

PATRIOT EXPRESS

YOUR KEY TO BUSINESS SUCCESS



HELPING THE MILITARY COMMUNITY WITH BUSINESS

Entrepreneurship can be the key to owning your future. The U.S. Small Business Administration and its resource partners have that covered with everything from counseling and training to loans, contracting and disaster recovery.

SBA's **Patriot Express** Initiative has new and enhanced programs and services for veterans and members of the military community wanting to establish or expand small businesses. Eligible military community members include:

- ★ Veterans
- ★ Service-disabled veterans
- ★ Active-duty service members eligible for the military's Transition Assistance Program
- ★ Reservists and National Guard members
- ★ Current spouses of any of the above
- ★ The widowed spouse of a service member or veteran who died during service or of a service-connected disability

START WITH A SELF ASSESSMENT

You've got an idea for a business. Now it's time to evaluate if your dream of starting a business can be a reality. The *Checklist for Starting a Business* (<http://app1.sba.gov/survey/checklist/index.cgi>) is a comprehensive tool designed to prepare you for self employment by analyzing your responses in key areas and providing a menu of supporting resources.

NEW PATRIOT EXPRESS LOAN INITIATIVE

The new **Patriot Express** loan is offered by SBA's network of participating lenders nationwide and features our fastest turnaround time for loan approvals. Loans are available up to \$500,000 and qualify for SBA's maximum guaranty of up to 85 percent for loans of \$150,000 or less and up to 75 percent for loans over \$150,000 up to \$500,000. For loans above \$350,000, lenders are required to take all available collateral.

The **Patriot Express** loan can be used for most business purposes, including start-up, expansion, equipment purchases, working capital, inventory or business-occupied real-estate purchases.

Patriot Express loans feature SBA's lowest interest rates for business loans, generally 2.25 percent to 4.75 percent over prime depending upon the size and maturity of the loan. Your local SBA district office will have a listing of **Patriot Express** lenders in your area.

RESOURCES TO HELP YOU START, GROW AND SUCCEED

SBA has veterans business development officers in district offices in every state and territory able to provide military community members full access to the SBA's range of programs and services. What's more, there are five Veterans Business Outreach Centers located in: Albany, N.Y.; Pittsburgh; Lynn Haven, Fla.; Edinburg,



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Texas; and Sacramento, Calif. You can find specific contact information and a listing of services at: www.sba.gov/aboutsba/sbaprograms/ovbd/OVBD_VBOP.html.

In addition to district offices, SBA's resource partners SCORE, Counselors to America's Small Business; Small Business Development Centers; and Women's Business Centers provide local and online assistance with:

- ★ Writing a business plan
- ★ Financing options to start or grow your business
- ★ Managing the business
- ★ Expanding the business
- ★ Selling goods and services to the government

To locate the offices nearest you, go to www.sba.gov/localresources/index.html.

ONLINE RESOURCES

- ★ www.sba.gov – SBA's Web site provides information to help you manage your business from start to finish; expand your business with programs and services; and increase your business knowledge and productivity.
- ★ www.score.org/veteran.html – SCORE's online counselors, who have expertise in supporting veteran entrepreneurs, provide business advice to the military community.

ASSISTING SMALL BUSINESS OWNERS

Already a small business owner? The SBA and its resource partners have expertise to assist you with:

- ★ Preparing your business for your deployment
- ★ Managing your business
 - Free or low-cost online training through the Small Business Training Network at www.sba.gov/services/training/index.html
 - Free business counseling at www.sba.gov/services/counseling/index.html
- ★ Selling goods and services to the government





- ★ Obtaining SBA financing for:
 - Starting and growing a business
 - Major fixed-asset loans to purchase land and buildings
 - Surety bond guarantees for construction contractors who are veterans
 - Equity financing matching venture capitalists with your small business
 - Export assistance programs to help your business be part of the global economy
 - For more information, click on www.sba.gov/services/financialassistance/index.html.
- ★ Linking your small business with federal agencies and private corporations to improve procurement prospects
- ★ Contracting opportunities for veteran-owned businesses at: www.sba.gov/aboutsba/sbaprograms/ovbd/index.html.
- ★ Recovering from declared disasters
 - MREIDL – Loans of up to \$1.5 million are available for small businesses sustaining economic injury because an owner or essential employee has been called to active duty as a military reservist. For more information, click on: <http://www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance/businessesofallsizes/militaryreservistsloans/index.html>.
 - Physical Disaster Business Loans – Loans of up to \$1.5 million are available for qualified businesses to replace or return business property to pre-disaster conditions.