# VET SERVICES

CALVET VETERANS SERVICES

**Newsletter | Aug 2010**

California's operation welcomehome

## UPDATE!

### *CalVet Hires Homeless Coordinator*

Veronica Badillo, of Merced, has been hired as the Homeless Coordinator in Veterans Services Division. Veronica is a US Army veteran currently serving as a Staff Sergeant, a Healthcare Non-Commission Officer in the U.S. Army Reserves. Veronica has been mobilized twice in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. After moving to Sacramento, CA she attended CSU Sacramento. She graduated from CSU Sacramento in 2007 with a B.A. degree in Ethnic Studies. As a veteran, she is aware of the many challenges faced by recently separated veterans and other service members trying to reintegrate back into civilian life, especially those returning home from a deployment.

## EXTENSION ON UNEMPLOYMENT CHECKS ARE APPROVED

A long-debated proposal to extend unemployment benefits through November won approval in the House of Representatives setting the stage for what is likely to become a top campaign issue as the November midterm election nears. A day after the Senate advanced the measure, the House voted 272-152 to send the benefits extension to the White House for President Obama's signature. The debate over the cost of the legislation – and the state of the nation's economy – continues to dominate House and Senate races across the country. The legislation extends benefits for those who have already used up their standard 26 weeks of unemployment.

For more information visit:
www.edd.ca.gov/unemployment/Federal_Unemployment_Insurance_Extensions.htm

## All Expenses Paid Job Training

The **Veterans' Employment and Training Service** offers an exciting new training and employment opportunity for Veterans who are 20 to 24 years old! The Veterans' Employment and Training Service and the Employment and Training Administration's (ETA) Job Corps are partnering in a demonstration project that will provide Job Corps' comprehensive array of career development services to eligible Veterans to help prepare them for successful careers. This is a fully-funded, all-expense-paid demonstration project that is free for the Veterans. The program includes transportation to and from the Job Corps center, housing, meals, basic medical services, academic and career technical training, bi-weekly living allowance, and job placement and post-graduation support.

For information or to sign-up for the demonstration project:
(800) 733 - JOBS / 5627
**www.recruiting.jobcorps.gov**

## GOLD STAR

Support our Gold Star Families by donating to this noble cause.

For information on how to donate visit:
www.cdva.ca.gov/VetFund/GoldStar.aspx

## 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

**Military Spouse:** http://jobsearch.spouse.military.com/

**Employment:** www.cpol.army.mil

**Veteran & Families:** www.usatogether.org

**Entrepreneurship:** www.whitman.syr.edu/ebv/

**Debt Relief:** www.leavenoveteranbehind.org/

**Marine Museum**: www.virtualusmcmuseum.com

WHAT'S HOT!

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## RULES FOR PTSD CLAIMS CHANGED

Under a new process for claiming post-traumatic stress disorder, veterans will no longer have to engage in actual combat to make the case they suffered psychologically in war. Instead, the new policy recognizes that living with the fear of death and injury may be enough for troops to develop mental health issues.

"With this new PTSD regulation we are acknowledging the inherently stressful nature of the places and circumstances military services, in which the reality and fear of hostile or terrorist activities is always present," Michael Walcoff, acting undersecretary for benefits for the VA, said during a press conference this morning at the VA headquarters in Washington DC.

Veterans will not have to cite specific incidents of stress -- a firefight or rocket attack, for instance - and then back up the claim with documentation. Instead, veterans will now have only to show that he or she served in a combat zone and had a job consistent with conditions related to their PTSD symptom. Walcoff said many more veterans will now be able to file claims for PTSD, including troops who did not have direct contact with the enemy.

To view the Fact Sheet regarding the new VA regulations visit www.va.gov/PTSD_QA.pdf.

## DRUM BEAT

Honored to have been appointed, Assistant Secretary Pete Molina believes that this important position within the California Department of Veteran Affairs will enhance outreach to the underserved Native American population. “Previous federal, state, and county veterans support networks were not meeting the needs of our Native American Veterans because of limited access. A fresh, new approach to better reach and serve this important group is warranted. I would like to solicit all California tribes input and feedback with regard to how we can take advantage of this opportunity to do the right thing for our California Native American Veterans and their families.” - Pedro (Pete) Molina

Assistant Secretary Molina is working on various initiatives to reach out to the Native American population. These efforts include the collection of reintegration forms from Native American Veterans, establishing a database filled with Native American contacts, creating the Native American Veterans Newsletter called the Drum Beat, and Memorandums of Understanding with Native American Health Care systems.

To contact the Assistant Secretary regarding outreach for Native American Veterans please call 916- 651-5040.

## FREE TRAINING

### Wind Turbine Technician Safety & Technical Course

This course offers a complete complement of safety and technical modules designed to prepare new wind turbine technicians for an entry-level position. Students will be able to safely troubleshoot, diagnose, service and maintain a wind turbine.

**Certifications/Completion Cards Received After Successful Completion:** OSHA 10 Hour Construction Safety Card, Competent Climber Certification, CPR/First Aid/AED Card, Airstreams Renewables, Inc. Certification

**Required Equipment:** Work boots (steel-toed preferred), cotton pants and cotton long sleeve shirts. PPE will be provided.

**Program advertises (90% Job Placement Rate for Veterans)**

*Note: Must have ability to climb 300 foot towers. Grant only covers training and materials. The veteran is responsible for the cost of living expenses (i.e. Lodging, Food, Transportation)*

If you are interested call 661-822-3963. Email jeffpeacon@air-streams.com or visit the web at www.air-streams.com

## Green Job Training

- Construction Conservation Construction 150X: Water Use & Conservation ***Where & When:*** Mon, Wed, Fri / Aug 2 - Aug 27 / 9 am –1:30 pm / Diablo Valley College, Pleasant Hill
- Energy Prep Energy Systems 140: Solar Thermal Systems & NABCEP Prep ***Where & When:*** Mon, Wed, Fri / Aug 16 - Sep 17 / 9 am–5 pm / Diablo Valley College, Pleasant Hill

**For more info, contact Anthony Chandler / 415-558-8870 ext. 202 / achandler@stp-sf.org**

## HUD and VA Launch $15 Million Demonstration Program to Prevent Veteran Homelessness.

In an effort to prevent homelessness among Veterans, primarily those returning from the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced on Thursday that both agencies will invest a combined $15 million in five selected communities near military installations. The HUD and VA grant funding is intended to provide housing assistance and supportive services to veterans who might otherwise be living in homeless shelters or on the streets.

For more information visit:
www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=1926