



Supporting Pennsylvania's Veterans Community

Tom Corbett began his service to our country 39 years ago. He served for 13 years as a member of the Pennsylvania Army National Guard's 28th Infantry Division and the Texas Air National Guard, rising in rank from private to captain. As the only candidate running for Governor who has served in uniform, Tom Corbett is committed to supporting the brave men and women, who serve this great state and country. The dedication, service and sacrifice these individuals make on a daily basis ensures the safety and freedoms we, as Americans, enjoy and cherish. We owe these individuals our sincere gratitude, appreciation and support. As Governor, Tom Corbett will work and fight tirelessly to support Pennsylvania soldiers and veterans.

With over 1.1 million veterans, Pennsylvania has the 5th largest veteran population in the country. Approximately 95 percent of the military presence in Pennsylvania is made up of members of the National Guard and Reserves. There are 32,000 members from all components, and 28,000 of these members have been deployed overseas since September 11, 2001. The Army Guard makes up the largest portion of Pennsylvania's armed forces with around 15,300 members; Army Reserve, 8,500 members; Air Guard, 3,500 members; Marine Reserve, 1,750 members; Air Force Reserve, 1,500 members; Navy Reserve, 1,250 members; and Coast Guard Reserve, around 200 members. These units are located in over 125 centers across the state.

As Governor, Tom Corbett will have the ability to call upon our Army Guard and Air Guard components in times of natural disasters or civil strife. These units have been activated with increasing frequency for Homeland Security missions, such as the recent G20 summit in Pittsburgh. For more than a decade, the guard and reserves have played an important and increasingly active role in overseas combat missions. Today, approximately 40 percent of our combat troops deployed overseas are members of the National Guard and Reserve Forces, activated by order of the President of the United States.

Tom Corbett's veterans plan will work to support and grow our active and veteran military personnel. He will work to:

- Maximize Federal dollars
- Protect and fund educational incentives and opportunities to our soldiers
- Support the families of those deployed to serve our state and country
- Help soldiers and veterans with job placement

- Help those affected with mental and physical ailments as a result of service to our state and country
- Lobby for Pennsylvania's soldiers and veterans on the national level

SUPPORTING PENNSYLVANIA'S SOLDIERS

Tom Corbett will support Pennsylvania's soldiers and work to grow the state's military capabilities by:

- ✓ Maximize Federal funds. As Governor, Tom Corbett will work with the Pennsylvania Adjutant General to maximize federal funding to ensure that our soldiers, airmen, and veterans receive needed support, training and equipment.
- ✓ Tighten Pennsylvania's version of the USERRA federal statute. As Governor, Tom Corbett will ensure that Pennsylvania's version of the federal statute known as the Uniform Service Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA) is tightened to match the federal statute in order to protect our veterans, including those still in school.
- ✓ Support Pennsylvania's National Guard Force Structure. As Governor, Tom Corbett will support the Pennsylvania National Guard Force structure to ensure Pennsylvania has the right structure and equipment to answer the call at home and abroad.
- ✓ Support and aid Family Readiness Groups and Family Action Centers. Tom Corbett knows how difficult it can be for a family when a soldier is deployed. That is why, as Governor, Tom Corbett will support and aid family readiness groups (FRGs) and Family Action Centers, which provide an important service to our troops and their families.
- ✓ Support educational incentives and opportunities to Pennsylvania National Guard members. As Governor, Tom Corbett will maintain funding for the Pennsylvania National Guard's Tuition Assistance Program.
- ✓ Lobby for our soldiers and veterans on the national level. As Governor, Tom Corbett will work with the Pennsylvania Congressional Delegation to get the Department of the Army and Air Force to fully equip all of the Pennsylvania Guard and Reserve forces.

SUPPORTING PENNSYLVANIA'S VETERANS

As a proud veteran of the Pennsylvania National Guard, Tom Corbett will support Pennsylvania's veterans by:

- ✓ Standardize county veteran operation. As Governor, Tom Corbett will support training standardization for the county veteran's coordinators and those service officers through the Veteran Service Organizations.
- ✓ Recognize Pennsylvania's diverse veteran population. Tom Corbett recognizes that Pennsylvania has a diverse veterans' population – the needs of a World War II veteran are different from those of a Vietnam or Operation Iraqi Freedom veteran. Tom Corbett will support all veterans and ensure that their needs are identified and handled in an efficient and proper manner.
- ✓ Review implementation of Civil Service Commission Veterans' Preference. Pennsylvania's State Civil Service Commission provides a benefit to our veterans commonly referred to as the veterans' preference. The veterans' preference ensures that those who have served have an enhanced ability to be selected for civil service careers with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. As Governor, Tom Corbett will conduct a comprehensive review of the Civil Service Commission's implementation of the veterans' preference to ensure that our service men and women have received the benefits they are due, and enact administrative changes if necessary to protect the opportunity for those returning from active duty to be selected for state jobs.
- ✓ Ensure access to training and services. Under federal law veterans may receive preferential assistance for job placement services, as well as other programs. Tom Corbett will direct the Department of Labor and the Department of Veterans and Military Affairs to collaborate on outreach programs with employers, community and veteran's organizations, unions and local counseling and social service agencies to ensure that veterans are aware of and receive the job training services for which they are eligible. These efforts will include helping to place veterans in federally-funded employment and training programs, developing job interviewing and résumé writing skills, and helping veterans conduct a productive job search and access job listings through the enhanced *Pennsylvania CareerLink*.