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 Veteran Resources Office or its counterparts.

I want to encourage you to share this newsletter with your colleagues. Anyone who is interested in receiving this newsletter on a continuous basis can sign up at http://lists.oregonstate.edu/. The name of the newsletter is “VetsNews”.

**VA Updates:**

*Letter from Curtis L. Coy, Deputy Under Secretary for Economic Opportunity Veterans Benefits Administration - U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs*

*Colleagues and Fellow Veterans,*

*Yesterday we testified before the House Veterans Affairs Committee on “Defining and Improving Success for Student Veterans.” Specifically, we shared information regarding various VA efforts to help Veterans achieve success in their educational endeavors, including the recent expansion of the VetSuccess on Campus (VSOC) program, launching new online tools (Comparison Tool and Feedback System), and the Million Records Project. Additionally, did you know tutorial assistance is available to help Veterans attending school pay for tutoring necessary to advance your education? Tutorial assistance is available under the Post-9/11 GI Bill if pursuing training at the half-time or greater rate, and have a deficiency in a subject, making tutoring necessary.*

**Available Benefit and Eligibility**

*The monthly rate of tutorial assistance may not exceed the cost of tutoring or $100 per month. The maximum amount payable is $1,200. There is no entitlement charge under the Post-9/11 GI Bill.*

*A student must meet the following criteria to be eligible for tutorial assistance:*

- Rate of pursuit must be at least 50 percent.
- Must have a deficiency in a course that is part of your approved program.
- Must be enrolled in the course during the quarter, semester, or term in which the tutoring is received for the course. Tutoring may not occur between quarters or semesters.

*The student, tutor, and certifying official must complete VA Form 22-1990t, Application and Enrollment Certification for Individualized Tutorial Assistance. The application may be submitted at the end of each month or combination of months. The application must be signed and dated on or after the date of the last tutoring session certified. The School Certifying Official (SCO) can submit the application on your behalf.*

*Information for Schools*
When a SCO signs an Application and Enrollment Certification for Individualized Tutorial Assistance, he or she will certify the following:

- Tutoring is essential to correct a deficiency. A letter from the course instructor should be put in the student’s VA file stating that the student is deficient in the course and that individual tutoring is required to correct the deficiency.
- The tutor meets the college’s qualifications. Ideally, the school maintains a list of approved tutors. The list should indicate the subjects a tutor is qualified to tutor and the hourly charge. Students should be assigned a tutor from the approved list. A tutor may not be a close relative of the student.
- The charges do not exceed the usual charges for tutoring.

Tutorial assistance is also available under many of our Educational programs (VocRehab, Dependent, etc.). Brochures and pamphlets on tutorial assistance requirements of various VA educational benefits are available at [http://www.benefits.va.gov/GIBILL/handouts_forms.asp](http://www.benefits.va.gov/GIBILL/handouts_forms.asp)

Tutorial Assistance is one of the many training program opportunities under the GI Bill benefits that are available to Veterans, Servicemember and their eligible dependents.

If you have any questions about the GI Bill or Tutorial Assistance please contact the school certifying official or call our GI Bill hotline using the information below.

V/R

Curtis L. Coy
Deputy Under Secretary for Economic Opportunity
Veterans Benefits Administration
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Panel to study Agent Orange residue exposure
SALEM, OR - The Veterans Affairs Department has long resisted disability claims from service members who said chemical residue left in Vietnam War-era planes that were used to spray defoliants over Southeast Asia caused them severe illnesses, including cancer.

This summer, a panel of independent scientists will try to determine whether those veterans could have been exposed to the toxins in defoliants, including Agent Orange, at a level that would be dangerous to their health......


**GAO Study - VA Should Strengthen Its Efforts to Help Veterans Make Informed Education Choices**

Why GAO Did This Study?
In fiscal year 2013, VA provided over $12 billion in benefits for veterans’ postsecondary education; however, questions have been raised as to whether some schools are receiving these funds as a result of inappropriate recruiting practices. GAO was asked to examine issues related to schools’ recruitment of veterans. This report examines (1) how selected schools recruit veterans, (2) veterans’ school search and recruiting experiences, and (3) VA’s actions to help veterans make informed decisions and to identify inappropriate recruiting practices....

More information can be found on the following website; [http://www.gao.gov/assets/670/663152.pdf](http://www.gao.gov/assets/670/663152.pdf)

**‘Delay in treatment’ a factor in more than 100 deaths at VA centers**

As controversy swirls around the Veterans Administration over deaths caused by delayed care, an investigation by the Dayton Daily News found that the VA settled many cases that appear to be related to delays in treatment. A database of paid claims by the VA since 2001 includes 167 in which the words "delay in treatment" is used in the description. The VA paid out a total of $36.4 million to settle those claims, either voluntarily or as part of a court action.....


More Information on the ‘Delay in treatment’ investigation is in the following articles.

- **New York Times**: Allegations of deaths due to delayed care have not been verified says independent IG Mr. Griffin also indicated that the most serious allegations — that as many as 40 veterans died because of delays in treatment while they were on illicit waiting lists in Phoenix — had not been verified.

- **Navy Times**: IG preliminary results: of cases reviewed, none conclusively show that the delays contributed to their deaths [Mr. Griffin] added that the review to date has pulled together an initial list of 17 people who experienced delays of care in Phoenix, although none conclusively show that the delays contributed to their deaths. “It’s one thing to be on a waiting list. And it’s another thing to conclude that as a result of being on the waiting list, that’s the cause of death,” Griffin said.
Fellow Veterans and Family Members,

After 38 years in The Army, I am now honored and privileged to serve as your Secretary of Veterans Affairs (VA). VA remains committed to providing the high quality benefits you have earned and deserve.

Allegations of VA employees’ misconduct have surfaced over the last several weeks, beginning with scheduling delays at the Phoenix VA Health Care System. As I testified before Congress on May 15, I take any allegations about patient safety or employee misconduct very seriously. The reports of Veterans’ negative experiences while seeking VA care are of great personal concern to me. I fully agree with President Obama’s statement on May 21, 2014: “If these allegations prove to be true, it is dishonorable, it is disgraceful . . . .

For more information please see following website;
Military Updates:

Coming Back with Wes Moore on PBS

Coming Back with Wes Moore, a new series executive produced by best-selling author and former Army combat veteran Wes Moore, airs in three parts on consecutive Tuesdays beginning May 13, 2014, on PBS (check local listings). The three episode series tells the story of Wes Moore’s search for answers to some of the most difficult questions related to returning from war. Moore’s journey takes him into the personal lives of different soldiers as they attempt to reintegrate back into society, establish new identities, and – for many – find a new mission.

Each episode focuses on a different stage of coming home: “Coming Back” (May 13), “Fitting In” (May 20) and “Moving Forward” (May 27).

For more information and to see episodes go to this website; http://www.pbs.org/coming-back-with-wes-moore/home/

US Navy Vet Inspiring Next Generation of Latino Engineers

Former U.S. Navy Nuke Barry Cordero said he knew from an early age that he wanted to help people. Growing up poor in the South Side of Chicago as the descendant of immigrants from both Mexico and Germany, he never heard of engineering as a child. He did know that he wanted to go to college and be a professional one day. Cordero said he wasn’t a great student in high school. “I was in a lot of honors classes but I didn’t perform really well,” he said. “I knew I wanted to be a doctor one day because I really had a passion for helping people.”

U.S. Navy Nuke and Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE) President Barry Cordero. (Angel Canales/ABC News)

One day he went to his school guidance counselor and asked him for advice about what he should do. “He really discouraged me from pursing college. He encouraged me to use my mechanical experience to pursue a mechanical education,” Cordero recalled......
For more information see following website; http://abcnews.go.com/blogs/headlines/2014/05/us-navy-vet-inspiring-next-generation-of-latino-engineers/

**Upcoming Events:**

**Free Rafting Trips and Other Adventures Just for Veterans Throughout the United States:**
You don’t need to have previous rafting experience. We will teach you everything you need to know to travel comfortably including how to pack appropriately, load a raft, set up tarps, paddle in a raft, and navigate the river. After joining your group in your appropriate location, you will travel by van to an entry point along the river. You will get to know your group, learning wilderness skills and practicing safety procedures. Then you will begin your expedition.

For more information see the following websites: [http://www.outwardbound.org/course/oregon-rafting-expedition-veterans/130/](http://www.outwardbound.org/course/oregon-rafting-expedition-veterans/130/) and Other Veteran specific courses.

**Veteran Resources:**

OSU Veterans on Facebook

OSU Veterans Resource Blog
[http://blogs.oregonstate.edu/veterans/](http://blogs.oregonstate.edu/veterans/)

OSU Veterans Website:
[http://oregonstate.edu/veterans/home/](http://oregonstate.edu/veterans/home/)

Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs Website:
[http://www.oregon.gov/odva/Pages/index.aspx](http://www.oregon.gov/odva/Pages/index.aspx)

Oregon Department of Employment Veteran Representatives:
[http://www.oregon.gov/EMPLOY/Pages/index.aspx](http://www.oregon.gov/EMPLOY/Pages/index.aspx)

OSU Veterans and Family Student Association Facebook page:

Thank you and have a great day.

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