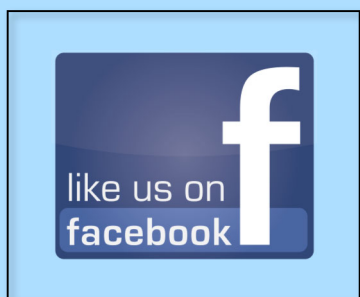




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CSUSB Veterans Success Center

Congratulations Fall 2017 Graduates!



Left: Jason Greene receiving his graduation regalia.

On Friday evening, Dec. 1, 2017, more than fifteen student veterans and their family members attended the Fall 2017 Student Veterans Graduation Celebration. Remarks were provided by Lt. Col. Vanderhoeven, SVO President James McGuire and CSUSB alumna Stephanie Reilly. Chaplain Capt. Quinn Hawley provided the benediction and invocation.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, the student veterans were presented with graduation regalia, which included a stole with the American flag, branch patch and CSUSB embroidered on it by first Lt. Col Vanderhoeven, U.S. Air Force, and Lt. Commander Espenship, U.S. Coast Guard. Those graduating with a 3.0 GPA and above were provided with a red, white and blue honor chord and a lifetime paid membership to the SALUTE Veterans National Honor Society. Student veterans were also presented with a Certificate of Recognition from California assemblymember Roxanna Gracia, CSUSB alumni pin, and a



New VA Identification Card Applications Halted Amid System Problems

After waiting patiently for two years to receive new Veteran Affairs identification cards, veterans will have to wait a little bit longer. Less than a week after the announcement from the Department of Veterans Affairs about the release of new identification cards, the department's online application shut down due to a high volume of online activity. The cards are designed to be an easier way for veterans to prove their military service for a host of non-government services.

The IDs were scheduled to be delivered within 60 days of applying, with digital copies available for printouts in advance of the mailed copies. "The new cards won't replace VA medical cards or official defense retiree cards, and will not carry any force of law behind them" (Air Force Times, 2017). Once the system is operational again, veterans will need to register for an online account with the VA to apply for the card. If you plan on applying, be sure to create an account with the VA.

Three Sisters, Three Academies, and Four Generations of Service



Left to right: Corinne (Air Force Academy, Class of 2015), Adrienne (Naval Academy, Class of 2018) and Madeleine (U.S. Military Academy, Class of 2020)

Like many young people around the world with a family history of military service, the Easter sisters decided to answer the nation's call. The oldest sister, Corinne Easter, graduated from the Air Force Academy in 2015 and now she pilots MQ-9 Reapers. The second oldest, Adrienne Easter, will be graduating from the Naval Academy in 2018 and the youngest Easter, Madeleine, will be graduating from the U.S. Military Academy in 2020. The Easters have a family tree of veterans

who served the United States but unlike most military based families, the girls were never pressured by their parents to pursue a career in the military. Even more shocking, the girls were never raised by a military base. Their father actually left the military prior to them being born to

be a pilot for Southwestern Airlines. One could say that it's in their blood to follow the nation's call. The Easter family has a military tradition going back more than 100 years. The three sisters are the fourth generation of an unbroken line of military service on both parents' sides. There's no doubt the line will be broken anytime soon!

The Army has developed a Zika Vaccine!

The Army has recently made new medical advancements with the development of their inactivated Zika virus vaccine, known as ZPIV. Initial results from the clinical trials concluded that the vaccine is “safe and well-tolerated in healthy adults and induced a robust immune response” (Reed, 2017). Three human clinical trials have already been conducted. Each of the three studies are designed to “address a unique question about background immunity, vaccine dose or vaccination schedule” (Reed, 2017). A fourth trial is being conducted in Puerto Rico, a population that has “natural exposure to other viruses in the same family as Zika (flaviviruses) such as dengue” (Reed, 2017).

The clinical trials have been very successful. “Across the three trials, a total of 67 healthy adult volunteers (55 vaccine, 12 placebo) received two vaccine injections, four weeks apart. Researchers measured the immune response by monitoring levels of Zika virus-neutralizing antibodies in the blood. More than 90% of volunteers who received the vaccine developed an immune response against Zika” (Reed, 2017). Col. Nelson Michael, the director of WRAIR's Military HIV Research Program and Zika program co-lead, stated that “not only is the development of a Zika vaccine a global public health priority, but it is also necessary to protect Service Members and their families.” As the Army continues to make more strides in the medical field, we may soon be required to get a Zika vaccination!

‘Tis the Season of Giving Back

Christmas is a time of giving, spending time with family and friends, and for veteran students, a time for them to enjoy their winter break away from the hustle and bustle with their families. On December 6 and 7, Victor Quezada, a U.S. Navy veteran, his wife and children blessed two families (the Nnamchi family and the Morales family) with a beautiful pine Christmas tree and Christmas presents. Mr. Quezada and his family are touching the lives of student veterans and their families with love, joy, compassion, and most importantly, their generosity. They’re giving back to the community in ways that help enrich and improve the quality of each student and their families.



The Quezada family and the Nnamchi family



Left to Right: Caroline Quezada and Sarah Nnamchi

Kevin Alsina, 2017 Graduate

Q1. What advice would you give to incoming student veterans?

A. I advise students to remain positive and stay dedicated to their academics. Some quarters are tougher than others but it's all worth it in the end.

Q2. What resources and centers would you recommend for students to use, if they aren't currently?

A. I recommend the Veterans Success Center, Project Rebound, MAC, and CPR training with Moses.

Q3. What is one thing that has made your experience here at CSUSB great?

A. The veterans here on campus have made my experience at CSUSB great! Being a veteran myself, I can relate to other veterans and we can help each other adjust and transition to college and civilian life.



Martin Flores, 2017 Graduate

Q1. What advice would you give to incoming student veterans?

A. I would tell veteran students to study a lot. Be sure that you stay on top of your studies, especially if you're taking a lot of classes.

Q2. What resources and centers would you recommend for students to use, if they aren't currently?

A. I would suggest using the VSC. The VSC offers so many resources for veterans to use such as printing, tutoring and a refrigerator.

Q3. What is one thing that has made your experience here at CSUSB great?

A. The atmosphere! The university has a really great atmosphere that motivates you and the campus is really nice.



Lan, 2017 Graduate

Q1. What advice would you give to incoming student veterans?

A. I would suggest taking a reasonable amount of classes. Don't overload your schedule with a bunch of classes. It's only going to stress you out.

Q2. What resources and centers would you recommend for students to use, if they aren't currently?

A. I went to the writing center a lot and they really helped me, so I would say go to the writing center if you need help with English and essays.

Q3. What is one thing that has made your experience here at CSUSB great?

A. The people on campus made my experience here awesome! I met so many people from different backgrounds and it's refreshing to learn about other cultures.

Ivan Monroy, 2017 Graduate

Q1. What advice would you give to incoming student veterans?

A. I advise veterans to set up an academic plan and to make sure that you have time for your classes. You don't want to miss class.

Q2. What resources and centers would you recommend for students to use, if they aren't currently?

A. The Veterans Success Center and the online library resources helped me a lot during the quarter, so I would recommend those two.

Q3. What is one thing that has made your experience here at CSUSB great?

A. The professors and students in my classes were very helpful and always gave good advice and feedback. The one thing I would like CSUSB to change would be offering more online classes in different majors.

New and Improved Software Development for the Army's National Training Center

The secretary of the Army, Dr. Mark T. Esper, visited the Army's National Training Center on Dec. 1 to discuss initiatives to grow the mission capability and combat power of Army forces. The main area of focus is streamlining training tasks so units can dedicate more time and energy to honing mission-essential skills and maneuvers. This would include eliminating irrelevant training and transitioning classroom instruction, as much as possible, into mission-oriented exercises.

Another area of focus is ensuring units receive the resources necessary to widen the United States' advantage over its adversaries. According to Esper the effort starts with high-quality personnel. Esper heavily emphasized that the Army will continue to enforce the most rigorous standards for recruits. He also emphasized the need to get modernized equipment and the latest technology to soldiers more quickly and efficiently to ensure that soldiers have the training, skills and experience to be able to operate and maintain that equipment at the highest level. Ultimately the goal is to build a force that can deploy anywhere in the world and win the toughest battles against the most advanced adversaries. That very reason is why complex scenarios are replicated at the National Training Center to ensure soldiers are prepared. While its mountainous Mojave Desert landscape evokes the battlefields of Central Asia, the NTC is constantly innovating to simulate the latest emerging threats across the globe — from drone attacks to contested air superiority to cyber and electronic warfare that disrupts communications.

Free Craft kits!

Stop by the Veterans Success Center and ask the front desk to get your free craft kits! The craft kits are donated through Help Hospitalized Veterans and range from fighter jet models to build-your-own dream catcher kits.



The Obershaw DEN provides meals for students during times of financial trouble. The Obershaw DEN, located at the Faculty Office Building, Room 237, is open on the second and fourth Wednesday and Thursday of every month. It is a food pantry associated with the Helping Hands Food Pantry in San Bernardino, however, they do take donations from campus clubs and organizations. This small help can go a long way for student veterans as sometimes even VA benefits can fall short, and knowing that you and your family can have a meal every night is the world lifted off your shoulders. For more information call (909) 537-7387.