

# Veteran Resources Coordinator Newsletter

(February 8, 2013)

This newsletter was created for the intent of keeping you informed of the Military and VA Communities. This newsletter is also a tool to communicate events and resources both at OSU and the community at large. The opinions and viewpoints expressed in the articles are not those of the Oregon State University Veterans Advisor Office or its counterparts.

## **VA and Military Updates:**

### **Direct Deposit Required for Military Retirement & Veterans Benefits**

If you are receiving military retirement benefits or VA disability compensation payments, then you need to read this article! The US Treasury is requiring everyone who receives federal benefits payments to begin receiving benefits via direct deposit or prepaid debit card by March 1, 2013. We created a tutorial that explains this new policy and how you can easily make the change. Learn how to sign up for direct deposit.

<http://themilitarywallet.com/direct-deposit-for-veterans-benefits/>

### **Congress considering bills that affect veterans' benefits, employment**

WASHINGTON – Despite Congress' early session focus on budget battles, lawmakers have introduced an ambitious slate of veterans-themed bills that could have far-reaching effects on post-military benefits and employment. The most likely legislation to become law is the new Stolen Valor Act, introduced by Iraq war veteran Rep. Joe Heck, R-Nevada. The proposal would mandate a fine and up to a year in prison for anyone who claims military awards "with intent to obtain money, property or other tangible benefit."

<http://www.stripes.com/congress-considering-bills-that-affect-veterans-benefits-employment-1.205190>

### **VA Awards Grants to Improve Health Care Access for Women Veterans**

The Department of Veterans Affairs recently awarded 33 grants to VA facilities for projects that will improve emergency health care services for women Veterans, expand women's health education programs for VA staff, and offer telehealth programs to female Veterans in rural areas. "Our goal is 100 percent accessibility for women Veterans who need our care," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. "These new projects will improve access and quality of critical health care services for women." This is the largest number of one-year grants VA has ever awarded for enhancing women's health services. The complete list of grant recipients is given below. VHA's national Women's Health Program Office, Office of Rural Health, and Office of Healthcare Transformation are jointly supporting the winning proposals.

<http://www.fortmilltimes.com/2013/01/25/2457615/va-awards-grants-to-improve-health.html>

### **Senate starts year with vets employment bill**

Helping veterans find jobs is one of the top legislative priorities for Senate Democrats. One of the first 10 bills introduced in the 113th Congress is a measure that seeks to get more veterans hired for civil service jobs; provide federal grants to encourage employers to hire veterans as first responders; expand small-business loans; and strengthen employment and reemployment rights. It also extends for two more years the Veterans Retraining Assistance Program, or VRAP, that provides up to one year of GI Bill benefits to certain unemployed veterans so they can learn a new marketable skill. Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vermont, the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee chairman and cosponsor of the bill, said his panel "will be looking very seriously at how to improve veterans' employment and training programs."

# Veteran Resources Coordinator Newsletter

(February 8, 2013)

<http://www.marinecorpstimes.com/news/2013/01/military-senate-veterans-jobs-bills-012313w/>

## **GI Bill Tuition Fairness Act of 2013**

The Chairman and Ranking Member of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs recently introduced bipartisan legislation (H.R. 357) that would require state operated schools to charge veterans in-state tuition rates even though they may not be residents of the states where the schools are located. The requirement would apply to state schools which have programs which are eligible for Department of Veterans Affairs education programs under the GI Bill. This move could help veterans save thousands in out-of-pocket tuition expenses.

***(Veteran Resources Coordinator Disclaimer about this article. Please be advised that this is a proposed bill, which has not been approved yet. My office will be monitoring this bill along with state ones as well and will be reporting on them on occasion.)***

<http://www.military.com/veterans-report/gi-bill-tuition-fairness-act-of-2013?ESRC=vr.nl>

## **VetNet Online Transitioning Service**

VetNet ([www.vetnethq.com](http://www.vetnethq.com)) is a technology-based effort to help veterans, transitioning servicemembers, and military spouses find meaningful employment. VetNet is a virtual career resource designed to be a one-stop shop for those on the job hunt. There are three tracks to VetNet: (1) Basic Training Track, which help veterans with resume writing workshops; (2) Career Connections Track where veterans participate in video chats with industry experts, and get advice from other veterans; and (3) Entrepreneur Track, which offers college-level business courses. For more information, visit the VetNet website at [www.vetnethq.com](http://www.vetnethq.com).

<http://www.military.com/veterans-report/vetnet-online-transitioning-service?ESRC=vr.nl>

## **VA Loan Limits for 2013**

The maximum guaranty amount of a VA loan is typically \$417,000, but you may qualify for much more depending on the county where you live. VA has announced new loan limits for 2013 for certain counties, with some limits as high as over \$1 million. These limits apply to all loans closed January 1, 2013 and afterwards. For the full chart of every county and contact information for regional VA loan centers, see this [updated Military.com article](#).

<http://www.military.com/veterans-report/va-loan-limits-for-2013-012813?ESRC=vr.nl>

## **Employment Opportunities:**

### **Office of Information (OIT) Work-Study Program Recruitment Portland Oregon**

*I received the following email last week.*

"Mr. Bedwell,

My name is Phillip Huber and I work for the Office of Information (OIT) at the Portland Veteran Affairs Medical Center (PVAMC). We are looking for Veterans who are full-time or 3/4-time students in a college degree, vocational, or professional program, who would like to enter the VA work-study program. We have limited slots available however we are actively trying to fill them. The work-study participant would be fulfilling the role of an IT Specialist here at the Medical Center in Portland. I can provide more details for interested applicants. Please contact me directly and we can walk through the application process together. Part of the process would be to be able to pass a background check.

# Veteran Resources Coordinator Newsletter

(February 8, 2013)

More information about the Work-Study Program can be found at the following link:

[http://www.gibill.va.gov/resources/education\\_resources/programs/work\\_study\\_program.html](http://www.gibill.va.gov/resources/education_resources/programs/work_study_program.html)

"Building a Better Future"

Phillip Huber,

IT Specialist - Customer Support

Portland VA Medical Center

Tel: (503) 220-8262 Ext. 51010"

## **100,000 Jobs Mission Hires More than 51,000 U.S. Veterans in Two Years**

The 100,000 Jobs Mission announced today that its coalition companies have collectively hired 51,835 veterans through 2012. Launched in March 2011 by eleven major employers, the coalition of private sector companies is already more than half of the way to its goal of hiring at least 100,000 U.S. military veterans by 2020. "This is a major milestone in our mission to hire 100,000 veterans in ten years," said Frank Bisignano, Chief Operating Officer for JPMorgan Chase, a founding member of the 100,000 Jobs Mission. "To have achieved more than half of our goal in two years is a testament both to the talent of our returning service men and women and to the commitment of the 100,000 Jobs Mission companies. We will continue to make the most of this momentum in 2013." The coalition has grown to 94 companies, up from 76 in the third quarter of 2012. The 100,000 Jobs Mission is a unique grassroots effort originating in corporate America to combat the high unemployment rate among U.S. military veterans, especially those returning from service in Iraq and Afghanistan. The member companies represent a wide array of industries across the U.S., including financial services, defense, healthcare, telecommunications, technology, transportation, retail and energy – and they are hiring at all levels within their companies. There is no monetary cost for joining the coalition. Each company has made a commitment to hire veterans, share best hiring practices with other member companies and report their results quarterly. The 100,000 Jobs Mission is focused on the entire employment continuum – not just recruiting and hiring military talent but also retaining them long-term.

[http://www.csrwire.com/press\\_releases/35107-100-000-Jobs-Mission-Hires-More-than-51-000-U-S-Veterans-in-Two-Years](http://www.csrwire.com/press_releases/35107-100-000-Jobs-Mission-Hires-More-than-51-000-U-S-Veterans-in-Two-Years)

## **Paid Service Opportunities for the Summer**

Veterans Green Jobs is seeking student veterans to be placed in paid positions with our conservation corps partners in eight western states this summer. These positions, which focus on wildland firefighting training and outdoor conservation, provide you with meaningful summer employment that will challenge and develop you. Whether you're interested in a career path with state or federal resource and land management agencies or just looking for a summer job, these positions will connect you with fellow veterans in the outdoors, provide you with a renewed sense of purpose, and allow you to give back to your communities and environment. Some benefits may include:

- S212 Wildland Fire Chainsaw certification
- Basic Wildland Firefighting "Red Card" certification
- First Aid/CPR training
- Living stipend and AmeriCorps education award
- Networking with state and federal land management employers
- Regain a sense of camaraderie through shared experiences with fellow veterans

Crew dates, locations, and specific details to be published in early February. Contact [vgc@veteransgreenjobs.org](mailto:vgc@veteransgreenjobs.org) or fill out our [interest form](#) for more information or to be added to our mailing list. For more information contact Joe Cafferty Marine Corps Veteran Outreach Coordinator

# Veteran Resources Coordinator Newsletter

(February 8, 2013)

Veterans Green Jobs [www.veteransgreenjobs.org](http://www.veteransgreenjobs.org).

## **Featured Job: State Farm Is Hiring Veterans**

State Farm is a mutual company, owned by its policyholders -- not stockholders. Our mission is to help people manage the risks of everyday life, recover from the unexpected and realize their dreams. State Farm insures more cars and homes than any other insurer in the U.S. It is the leading insurer of watercraft and one of the leading insurers in Canada, and has more than 65,000 employees and about 18,000 agents in eight geographic market areas (including Canada), 30 operations centers and over 300 claims offices

<http://www.military.com/veterans-report/featured-job-state-farm-is-hiring-veterans-012813?ESRC=vr.nl>

## **Deputy Fire Staff / Forest AFMO Willamette National Forest Springfield, Oregon**

The Willamette National Forest will soon be filling one permanent, GS-0301-11/12, full-time Deputy Fire Staff / Forest AFMO position. The duty station is located at the Willamette National Forest Headquarters in Springfield, Oregon. If you are interested in this position please complete the attached Outreach Response Form and return it to Sean Stafford, [sstafford@fs.fed.us](mailto:sstafford@fs.fed.us) no later than February 15, 2013 as a referral list will be generated soon after.

**For more information see February 8, 2013 Handout - Willamette Deputy Fire Staff Outreach.**

## **The Coastal Valley Interagency Communication Center is advertising one permanent, Forestry Technician (Fire Dispatcher), GS-0462-5/06/07.**

The duty station is Corvallis Forest Sciences Lab in Corvallis, Oregon. The purpose of this Notice is to inform the potential applicant pool of this position. This position is advertised under the Open Continuous Roster (OCR) Announcement process under both DEMO and Merit promotion

### **APPLICANT INFORMATION:**

Applicants for this position SHOULD now apply on the OPEN CONTINUOUS RECRUITMENT through USAJOBS at: <http://www.usajobs.opm.gov> using vacancy announcement: OCRP-462-IADISP-5/6/7 G & DP with no closing date. Applicants must select Corvallis, Oregon as their desired/preferred location. All applications must be submitted by midnight February 18, 2013 to be considered for this position. The Referral List for this position will be issued to the selecting official on February 19, 2013. For information about this vacancy please contact Roberta Runge, Center Manager, Coastal Valley Interagency Communication Center, e-mail: [rrunge@fs.fed.us](mailto:rrunge@fs.fed.us) phone: 541-750-7097.

**For more information see February 8, 2013 Handout - Dispatch Outreach.**

## **Permanent Seasonal GS-0102-7 Archaeological Technician positions**

The Malheur National Forest, will soon be filling two GS-0102-07 Archaeology Technician, PSE-18/8 positions with duty stations in Prairie City and Hines, OR. Note: Permanent Seasonal Employee positions work 18 pay periods and are then placed into non-pay status for 8 pay periods. This Outreach Notice is open to current employees and non-employees alike. Please respond accordingly. The purpose of this Outreach Notice is to determine the potential applicant pool for this position and to establish the appropriate recruitment method and area of consideration for the vacancy announcements (area of consideration, service-wide, government-wide, or DEMO). Responses received from this outreach notice will be used to make this determination.

# Veteran Resources Coordinator Newsletter

(February 8, 2013)

Anyone interested in further information or in receiving a copy of the vacancy announcement when it opens is advised to complete the attached Outreach Response Form and return it to the contacts listed no later than February 28, 2013.

Prairie City Ranger District  
Attn: Kay Shelnutt  
PO Box 337  
Prairie City, OR 97869

Emigrant Creek Ranger District  
Attn: Pete Cadena  
265 Highway 20 South  
Hines, OR 97738

The vacancy announcement for this position will be posted on USAJOBS, the U.S. Government's official website for employment opportunities at [www.usajobs.gov](http://www.usajobs.gov)

**For More Information see February 8, 2013 Newsletter Handout - Archaeology Technician**

## **Upcoming Events:**

### **OSU Athletics Leadership Institute Invitation to Drucker Institute Training**

When: February 15, 2013 9:00 to 1:00

Where: Student Success Center Room 133

**For more information see February 8, 2013 Newsletter Handout - Drucker for Future Leaders.**

## **Veterans Resources:**

### **New APP to help Veterans connect with Each Other**

POS-REP, short for "position report," is a new social networking mobile app that allows Veterans to locate other Veterans, communicate and find resources in their area. The app, currently in the final stages of Apple approval, was developed by Anthony Allman, an Army Veteran, with a five man team. The inspiration for the mobile app came from the devastating loss of former Marine Clay Hunt, whose depression and PTSD eventually led to his suicide in March of 2011. On Business Insider, Allman explained there were three other Veterans within ten miles of Hunt. After that realization, the idea of an app that connects Veterans with others in their area was born. The free download has multiple features, including Radar, which shows a map of other nearby Veterans and allows users to broadcast their own locations if they choose. There is also Sitrep, which allows Veterans to post status updates and communicate with one another. The mobile app's long-term goal is to ease the transition from the military by providing additional support and resources through local connections with others who are experiencing, or have experienced the transition themselves.

Learn more about the POS-REP mobile app on their Facebook page, <http://www.facebook.com/posrep> and Twitter feed, [https://twitter.com/pos\\_rep](https://twitter.com/pos_rep).

**Aroostook County man finds national database to match veterans with jobs**

# Veteran Resources Coordinator Newsletter

(February 8, 2013)

Founder and president of [Warriors in the Workplace](#), Birmingham is dedicated to matching military veterans with employment opportunities through his national database. According to U.S. Department of Labor statistics cited by Birmingham, more than 1 million service members are projected to leave the military between 2011 and 2016 and the unemployment rate for veterans of working age is three times the national average. "There is such a need to match vets and jobs," Birmingham said. "There is no real reason out there for why the vets' unemployment is so high, but it's out there." A veteran of the Maine Army Guard, Birmingham has long been involved with veterans affairs and spent several years touring with Empire Racing which runs teams in ARCA and the NASCAR world truck series. "I volunteered with the team's ministry and we traveled around with NASCAR," Birmingham said. "Empire Racing would run races in honor of our fallen military men and women and visit with veterans at VA facilities around the country." On one such trip last summer, Birmingham said, while dining at a local cafe, the big news in that small town in New York drove home the employment challenges facing returning veterans. "We were in this local eatery eating lunch in this town that had like maybe 800 to 1,000 residents," he said. "Come to find out the hometown hero was this young marine who had been deployed three times to Afghanistan [and] when he came home that last time he could not find work and he killed himself." **No one, Birmingham thought, should experience that kind of desperation after serving his or her country, and Warriors in the Workplace was born.** "It's time to put an end to this kind of thing," Birmingham said. "I began to ask myself how I can make a difference."

<http://bangordailynews.com/2013/01/26/news/aroostook/aroostook-county-man-founds-national-database-to-match-veterans-with-jobs/>

## Looking Glass and its National Center for Parents with Disabilities 2013 Scholarship Application

Through the Looking Glass and its National Center for Parents with Disabilities and their Families are pleased to announce new scholarships specifically for high school seniors or college students who have parents with disabilities. A total of fifteen \$1000 scholarships will be given out Fall 2013. These scholarships are part of Through the Looking Glass' National Center for Parents with Disabilities and their Families. There are separate eligibility requirements for high school seniors and for college students:

1. High School Seniors. To be eligible, a student must be a high school graduate (or graduating senior) by Summer 2013. The student must be planning to attend a two-year or four-year college in Fall 2013, or enrolled in an accredited vocational or technical school during 2013. The student must be pursuing a certificate, license, AA, AS, BA or BS degree, and have at least one parent with a disability.
2. College Students. To be eligible, a student must be currently enrolled in a two-year or four-year college in Fall 2013, or enrolled in an accredited vocational or technical school during 2013. The student must be pursuing a certificate, license, AA, AS, BA or BS degree, be 21 years of age or younger as of March 11, 2013, and have at least one parent with a disability.

All application materials must be postmarked by March 11, 2013. Individuals may submit only one application per award period. Also see [Scholarships: Frequently Asked Questions](#)  
<http://www.lookingglass.org/scholarships/140-2013-scholarship-announcement-and-application>

OSU Veterans on Facebook

<http://www.facebook.com/VeteransAtOregonStateUniversity>.

# Veteran Resources Coordinator Newsletter

(February 8, 2013)

OSU Veterans Website:

<http://oregonstate.edu/veterans/home/>

Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs Website:

<http://www.oregon.gov/odva/Pages/index.aspx>

Oregon Department of Employment Veteran Representatives:

<http://www.oregon.gov/EMPLOY/Pages/index.aspx>

OSU Veterans and Family Student Association Facebook page:

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Veterans-and-Family-Student-Association/25373662133527>

Thank you and have a great day.

Gus L. Bedwell

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