



# Reveille

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## New Outreach Program for Veterans has Promising Outlook

*As reported by William Lewis, VSC Student Assistant*

The program “Dialogues on the Experience of War” has been making headlines recently due to its different approach in recovery and reintegration of military veterans. The program supports the study and discussion of important humanities sources about war, in the belief that these sources can help U.S. military veterans and others think more deeply about the issues raised by war and military service (Federal Grants 2016). The idea is to use discussion style conversations in groups to promote serious exploration of important questions about the nature of duty, heroism, suffering, loyalty, and patriotism (National Endowment for the Humanities).

At CSUSB, Dr. Jennifer Andersen, an English Professor, was awarded a National Endowment for the Humanities grant in order to develop a “Dialogues on the Experience of War” discussion program and recruited one of the VSC’s own, Juan Hernandez, a Marine Corps Veteran. “As a veteran and a history buff, my role is to give validity to the stories that we are reviewing and give the other trainees an idea of what kind of responses they will get [from participating veterans],” Juan said regarding the other individuals who are receiving training with him. Juan is currently going through the training to become a discussion leader and assist in the development of the program. The methods used include reviewing both classical and contemporary literature comparing issues that Veterans often face today to historic examples. “The hope is that by exposing Vets to the literature it will help them connect and be able to relate knowing that the experiences they’ve gone through have occurred throughout history,” Hernandez related.

Participants in the discussion groups include: military veterans, men and women in active service, military families, and interested members of the public.

### Juan Hernandez (c.) with his Discussion Group





## With Recent Shootings Negative Stereotypes about Vets Could Perpetuate



On July 7, 2016, five Dallas police officers were killed and seven were wounded alongside two civilians, it is considered the deadliest attack involving U.S. law enforcement since September 11. Ten days later on July 17, 2016 another attack by a different individual, killed three Baton Rouge police officers and wounded three other officers. The assailants were Army Reserve Veteran Micah Johnson (Dallas) and Marine Corps Veteran Gavin Long (Baton Rouge).

One of the most troubling aspects of the tragic events were several of the police officers who lost their lives were veterans of the U.S. Military themselves. Officers Patrick Zamarripa, served three tours in Iraq as a Naval security officer, and served at the Dallas P.D. for approximately five years. Officer Michael Smith, served in the Army as a Ranger for seven years



and worked with the Dallas P.D. since 1989. Officers Brent Thompson, Michael Krol, and Lorne Ahrens, although not veterans of the Armed Services, also lost their lives leaving their families to mourn.

Among the officers who lost their lives in Baton Rouge were Officer Matthew Gerald, who served in both the Marines and the Army, which included three tours in Iraq, before taking up his career in law enforcement. Police Officers Montrell Jackson and Brad Garafola, although not members of the Armed Forces, were also killed by the gunman.



The assailants were not associated with each other and are reported to have operated independently of any group, the fact that both of these men were former members of the Armed Forces has brought concern to the Veteran community. One of the concerns is that since the shooters were veterans that there will be a negative association to all combat veterans. The long-term effect is that this will contribute to the negative stereotype of combat veterans being violent and volatile. Although there is no current report on the mental health of the attackers, the negative association of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and the stereotypes that

exist with it, could counteract the efforts made over the years to change those stereotypes. Further concern was expressed about the general idea of service members killing fellow service members. As Cpl. Trichel stated, "In the Marine community, we don't believe in 'ex-Marines'. However that is not the case when one decides to break the moral and ethical values we hold dear. The ex-Marine that opened fire on officers is everything we swear to protect our Nation from" (Watson).

Our hearts and prayers go out to the families affected and we hope the survivors make a speedy recovery. Veterans at the local level are taking steps in their communities to discuss the common myths associated with PTSD. A number of veterans' groups, eager to cast off negative stereotypes, have banded together in recent years in an informal partnership they call the Veterans' Empowerment Movement. They organize volunteer activities and disaster relief teams and exercise outings to re-engage veterans in their communities (Philipps).

## Historic Achievement for Women in the Navy

The Navy submarine USS Michigan set sail on July 15, 2016 with its first group of enlisted women to serve onboard. This marks the largest historic inclusion effort (with regards to Naval submarines) since female officers started serving aboard Navy subs in 2011.

The first women to serve in the U.S. Navy were nurses. “The “Sacred Twenty” came about after Congress established the Navy Nurse Corps on May 13, 1908. The first large-scale enlistment of women into the Navy met clerical shortages during World War I and the second, came months before the United States entered World War II. President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Public Law 689, creating the Navy’s Women Reserve Program on July 30, 1942, which paved the way for women to enter the Navy as enlisted and officers. Today, women serve in every rank from seaman to admiral and in every job from naval aviator to deep-sea diver” (NHHHC).

The guided missile submarine was reconfigured to include living quarters for up to three female Chief Petty Officers and 36 female crew members, additions were made to add four showers and a new bunkroom. Seven Ohio-class submarines will add a total of 550 enlisted women by 2020, which comprises roughly twenty percent of the crew on board these class of submarines (Navy Times).



## Reneisha Wilkes: Someone Helped Me (Non-Profit)

Reneisha Wilkes is a highly motivated, caring, and dedicated individual who has made it her goal to help veterans with some of the issues that go along with schooling and supporting themselves after hitting rough times. In order to address the concerns of veterans, Reneisha started her own non-profit organization at the age of fourteen! Although informal at first, her organization grew tremendously with volunteers throughout the country joining up to help out. Some of the resources that Reneisha can help out with are: gas, getting a car, car sharing (a very popular resource), and even long-and short-term loans for housing, among other things. Ms. Wilkes can boast about a recent achievement of assisting 42 veterans with paying off their college tuition free and clear. Her organization functions through grants, donations, and even scholarships, it has been so successful that Reneisha has been invited onto the Ellen Degeneres show to discuss it 15 times! Her current goal, is to get every veteran a free education and she is determined to make it happen. If you need some assistance from her organization contact her via email at: [reneisha.wilkes@csusb.edu](mailto:reneisha.wilkes@csusb.edu).



Monday - Thursday (campus closed Fridays)

7 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.



## The Story Behind the “First Avenger”

Captain America, the very thought of the famous Marvel Comics' character brings to mind the litany of movies that have been coming out in recent years, including the newest movie with the anticipated battle between a split Avengers team (Go team Cap). But what are the Captain's real origins? How did he come to be? What was the motivation behind his creation? Was he invented as a propaganda tool for WWII, or was there some genuine interest to create a flag clad superhero (suspend all flag code for entertainment purposes). The Captain we know today has undergone many iterations, 27 to be accurate, here's a little bit of history on one of the most patriotic superheroes known to fans everywhere.

Captain America was first introduced on December 20, 1940 (labeled as the March 1941 issue). The comic was a big hit selling more than a million copies. Not everyone was an immediate fan of the Captain though mostly due to the political statement that the authors Joe Simon and Jack Kirby were making.

Captain America was a staunchly American hero who punched the ruler of Germany at that time, Adolf Hitler. Since the first issue was released one year before the attack on Pearl Harbor, America had not entered the war, but Kirby and Simon weren't exactly fans of Mr. Hitler and his efforts to conquer all of Europe, so they created the most Anti-Nazi hero they could think of. His shield actually resembled a shield during the first issue, but issues with copyright and the fact that the shield looked too much like the Captain's body, it was redesigned to its iconic round shape in Issue #2. Famous author Stan Lee didn't get his chance with Captain America until issue #3, when Mr. Lee introduced the Captain's signature boomerang shield throw.

During this Golden Age of Comics the Captain flourished, but like with all comics at the time he faded into the background until production ceased. A brief stint in the 50's, when nostalgic writers attempted to bring the Captain back as an Anti-Communist force, was short lived. Captain America received a true revival in the early 60's though he wasn't quite as popular as his fellow superheroes the “Fantastic Four” and “Spider-Man,” he did become the leader of the newly formed Avengers under Atlas Comics (which would become Marvel Comics). As the superhero concept was made popular again so was Captain America. Getting to the modern era and the cinema, the Captain America that we know today took some time: The Captain ditched his shield in favor of a yellow cloak, he fought with Iron Man, he died (and eventually was raised from the dead), killed some people, and eventually made it in a very popular movie.

Although the Captain's popularity will rise and fall, one thing is certain, America isn't done with him yet, and our school is sharing the latest Captain America adventure “Captain America: Civil War” on August 11, 2016 at 8 PM on the CSUSB library lawn.



## Jesse Juarez CARE Team

Mr. Juarez is an Army Veteran who served in the Artillery branch. He was glad to have had the unique experience as a soldier in the Army relating that it was like nothing else in the world and he was extremely grateful to have had the challenge of the service, and of course he was glad to move on to other things as well.

Jesse is a Case Manager in the Student Conduct office on the CARE team, where he has a job similar to when he worked at the VA. He likes to compare his job to social work for students, helping them connect to the resources that they need and the local services that they can use to help out with the rough patches in life. He started his job at CSUSB in May and is looking forward to being utilized. Jesse also looks forward to interacting with the members of the VSC and is available to help students that need someone to talk to. He has an open door policy and will listen. Stop by UH 346 or phone him at (909) 537-3637.

# Checking in During the Summer

## Josh Trapp, Dependent



Josh is a computer engineering major with a 3.0 GPA, attending Cal State as a dependent of his father who served in the Army. The thing he looks forward to the most this upcoming academic year is focusing on his school work and getting into classes related to his major such as: programing and hardware classes. Josh wants to complete his Bachelor's degree on time and is staying focused so that he can achieve a Master's degree later on. Ultimately, he wants to pursue a career in one of the larger national or global corporations such as Boeing or Microsoft, in order to improve his long-term economic stability and capitalize on the benefits that they offer. Josh became interested in computer engineering because of how it is incorporated in nearly every aspect of life today and will continue to play an important part in the future.

## Quimpie M. Tuada

### Palm Desert Campus Student Assistant

Working at the Veterans Success Center here in Palm Desert was an incomparable experience. As a student assistant and a new citizen, it is incredible to be able to have the knowledge of several experiences our Veterans had. They have unique stories that I thought were very brave and because of that I highly respect them for serving this country, which I can now call home. I feel blessed and honored to have been chosen to work as a student assistant here at the VSC PDC.

One of the greatest experiences I had working here was for the Memorial Day Service event. Aside from the veterans who had returned safely to their families, we honored and remembered those who didn't make it and had to sacrifice themselves for the good of the country. Every step of the ceremony touched my heart, starting from the performance of the bagpipes, introduction and speeches, until the 21-gun salute. The stories that were shared were very inspirational and I will hold them close to my heart. The Memorial Day service reminded me how lucky I am to live in such a great country and how thankful I am to those who had sacrificed the most. I will always remember those who have sacrificed and honor them for their courageous deeds. It has been a pleasure to be part of the VSC; I've learned so many things and experienced so much in a short amount of time. I cannot wait to experience more events in the future.



## Juan Hernandez

### USMC Veteran

Juan is a Veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps and a regular at the VSC. He was a part of the Infantry in the 7th Regiment, 1st Battalion and considered it a learning experience especially when it came to embracing the tougher aspects of life.

Now Juan is a student majoring in Criminal Justice and for this upcoming year he is focusing on keeping his grades up and looking forward to graduating and pursuing a career in law. As one of the discussion leaders in "Dialogues on the Experience of War" program, he is looking forward to seeing how his fellow Veterans will respond to the program and is optimistic that the program will be beneficial overall.

Juan looks forward to spending time with his five-year-old daughter. His daughter of course reminds Juan of himself with quips and being a bit of a troublemaker.

