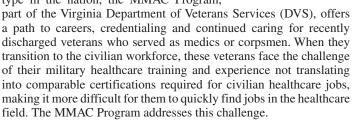
The Military Medics and Corpsmen Program:

New Program-New Pathways

By MARK WHITING

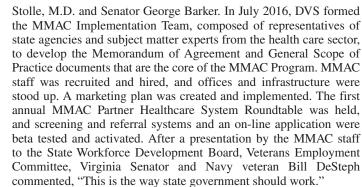
The innovative and award-winning Military Medics and Corpsmen (MMAC) Program is changing the way healthcare hires veterans in Virginia. The MMAC Program creates employment education pathways for veterans while addressing healthcare staffing shortages and supporting quality patient care across

the Commonwealth. The first and only program of its type in the nation, the MMAC Program,



MMAC has partnered with major healthcare systems and educational institutions across the Commonwealth to provide employment and educational opportunities for program participants. It allows participants to apply hard-earned and at times, battletested, patient care skills under supervision while they obtain civilian medical credentials.

MMAC was created as a two-year pilot program by the 2016



By the end of 2016, the process, procedures, plans and personnel were in place to launch the program. MMAC began accepting applications from veterans and transitioning service members worldwide on December 1, 2016. The MMAC staff recruits, reviews and refers eligible candidates to the MMAC Partner Healthcare Systems. The MMAC Partner Healthcare Systems determine the hiring decisions, scope of practice and potential educational opportunities.

Based on the success and momentum of the pilot program as well as suggestions from the MMAC Partner Healthcare Systems, the 2018 General Assembly unanimously voted to make the program permanent and expand the scope of supervision of MMAC-referred employees of the MMAC Partner Healthcare Systems. Governor Northam has signed HB915 (Delegate Stolle) and SB829 (Senator Barker), which will take effect July 1, 2018. The legislation will allow

> even greater participation in the MMAC Program by Virginia healthcare providers, providing even greater opportunity to fasttrack our military medics and corpsmen into high-demand jobs in the healthcare sector.

> The MMAC Program is a prime example of the benefits of teamwork and public-private partnerships. It's a successful collaboration of state, local and federal government agencies, non-profit healthcare associations and major healthcare systems. The MMAC Program is the result of multiple committed individuals and organizations coming together as a team to serve the citizens and employers of the Commonwealth and especially those who served our country: that's teamwork at its

For more information on the DVS Military Medics and Corpsmen Program visit: www.dvs.virginia.gov

Mark Whiting is the Lead Program Manager for the DVS Military Medics and Corpsmen Program. He has previously served in leadership positions with the American Red Cross and the Virginia Department of Health, Office of Emergency Medical Services. The son of a World War II Army Combat Medic, Mark started in public safety and healthcare as a Paramedic and Firefighter for the City of Lynchburg Fire Department. He can be reached at mark.whiting@dvs.virginia.gov



"In my new role at Bon Secours Virginia Health System I am a Clinical Care Technician. I work in the capacity of an LPN but I'm not yet an LPN. When I was a Corpsman in the Navy, I was doing the same things as an LPN but now I work with practitioners, nurses and others in my practice. The Military Medics and Corpsman Program has benefited my family and it has benefited me by allowing me to work freely and do as I was trained. It really makes me excited to be in the Military Medics and Corpsmen program and I hope it will go on for years to come for other veterans who really need this program."

Shanail Romane, former Navy Corpsman/Clinical Care Technician, Bon Secours Virginia Healthcare and first female MMAC-referred employee hired.