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Updates Regarding Veterans Affairs

As reported by William Lewis, VSC Student Assistant

After the Dust Settles

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is a branch of the government that most members of the Armed Forces will use at one point in time or another. The VA provides a multitude of services. Some veterans state that they wouldn't go anywhere else because the VA takes care of them and their health concerns. Others indicate that the VA is less than desirable, citing long wait times and difficulties receiving services. Both sides have valid points, and after being under media scrutiny recently, the VA has been working to reconstruct its image in the eyes of its patients.

Past concerns and issues shed light on problems with the long waiting time to receive services at VA hospitals, uncovering a secondary list that was "off the record" and, therefore, difficult to verify. After a long investigation and a congressional ruling, the VA has made strides to improve its system.

Current reforms involve a top down review of issues regarding leadership as well as improving wait times by hiring more employees to meet the large demand of veterans in the healthcare system. In contrast, there are recent reports that not all improvements are universal. While some of the lowest rated hospitals at the time have made tremendous strides others have only seen minor or no improvements according to various news sources.

Multiple suggestions for the VA's future are being proposed in order to continue improving the system. One way that veterans at the local level can help is give honest and constructive feedback to their local VA hospital by writing letters and emails to inform them about what could be improved. Never count out the voice of one person.

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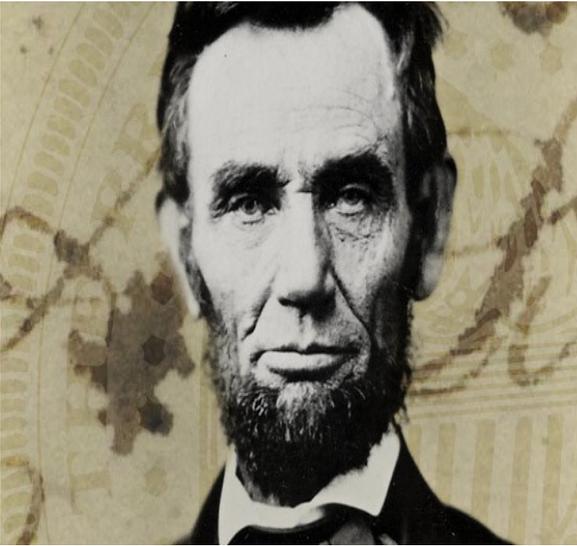


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DEPARTMENT OF
VETERANS AFFAIRS

TO CARE FOR HIM WHO SHALL
HAVE BORNE THE BATTLE AND
FOR HIS WIDOW, AND HIS ORPHAN
A. LINCOLN



Lightning in the Air Force

The most advanced plane in the sky, the F-35 Lightning II, has been declared combat ready. Although it might be a running joke in the U.S. Air Force, it doesn't mean we can't make our tongue-and-cheek moments and turn them into fearsome strengths. In light of this recent achievement let's take a look back on the 15-year development history of the F-35 Lightning II.

The original proposal for the F-35 came about in 2001 when it was determined that the United States military sought to increase its readiness in order to "maintain air superiority, which is essential to preserving global security and stability" (Lockheed-Martin). The F-35, however, has its faults and criticisms. Issues primarily revolve around cost, performance, and maintenance defects.



Last year, "Business Insider" did a review regarding the identified issues with the F-35. The issues ranged from flight control problems (primarily with certain acrobatic angles), software delays, unreliable aircraft components, and, ironically, lightning strike resistance (its ability to safely fly after being struck by a bolt of lightning). These are the common issues with the physical condition of the aircraft. Other issues center on actual performance against other aircraft in a dogfight (simulated for safety of course). One of the F-35 pilots posted his concerns on the internet. The pilot cited issues with the newer aircraft being unable to effectively engage at close visual range in air-to-air combat (10,000-30,000 ft.), mostly relating to the restrictions to see behind him in the cockpit and a sluggish climb when trying to avoid close range weaponry, such as bullets being shot at him from an enemy aircraft.

The aircraft also has many positive attributes. For example, the advancements that have been made for the F-35 alone almost make it a flying supercomputer, giving the airframe a technological advantage over most any enemy in the sky. The wide range of technology is directly related to the Lightning's multi-role capability, which consists of Information Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR), air-to-air combat, air-to-ground strikes, as well as close-air-support. It is a stealth aircraft with the design built from the ground up to reduce detection from enemies and increase survivability in hostile territory.

As the demands of the Armed Forces advance to an ever increasing level of multipurpose diversity, different airframes will be replacing familiar old ones at an increasing rate. Needless to say the Lightning II is here to stay and for the Armed Forces it will make for an interesting learning curve.

Jack MacFarlane

I am the new director of Campus Operations at the Palm Desert Campus. I've only been in this position for just over two weeks, but I can already tell the job is as challenging as it is rewarding. Prior to CSUSB Palm Desert Campus, I worked for nine years at a private career college, first as a curriculum specialist, then as an academic dean, and finally as campus director of an aviation maintenance campus in Fresno. I was also a bilingual (Spanish/English) GED instructor at an adult school.

I served on active duty in the U.S. Navy for 21 years. I was an aviation boatswain's mate handler (ABH) and my primary duties were to launch, recover, and direct the movement of aircraft on board aircraft carriers. I retired as a senior chief and I really enjoyed teaching. The work I did as a Navy instructor, in fact, made me realize the far-reaching effect of personnel development and it was then I decided to make education, as well as education management, my second career. My experience outside the military has all been in education and training, both as a teacher and as a manager. To handle campus operations in any given day I apply an assortment of skills gained in the military and as a civilian.

As director of Campus Operations I oversee a wide variety of activities from parking enforcement and security, to scheduling the Indian Wells Theatre for events. It is a wonderful job that allows me to wear many hats and requires me to make myself available at all times, day or night. I'd be happy to contribute in any way I can to continue to make this space a useful and welcoming area for our veterans.



Air Force 69th Birthday

September 18, 2016, was the U.S. Air Force's birthday. Sixty nine years ago, the Air Force came into existence with the passage of the Homeland Security Act of 1947, sharing its birthday with the Central Intelligence Agency. The Air Force originally started off as the Army Air Corps, a subsection of the U.S. Army, in 1926, and was renamed as the Army Air Forces just prior to WWII. CSUSB celebrated the occasion on October 7, in collaboration with the Air Force ROTC Det. 002. The program included keynote speaker Brigadier General Russell Muncy, who spoke on the importance of history and making a difference for the good in the Air Force; the cake cutting ceremony, which included Reservist Jon Arnette and Cadet Dalaney Doyle of Det. 002; and The March Aero Club provided a fly over with T 34 Beechcraft airplanes. The VSC employees take pride in assisting with such an important event and are looking forward to the 70th birthday next year.



Navy 241st Birthday

The Veterans Success Center's Navy Birthday Celebration was celebrated on October 13, 2016, on the Coyote Bookstore Lawn. This marked 241 years of duty for the U.S. Navy. Representatives from the Navy included Commander William Lauper (Ret.), Chaplain Capt. Quinn Hawley (Ret.) and CSUSB's own Boatswain's Mate Jonathan Tran. Special guests also included Jared Bosman, a field representative for Congressman Pete Aguilar, and Jon Gaede, a field representative for Assemblymember Cheryl Brown. The colors were presented courtesy of the NJROTC at Rialto High School.

Originally founded on October 13, 1775, during the build up to the Revolutionary War, the Continental Congress established a small Navy in order to contend with the British control over the seas. Knowing that they could never win a direct fight with the British Man-of-Wars, the variety of sea-craft spent most of their time raiding different naval vessels responsible for transporting goods to the Americas. Throughout the years the U.S. Navy has grown tremendously. Now with 276 battleships ready for duty and over 430,000 members in its ranks (both active and reserve), the U.S. Navy today is a force to be reckoned with all over the world.



The Student Veterans Organization

The Student Veteran Organization (SVO) is a veteran-run advocacy group that has an ever increasing presence on our CSUSB campus. The SVO has five primary areas of focus:

- Ensure CSUSB veterans receive all entitled benefits;
- Provide a link to readjustment counseling services ;
- Lobby at the state and federal level for benefit increases for student veterans;
- Provide an atmosphere for social connections; and
- Assist veterans, dependents, and active duty personnel and veteran supporters to succeed academically, socially and in their chosen careers.



As part of one of the 1,300 chapters nationwide, the SVO provides a variety of capabilities and resource advocacy that you may not have known about. In addition to providing assistance at the national level, the SVO is also active with community service groups across the San Bernardino campus and the community. Community service events range from Coyote Cares Day, to assisting the annual Riverside Air Show, and various other events. The SVO always participates in the President's Volunteer Service, which is a great way exploring career options and developing a great community network.

The current president of the SVO is Arturo Brooks. Along with his Vice President Trenell Alfred, Brooks has had success over the summer increasing membership to new levels as well as increasing the SVO's financial security. Members include veterans, dependents, ROTC students, and honorary members that all have the common goal of supporting the educational success of our nation's veterans. Email svo.csusb@gmail.com for more information.

New Dates for FAFSA Submission

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is a staple in most college students' income and ability to support themselves. With that in mind students can benefit from knowing about the new early submission date for FAFSA. October 1st, is now the earliest that students can apply for FAFSA, and this will be a permanent change. Beginning with the 2017-18 FAFSA, students are required to report income information from an earlier tax year. For example, on the 2017-18 FAFSA, students (and parents, as appropriate) must report their 2015 income information, rather than their 2016 income information. The earlier submission date doesn't directly correlate with earlier aid distribution, each school will have a different method in how it processes the aid disbursement. Be sure to view CSUSB's information regarding aid disbursement at

<https://finaid.csusb.edu/applyAid/disbursementProcess.html>.

For more information be sure to go directly to the FAFSA website: <https://fafsa.ed.gov/>.

Veterans Success Center cordially invites you to our university's celebration of the 241st Birthday of the U.S. Marine Corps
— 1775-2016—

Friday, November 4, 2016, 6-9 p.m.

**California State University, San Bernardino
Obershaw Dining Room, Upper Commons**

**Keynote Address by Congressman Col. Paul Cook (USMC, Ret.)
5500 University Parkway, San Bernardino, CA 92407**

Semi-formal/Formal Optional

RSVP as seating is limited at vsc@csusb.edu or 909-537-5195



New Faces

Juan Galindo, Army National Guard

Juan is a member of the Army National Guard and currently pursuing his bachelor's degree in biology. While pursuing his goals, Juan has completed several certifications related to his status as an EMT. For this term, and for the rest of the year, Juan has the goal to achieve straight A's in his classes while working at his part-time job. Juan is hoping to use his degree to advance his professional career opportunities and make himself more marketable in his field.

One joke that he wanted to share was: Q: What happens if you eat yeast and shoe polish?

A: Every morning you'll rise and shine!

Guadalupe Cambero, U.S. Navy (Vet.)

Guadalupe, or Lupe if you know her well, is a new face to CSUSB, who started her first year with the university this fall. She is a veteran of the Navy who is currently majoring in biology. Her desire is to attend medical school and ultimately become a pediatrics neurosurgeon. "I've known since middle school that I wanted to be a surgeon. I also want to work with tiny brains as opposed to large adult spines. I find that fascinating."

Her current goal this year is to receive high marks in her classes to start the year right, and then continue with her academic success. A class that she finds currently challenging is Chinese, "It is extremely foreign and presents a new challenge as opposed to languages that I speak well, such as Spanish, where I can use context clues more effectively to decipher words I don't know."

But Lupe isn't all business and no fun; be sure to make her laugh with a good joke such as one of her's: Knock, knock.

- Who's there?

Interruption.

- Interruption w-

Shut up you!

Jon Arnette, U.S. Air Force Reserve

Biology with a concentration in ecology and a minor in criminal justice. I want to stand out from every other person who has a C.J. major and make myself the best candidate for a career as a wildlife fish and game warden.

"To pass all of my classes, finish renovating my house, spend more time enjoying the forest and getting out more. As far as renovations go, Jon has acquired the handyman skills necessary from his time growing up on a ranch and from a friend of his who is a contractor; his goal is to completely renovate his kitchen and make it spectacular.

I'm a driver for Pizza Hut and as I was delivering a pizza to a house, and a Dominos vehicle pulled up as well. The owner ordered from both of us and was so excited we showed up at the same time, he gave us each a \$100 bill, about a \$60 tip each. It was really awesome and a hilarious one in a million event.

