

VET SERVICES



UPDATE!

CalVet Hires Operation Welcome Home Coordinator

SFC Michael Bunch, of San Luis Obispo, has been hired as the **Operation Welcome Home Coordinator** in the California Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet). Michael recently returned from a 12 month deployment to Kosovo for Global War on Terrorism Operations. Michael is a member of the California Army National Guard. He will be conducting training and outreach efforts for Operation Welcome Home.



CalVet Corps Members

The Employment Development Department (EDD) has been diligently trying to hire and train all 325 CalVet Corps team members for the Operation Welcome Home. There are approximately 120 trained CalVet Corps members prepared for dispatch to make contact with newly discharged veterans.

The focus will be on benefits and services with an emphasis on employment and unemployment insurance, also making sure these veterans are linked to service providers.

CalVet Corps positions are still available throughout the state visit: www.cdva.ca.gov/VetService/DocsAndImages/Jan%20Newsletter.pdf for instructions on how to apply or by calling (916) 654-6869.

CalVet Corps Volunteers

We are still accepting email notifications for those individuals interested in volunteering. If you are interested please email vetservices@cdva.ca.gov.

Contact Us!

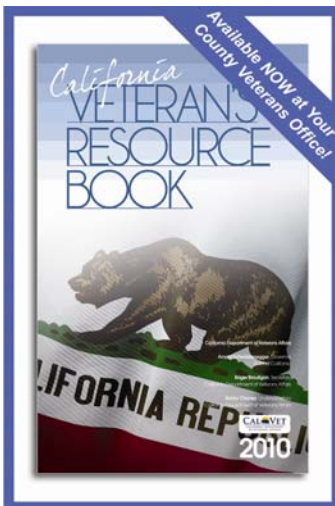
Veterans Services Division
P.O. Box 942895
Sacramento, CA 94295-0001
P: 916-653-2573
F: 916-653-2563

Ted Puntillo - Deputy Secretary

Sheila Hawkins - Education Administrator

Craig Osborn - Manager

Check Out Our Social Networks!



View Our Online Calendar Today!

[http://www.cdva.ca.gov/AboutUs/DocsAndImages/CalVet Events Calendar.pdf](http://www.cdva.ca.gov/AboutUs/DocsAndImages/CalVet%20Events%20Calendar.pdf)

Military Children Celebration: www.MyArmyOneSource.com/cyss_momc

Reserve Aid: www.reserveaid.org

Pathway Home: www.pathwayhome.org

Stress Management: www.cominghomeprc

Veteran & Families: www.usatogether.org

National Resource Directory: www.nationalresourcedirectory.gov

Give an Hour: www.giveanhour.org/skins/gah/home.aspx



Calling All Veterans!

CalVet would like you to participate in this needs assessment survey!

Visit: www.veterans.ca.gov/veterans_assessment.htm



VET SERVICES

People Say I Have Changed... Free Individual & Family Counseling

Being deployed is a changing experience for you and your family. When you return from deployment things may have changed insignificantly or substantially, either way things aren't the same including you. You may want to discuss these changes and how it may have affected you at your local Vet Center. Vet Centers are reliable and confidential resources.

If you, or a family member, served in any combat zone and received a military campaign ribbon (Vietnam, Southwest Asia, OEF, OIF, etc.) you are eligible to receive FREE counseling sessions at your local Vet Center.

Vet Centers provide readjustment counseling and outreach services to all veterans who served in any combat zone. Services are also available for their family members for military related issues. Veterans have earned these benefits through their service and all are provided at no cost to the veteran or family.

To find your local Vet Center visit:
www.va.gov/directory/guide/vetcenter_flash.asp or by calling 1-866-496-8838.

Gold Star Family License Plate

On September 26, 2008 Governor Schwarzenegger signed SB 1455 – the Gold Star Family License Plate bill– authored by Senator Dave Cogdill (Modesto). This bill authorizes the California Department of Veterans Affairs to sponsor a Gold Star Family specialized license plate program and waives the 7,500 minimum applications requirement. This bill authorizes a family member of a member of the Armed Forces who was killed while serving on active duty in the military to apply for a special license plate with a design containing a Gold Star and the words "Gold Star Family."

Gold Star Families have endured the most painful sacrifice for the sake of our country. The Department would like to show them our gratitude and support by promoting this program. We are counting on the public to offer their support.

Checks payable to:
"CDVA Project Gold Star"
Mail to: Project Gold Star,
1227 O St, Room 300,
Sacramento, CA, 95814
or FAXED to (916) 653-2611.



Been To Iraq or Afghanistan? VA May Owe You \$\$\$

VA is publishing a proposed regulation in the *Federal Register* that will establish new presumptions of service connection for nine specific infectious diseases associated with military service in Southwest Asia during the Persian Gulf War, or in Afghanistan on or after September 19, 2001.

"We recognize the frustrations that many Gulf War and Afghanistan Veterans and their families experience on a daily basis as they look for answers to health questions, and seek benefits from VA," said Secretary Shinseki.

The proposed rule includes information about the long-term health effects potentially associated with the following nine diseases:

- Brucellosis
- Campylobacter jejuni
- Coxiella burnetii (Q fever)
- Malaria
- Mycobacterium tuberculosis
- Nontyphoid Salmonella
- Shigella
- Visceral leishmaniasis
- West Nile virus.

If you have been diagnosed with any of these conditions call 1 (800) 952-5626 or visit www.cacvso.org to find your local County Veterans Service Office to file your claim for compensation.

Stand Down 2010

Annually, the California Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet) identifies discretionary funds that may be directed to homeless veteran providers in the form of grants.

Any veteran services provider desiring to conduct a Homeless Veteran Stand Down event may be eligible for a grant from California Department of Veterans Affairs. Providers may contact the Veteran Services Division (VSD) for an application packet.

The Stand Down application packet should be submitted by the due date and must include a complete application, a complete description of the event and a completed, signed Payee Data Record STD 204.

For more information on participating in this years Stand Down visit www.cdva.ca.gov/Resources/StandDown.aspx or by calling 1-800-952-5626.