of Virtual Career Workshops in Fall 2024, further expanding our support for military-affiliated students.

In addition, MAPP is running a new LinkedIn account (mva-apsu) for the Military and Veterans Affairs Division. Be sure to follow us for the latest career opportunities and skill development trends to take you to the next level.



AUSTIN PEAY CENTER AT FORT CAMPBELL



Although Austin Peay State University's formal partnership with Fort Campbell was signed in 1995, we have been educating soldiers since Camp Campbell was established to train them for World War II. This unique relationship led to the creation of the Austin Peay Center at Fort Campbell, one of only two university centers in the nation located on a military installation. The center serves as a one-stop shop for students, providing support from enrollment to graduation.

Monocoles up! **DID YOU KNOW** ... that anyone can take classes at the Austin Peay Center at Fort Campbell? Don't let the gate slow you down – simply register and confirm your semester enrollment to obtain a semester gate pass.

The center has seen historically high enrollment in the 2023/2024 terms:

- Fall I: 1,212
- Fall II: 1,391
- Spring I: 1,663

The one-stop shop has serviced over 6,000 students, and APSU is one of the top 10 Military Tuition Assistance (TA) program users in the country, handling over \$1.3 million in tuition assistance.

The Austin Peay Center at Fort Campbell offers a range of student success services, including:

- In-person evening, day and hybrid courses on 8-week and 16-week tracks
- Full-time advisors for any University program
- MAPP Mondays: Military career specialist services every Monday
- Library services: Lending library and laptop loans
- Tech for MAS: Laptop and calculator loan program





VETERANS EDUCATION BENEFITS OFFICE (VEBO)



Navigating your military benefits can be simple with the right support. Our team of experienced professionals is dedicated to efficiently processing your benefits and ensuring you receive the maximum award possible. Take a look at our impressive 2023-24 statistics and see how we can help you make the most of your well-deserved benefits.

Benefits Awarded



FY23 VA
Processed & Awarded:

2,283

VA Tuition & Fees Payments to APSU

Post 9/11 GI Bill®
(Chapter 33, TOE & FRY)
\$8,293,209.31

VA VR&E
(Chapter 31)
\$2,248,737.72

VA Payments to Students

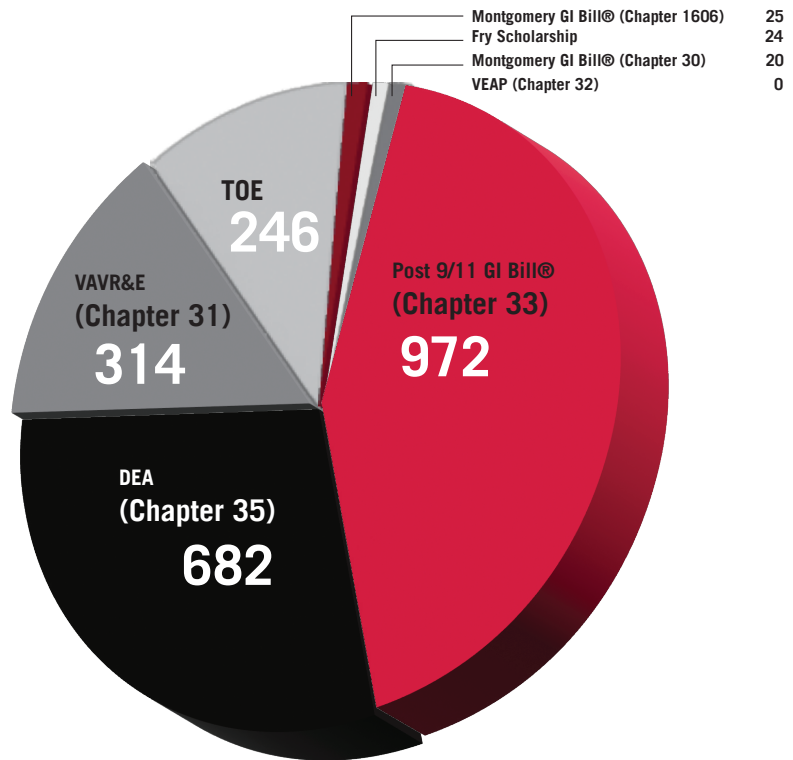
Post 9/11 GI Bill®
(Chapter 33, TOE & FRY)
\$7,306,123.26

VA VR&E
(Chapter 31)
\$2,195,959.30

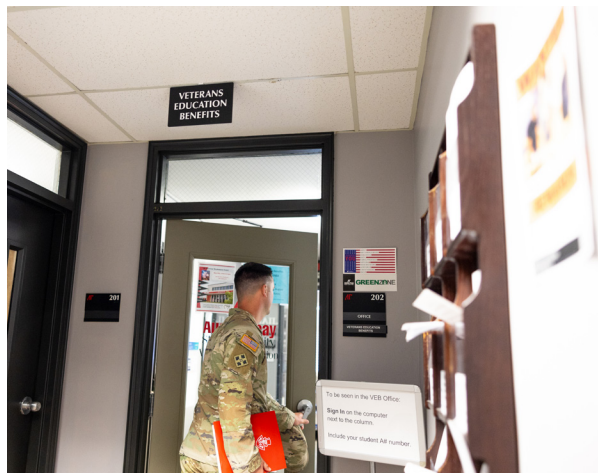
Montgomery GI Bill®
(Chapters 30 & 1606) & DEA (Chapter 35)

\$5,836,310.40

APSU VA Student Population



Our exceptional veteran certifying officials maintain their expertise by actively participating in industry conferences, staying current with annual training and delivering monthly VA & TBR webinars. Their dedication and proficiency have earned them outstanding reviews in our annual VA Audit/Compliance Survey. Additionally, they collaborate with Auxiliary Services to organize bookstore events, ensuring students are well-prepared for upcoming terms.





VUB is a free veteran program housed at Austin Peay State University, serving the Fort Campbell, Kentucky area and several Tennessee counties. It provides a wide range of services to help prospective students attend the university of their choice, including:

- Pre-college testing and skill enhancement
- Assistance with college applications and financial aid
- Educational counseling and computer training
- Cultural events and college campus visits

In the past year, VUB exceeded its objectives, serving 127 veterans. The Military and Veterans Affairs Division provides dedicated VUB service, with staff at the Austin Peay Center at Fort Campbell and the Clarksville campus.



VETERANS UPWARD BOUND

Discover how Veterans Upward Bound can help you reach your potential!



Austin Peay State University is making waves across the nation with its innovative outreach and recruitment efforts. The University’s catchy slogans, such as “Let’s Go Peay,” “Peay Pride,” “Peayple in the Community” and “The Gold Standard,” have captured the attention of prospective students and the higher education community alike.

APSU continues to set the gold standard in supporting military-affiliated students, garnering regional and national recognition for its dedication and commitment. The University’s actions speak louder than words, as evidenced by the success of this year’s “Be A Gov!” tour.

The APSU Military and Veteran Affairs Division’s recruitment team has tirelessly traversed the country, spreading Peay Pride from coast to coast. The tour has spanned an impressive array of states, including Texas, New York, Virginia, Georgia, Kentucky, Tennessee, Colorado, Alaska and even the shores of Hawaii.

The word is out, and the response has been overwhelming. APSU has welcomed new Govs from all corners of the world, a testament to the University’s growing reputation and appeal. As the “Be A Gov!” tour continues to make its mark, it’s clear that Austin Peay State University is not just a regional powerhouse but a force to be reckoned with on the national stage.



UNITED STATES

- Alabama
- Alaska
- Arizona
- Arkansas
- California
- Colorado
- Florida
- Georgia
- Hawaii
- Indiana
- Kentucky
- Louisiana
- Maryland
- Missouri
- Nebraska
- New Mexico
- New York
- North Carolina
- Ohio
- Oklahoma
- Pennsylvania
- South Carolina
- Tennessee
- Texas
- Virginia
- Washington DC
- Washington State
- Wisconsin



GLOBAL

- Afghanistan
- Germany
- Iraq
- Italy
- Japan
- South Korea

GOLD STAR SCHOLARSHIP

Johnny and Janet Rudolph ('75) recently made a significant contribution to the Austin Peay State University (APSU) Foundation, establishing the Retired Maj. Norman and Edna Landis Gold Star Family Endowment in honor of Janet's parents. This initiative marks the University's first scholarship designed to support Gold Star families.



SCHOLARSHIP CRITERIA

Applicants must meet the following criteria to qualify for the Retired Maj. Norman and Edna Landis Gold Star Family Endowment:

- Must be a Gold Star family spouse or child.
- In the absence of an eligible Gold Star family candidate, a one-year scholarship will be awarded to a military dependent meeting the specified criteria.
- Must be a full-time student.
- Must have a high school GPA of 3.0 to apply.
- Must maintain a GPA of 3.0 for renewal.

The endowment is designated to provide essential support to Gold Star family spouses or children. When eligible Gold Star family candidates are unavailable, the scholarship will be granted to military dependents meeting the criteria.





#GOVSGIVE

Govs For Life

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2024 #GOVSGIVE CAMPAIGN SUCCESS

The Military and Veterans Affairs Division participated in Austin Peay's annual online giving campaign, Govs ive, for the first time on March 12, 2024. The campaign, which lasted for 1 day, 9 hours, and 27 minutes to commemorate APSU's inaugural founding year of 1927, aimed to raise funds for the University's Funds of Excellence, athletics and student affairs.

Our division's involvement in the campaign was a resounding success. We received over 60 gifts and raised more than \$5,000, contributing to the overall goal of providing students with the necessary tools and opportunities to succeed.

SUPPORT THE MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS DIVISION



Join us in our mission to support our military-affiliated students. Our Military and Veterans Affairs division is dedicated to providing the resources and assistance these students need to succeed in their academic pursuits and beyond. However, we cannot do this important work without your help.

This academic year, we are introducing a new levels of sponsorships for our division. Your generous donations will directly impact the lives of our military-affiliated students, helping us provide the support they need and deserve. We encourage you to consider donating at one of the following levels:

- **CADET LEVEL:** Any donation under \$500
- **CAPTAIN LEVEL:** Donations of \$500 to \$999
- **MAJOR LEVEL:** Donations of \$1,000 to \$2,999
- **COLONEL LEVEL:** Donations of \$3,000 to \$4,999
- **GENERAL LEVEL:** Donations of \$5,000 to \$9,999
- **THE GOLD STANDARD:** Donations of \$10,000 or more

Every contribution, no matter the size, makes a difference in the lives of our military-affiliated students. Your support helps us provide scholarships, mentorship programs, career services and much more.

As a member of the APSU community or an alumnus, you understand the importance of giving back and supporting the next generation of leaders. By donating to the Military and Veterans Affairs division, you are not only investing in the future of our students but also honoring the sacrifices made by our brave service members and their families.



FOLLOW US

Stay up-to-date with current activities and future events by following us on social media or subscribing to our newsletter.

Facebook and Instagram: @apsumva, IN mva-apsu

WHERE TO FIND US



Military & Veterans Affairs

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