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CSUSB Veterans Success Center

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Welcome

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VSC Enters The Blogosphere

Whether or not you are a barking moon bat, bleg, blog roach or blurker, navigating the Web to find the latest information relevant to student veterans can be a daunting task. The staff at the CSUSB Veterans Success Center decided to make things easier by combing the Web for you and creating a blog that will not only keep you apprised about veterans’ issues on a global scale, but provide you the necessary information to be successful and have fun here on campus. The blog, which will be posted monthly, consists of four parts:

♦ “Outside the Wire,” written by Marci Daniels, VSC director and U.S. Army veteran, deals with federal, state, and local veterans issues;

♦ “Guide to the University,” written by Kenny Jacobs, USMC reservist and student assistant, provides insight on the new student veteran experience and explains CSUSB policies, procedures and services.

♦ “Scuttlebutt,” written by Zayre Ruiz, student assistant, is dedicated to improving your social life on and off campus.

♦ “Questions and Answers,” written by Jaime Espinoza, ASA II and CSUSB alumni, provides answers to questions you have about CSUSB.

You can check out the blog at veterans.csusb.edu
President Obama mandated the creation of several initiatives aimed at helping veterans translate their military skills for the civilian workforce. Unfortunately, these online tools were not well advertised, but provide assistance to veterans searching for jobs and make it easier to connect them with companies that are committed to hiring veterans:

- **Veteran Gold Card**: Post-9/11 veterans can download the Veteran Gold Card at [www.dol.gov/vets/goldcard.html](http://www.dol.gov/vets/goldcard.html) or can call toll-free, 1-877-US2-JOBS (1-877-872-5627), TTY: 1-877-889-5627, which entitles vets to enhanced services, including six months of personalized case management, assessments and counseling, at the roughly 3,000 One-Stop Career Centers located across the country.
- **My Next Move for Veterans**: The Department of Labor launched My Next Move for Veterans, an online resource that allows veterans to enter their military occupation code and determine which civilian occupations they are qualified to do. The site also includes information about salaries, apprenticeships, and other related education and training programs. For more information go to [http://www.mynextmove.org/explore/ip](http://www.mynextmove.org/explore/ip).
- **Veterans Job Bank**: The Veterans Job Bank, at the National Resource Directory, is an easy to use tool to help veterans find job postings from companies looking to hire them. It searches over 500,000 job postings and is growing. In a few easy steps, companies can make sure the job postings on their own websites are part of this Veterans Job Bank. To access the Veterans Job Bank go to the following website [https://www.nationalresourcedirectory.gov/home/veterans_job_bank](https://www.nationalresourcedirectory.gov/home/veterans_job_bank).

The life of a student can be riddled with deadlines, demands and tests. Stress isn’t always bad in small doses; it can help you perform under pressure and motivate you to do your best. But when you’re constantly running in emergency mode, your mind and body pay the price. You can protect yourself by recognizing the signs and symptoms of stress and taking steps to reduce its harmful effects.

On Tuesday, Feb. 4, 2014, the Veterans Success Center held its fourth Brown Bag lunch series titled, “Stress Management.” University experts Dr. Jeffrey Tan, psychologist, and Albert Angelo, MS, health educator, provided an informative session covering: What is stress; responding to stress; signs and symptoms; causes of stress; and strategies to deal with stress.

Reprinted from [http://helpguide.org/mental/stress_signs.htm](http://helpguide.org/mental/stress_signs.htm)
“A Mile in Her Boots”

The CSUSB Veterans Success Center will be decorating women veterans’ combat boots. The decorated boots will be part of a mobile art display, bringing awareness to the service of our female veterans. The display will become the property of the IE Women Veterans Collaborative and VA Loma Linda Healthcare System. Decorating combat boots is an artistic way for female veterans to express their experience serving in the military. Feel free to bring any personal items for the boots.

SAVE THE DATE!

Women Veterans Appreciation Luncheon

You are invited to attend a Women Veterans Appreciation Luncheon in March, national Women’s History Month.

All Women Veterans Welcome!

Saturday, March 8th, 10:30am-3pm

University of Redlands Orton Center
1200 East Colton Ave., Redlands, CA 92373

Register for the luncheon at https://iewomenveteranscollaborative.eventbrite.com
Military/Veterans Corner

For many military affiliated students the first place to look for guidance about California State University, San Bernardino is the main website. On the main website there is a Web page link to the left titled Military/Veterans Corner. Recently, the Veterans Success Center took control of the Military/Veterans Corner Web page. We have been revising and adding material to make the transition to university life a smooth one. Among the additions and revisions are:

● A breakdown of all the VA educational benefits from Chapter 30 (Active Duty Montgomery GI Bill) to Chapter 1607 (Reserve Education Assistance Program) to dependent benefits;
● A step-by-step process for getting admitted;
● A comprehensive list of veterans’ resources has been revised;
● A section has been added for the Veterans Success Center;
● And many more.

If you have any questions regarding the services and resources CSUSB provides for military affiliated students, visit veterans.csusb.edu.

Visits by Branch 1/21/14 - 1/31/14

The Veterans Success Center began recording the patrons’ affiliation half-way through January and analyzed the newly gathered data thanks to those who circled their affiliation. Of the ten days worth of data, we recorded Soldiers as being the ones who frequent the center the most followed by Marines, Sailors and Airmen tied third, then National Guardsmen, and finally 5 visits by a Coast Guardsman. We would like to ask our patrons to continue to identify themselves by their branch so we can interpret the data and report to President Morales as needed.
In Memory of Barry Fletcher (Paul B. Fletcher III), U.S. Army Veteran

The SVO’s effort to establish a library memorializing Barry Fletcher is underway. They are currently accepting monetary donations and recyclables which will go towards purchasing the bookshelves. Please go to URL below if you’d like to make a donation and drop off your recyclables at the VSC. For questions, please contact David Briggs at bdraivgigds@yahoo.com or Luca Daley at luca.daley@yahoo.com

http://www.gofundme.com/6izifk

Join Us for Sweet Treats on Valentine’s Day

Most scholars believe that St. Valentine was a bishop who lived in Rome around 270 AD and violated Roman emperor Claudius II’s edict prohibiting marriage by secretly marrying young lovers. During the time of his reign, the Roman Empire was involved in internal and external conflict. Claudius II believed that married men would not make good soldiers because they would be attached to their families. In light of the ongoing conflicts, the empire needed more young men to serve as soldiers in order to protect the empire from takeover. Valentine felt the decree was unjust and secretly joined young lovers in matrimony. Upon learning of his activities, Claudius ordered Valentine’s arrest. Once in prison, Valentine, known for having healing powers, restored the sight of his jailor’s blind daughter. According to legend, the emperor ordered Valentine to be executed on Feb. 14, 270 A.D. St. Valentine left behind a farewell message to the jailor’s daughter signed “From your Valentine.” The rest, of course, is history. Please join us at the VSC on Feb. 14, 2014, for some sweet treats for Valentine’s Day.

February 21st!

Military Appreciation Night

FREE to all
Military Appreciation Night
Admissions to the Men’s Basketball Game or 7pm and Giveaways
5-7, 7:00 P.M.
Entertainment Prizes
Active Duty Service Members
Reservists
Dependants
National Guard Members
Veterans
ROTC Cadets

Kenny J. + Cadee C.
Fred Cervantes, U.S. Army Veteran

Coaches a youth basketball team in Eastvale called the Renegades, which is named after his basic training platoon. His team of nine and ten year olds is currently undefeated in conference play.

Steven Benitez, U.S. Navy Veteran

Navy ships are painted “hazegray.” The Navy spent a fortune to develop this shade. A ship’s camouflage concealment ability is enhanced, and the probability of detection and targeting is reduced by the use of an overall haze gray appearance. Hazegray reduces the average contrast of the ship to the horizon. While in the Navy, Steven was stationed on the USS Enterprise, which was referred to by sailors as the “Mobile Chernobyl” because it has eight nuclear reactors.

Brooke Steppe, U.S. Army Veteran

She was stabbed through the arm by a child in Iraq because she wouldn’t give him a bag of Skittles.

Jake Russell, U.S. Army Veteran

He plays electric and acoustic guitar and his all-time favorite song is “Achilles Last Stand” by Led Zeppelin. He has a little brother who is bigger than him. He lifts weights everyday and can currently deadlift 465 lbs., which is incredible since he only weighs 163 lbs.

Jennifer Iacolino, U.S. Army Veteran

She loves green clean parks, misses military bases, wants to help change the world by stopping bad addictions and to own a nice three-bedroom house. She is also an English major who loves authors Jack London and Willa Cather.