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First Call

VSC News | 5.1.13



Have a question for the Veterans Success Center?

Email them to daniels@csusb.edu, call (909)537-5195/6 or visit the center located on the lower level of the Coyote Bookstore.

Spring Fling Resource Fair for Veterans, Service Members and Dependents

On May 2, 2013 various CSUSB department representatives that serve student veterans and the San Bernardino Veterans Center were at the CSUSB Veterans Success Center answering your questions. Below is the schedule of department representatives and their contact information. We also had plenty of goodies including lunch. Also many thanks to Zayre Ruiz for organizing the event and all our campus partners.



Student Veterans Spring Fling Resource Fair 2013			
Melissa McQuead	GI Bill and CalVET Waiver	(909) 537-5213	mmcquead@csusb.edu
Jennifer Bauer	PAWS Report & Grad Checks	(909) 537-3436	bohsek@csusb.edu
Eloise Warnell	Academic Advising	(909)537-5034	mwarnell@csusb.edu
Michele Penilla	Workability IV	(909)537-3583	mpenilla@csusb.edu
Yesenia Thomas	Veterans Administration	(909)537-5762	yesenia.thomas@va.gov
Shelia Braggs	Careers in Teaching	(909)537-5621	sbraggs@csusb.edu
Sarai Maldonado	Career Center	(909)537-3682	smaldona@csusb.edu
Bryant Fairley	Internships	(909)537-7347	bfairley@csusb.edu

Military Appreciation Night at the Inland Empire 66ers

On Saturday, June 1, 2013, the Veterans Success Center is helping to coordinate the 66ers Military Appreciation Night. The event includes a free baseball game and an all you can eat buffet patio party. Exciting activities such as a military swear in, of future soldiers and warriors, the CSUSB color guard, unfurling of a giant American flag, moment of reflection, special first pitches, a flyover, military vehicles, a mascot race between Bernie and GI Johnny and giveaways will occur throughout the game. Children will also be able to run the bases after the game. You must be pre-signed up at the Veterans Success Center to participate. Sign up ASAP as there are a limited number of tickets left!





President Harry S. Truman



UH-60 Black Hawk Helicopter



David Briggs
U.S. Army Veteran

CSUSB Celebrates Armed Forces Day in a Big Way

President Harry S. Truman led the effort to establish a single holiday for citizens to come together and thank our military members for their patriotic service in support of our country. On Aug. 31, 1949, Secretary of Defense Louis Johnson announced the creation of an Armed Forces Day to replace separate Army, Navy, Marine Corps and Air Force days. The single day celebration stemmed from the unification of the Armed Forces under the Department of Defense.

This year, CSUSB will celebrate Armed Forces Day on May 17, 2013, from 11:30 a.m. until 2 p.m. All branches of the service will have military displays, equipment, vehicles and giveaways.

This will also mark the second year that CSUSB will participate in the Tie a Yellow Ribbon Campaign. For a long time ribbons have been displayed as a symbol of remembrance for those who are serving in places far from home. In honor of Armed Forces day, yellow ribbons will be displayed on the trees throughout the CSUSB campus to remind us of the California soldiers, marines, sailors and airmen that are currently deployed and although, they have left us and have been sent to places far way, we will think of them and wait for them until they return home.

CSUSB Army Veteran David Briggs Receives Prestigious Award

On April 24, 2013, David Briggs, U.S. Army veteran and CSUSB senior majoring in Arabic Language Literature, Culture and Social Sciences, received the Outstanding Achievement Award in Foreign Languages from the Inland Empire Foreign Language Association. David was nominated by Dr. Oriab Mango, professor of World Language and Literature, for outstanding efforts and achievements in learning Arabic. David attended the Army's elite language training facility, the Defense Language Institute at the Presidio of Monterey, CA, where he first learned Arabic. During his Army career, David served in the Military Intelligence Corps and deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom to Afghanistan in 2007. His fondest memory of the service was when he served as a Platoon Sergeant in 2009 at Fort Gordon, GA. He has warmhearted memories of his time in Presidio, where he remembers running up the hills and down the hills, up the hills again, down the hills again and up and down and up and down. Upon graduation in 2014, David plans to pursue his master's degree in Arabic. David asked to use this platform to give a "shout out" to his former colleague and good friend Sgt. Maj. Bradley Zurla to congratulate him for reenlisting again in the Pennsylvania National Guard (lifer)! We at the Veterans Success Center are very proud of David for receiving this prestigious award.

MODEL UNITED NATIONS AND MODEL ARAB LEAGUE PROGRAMS

Cal State San Bernardino's two Model United Nations teams were awarded Outstanding Delegation honors at the 2013 National Model United Nations conference in New York City. The Outstanding Delegation honor was awarded to just 18 institutions out of 183 universities and colleges that participated at this year's second conference.

Led by Dr. Kevin E. Grisham, U.S. Army veteran, and 24 Cal State San Bernardino students attended the annual conference representing Palestine and Turkey. Two student veterans, two Veterans Success Center tutors and one patron were part of the delegation.

Permanent Mission of Turkey to the United Nations Committee Assignments

GENERAL ASSEMBLY FOURTH COMMITTEE (GA 4)

Josh O'Handley (Political Science & Economics), VSC Tutor

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT (UNCTAD)

Matthew Becker (Economics & Administration - Real Estate Concentration), VSC Tutor

INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY (IAEA)

John Kay, Jr. (Social Science), U.S. Army Veteran

Permanent Observer Mission of the State of Palestine to the United Nations Committee Assignments

GENERAL ASSEMBLY FIRST COMMITTEE (GA1)

Brooke Steppe (Master of Public Administration Program), U.S. Army Veteran

UNITED NATIONS HUMAN SETTLEMENTS PROGRAM (UNHABITAT)

Stephen El-Khatib (Arabic Language, Literature & Culture), VSC Patron

This year's CSUSB Model Arab League (MAL) program won the top delegation prize, Outstanding Delegation. Additionally, the students won individual committees awards in 4 of the 5 committees they were participants in at the conference. This makes 21 wins in a row for the CSUSB MAL conference, which makes it the most award-winning program in the United States. The CSUSB MAL has won the top prize of Outstanding Delegation at every MAL conference it has attended. One student veteran was on this year's Outstanding Delegation team from our campus **David Briggs (Arabic Language, Literature and Culture & Social Science & U.S. Army Veteran)**.

Josh O'Handley
VSC Tutor

John Kay, Jr.
U.S. Army veteran





Basic Allowance for Housing: How Rates are Determined

By Rod Powers, and reprinted from About.com Guide

Beginning in January 2005, Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) rates are designed to cover 100 percent of the average rental costs for the type of dwelling authorized for the specific pay grade (rank).

The Department of Defense (DOD) employs Runzheimer International to collect the nation-wide housing cost data that they use to compute BAH. Additionally, DOD obtains current data from multiple sources, employing a "checks and balances" approach to ensure reliability and accuracy.

Current residential vacancies, identified in local newspapers and real estate rental listings, are an important source of data. Vacancies are selected at random, and subjected to a screening process. Telephone interviews establish the availability and exact location of each unit sampled. DOD has designed the sample to obtain a statistical confidence level of 95% or higher.

DOD also contacts apartment and real estate management companies to identify units for rental pricing. It is not uncommon for DOD to consult real estate professionals in a locality to obtain confirmation and additional sources of data. Where available, DOD contacts fort/post/base housing referral offices, to tap local military expertise and gain insights into the local concerns of military.

Finally, DoD and the Services conduct on-site evaluations at various locations to confirm and ensure reliability and accuracy of the cost data.

The below charts show what BAH rates are based on for each military pay grade:

BAH With Dependents

E-1 through E-4 - The midpoint between the average rental cost of a 2 bedroom apartment and a 2 bedroom townhouse.

E-5 - Average rental cost of a 2 bedroom townhouse.

E-6 - Average rental cost of a 3 bedroom townhouse.

E-7 - Average rental cost for a three-bedroom townhouse plus 36 percent of the cost difference between a townhouse and three-bedroom home.

E-8 - Average rental cost for a three-bedroom townhouse plus 75 percent of the cost difference between a townhouse and a three-bedroom home.

E-9 - Average rental cost of a three-bedroom home, plus 16 percent of the cost difference between a three-bedroom and four-bedroom home.

W-1 - Average rental cost for a three-bedroom townhouse plus 1 percent of the cost difference between a townhouse and a three-bedroom home.

W-2 - Average rental cost for a three-bedroom townhouse plus 52 percent of the cost difference between a townhouse and a three-bedroom home.

W-3 - Average rental cost for a three-bedroom home.

W-4 - Average rental cost for a three-bedroom home plus 22 percent of the cost difference between a three-bedroom home and a four-bedroom home.

W-5 - Average rental cost for a three-bedroom home plus 48 percent of the cost difference between a three-bedroom home and a four-bedroom home.

O-1E - Average rental cost for a three-bedroom townhouse plus 44 percent of the cost difference between a three-bedroom townhouse and a three bedroom home.

O-2E - Average rental cost for a three-bedroom townhouse plus 93 percent of the cost difference between a three-bedroom townhouse and a three bedroom home.

O-3E - Average rental cost for a three-bedroom townhouse plus 26 percent of the cost difference between a three-bedroom home and a four-bedroom home.

O-1 - Average rental cost for a two-bedroom townhouse plus 11 percent of the cost difference between a two-bedroom townhouse and a three-bedroom townhouse.

O-2 - Average rental cost for a two-bedroom townhouse plus 98 percent of the cost difference between a two-bedroom townhouse and a three-bedroom townhouse.

O-3 - Average rental cost of a three-bedroom townhouse plus 98 percent of the cost difference between a three-bedroom townhouse and a three-bedroom home.

O-4 - Average rental cost of a three-bedroom home plus 58 percent of the cost difference between a three-bedroom home and a four-bedroom home.

O-5 through O-7 - Average rental cost of a 4-bedroom home.





Support the CSUSB Air Force ROTC Color Guard

On Sunday, May 5, 2013, the Ontario Reign Pro-hockey Team were in the Western Conference Semi-finals. The CSUSB Air Force ROTC, Det. 002 performed opening color guard ceremonies at the game.



CSUSB Veterans Success Center to Poll Campus

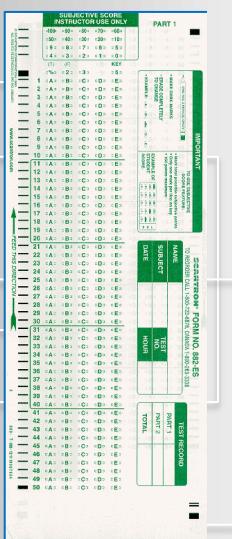
Since 9/11, nearly 2.4 million American men and women have returned home as veterans following their military service. Polls regarding public perceptions of veterans from previous eras have been taken in the past, but never from the specific population of CSUSB. With this poll, we would like to find out campus-wide perceptions of veterans from previous and current foreign conflicts. The poll consists of 38 questions and can be found on the Veterans Success Center's OrgSync site.

Military Spouse Career Fair

On May 7, 2013, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., the Military Spouse Business Alliance presented by Capital One provided a one-of-a-kind Hiring Fair and Career Forum for spouses of active duty, guard, reserves and retired veteran population. Veterans, active duty military and members of the guard and reserve components were also welcomed. The career forum and hiring fair featured:

- Employers looking for and committed to hiring military spouses.
- Presentations to help spouses plan a career in a highly mobile environment.
- Resume help so you can edit resumes on-site.

The event was held at Camp Pendleton, CA, at the Pacific Views Events Center, 202850 San Jacinto Road.



Blue Books and Scantrons Available at the VSC

The VSC has blue books and scantrons available free of charge for veterans, active duty, reservists, National Guard members and dependents. Just drop by the VSC to pick them up.

