



Veterans' Newsletter

January 2019

The purpose of this newsletter is to inform veterans of the various programs, workshops and services available to the veteran community, along with items of interest. Each issue will strive to keep veterans apprised of any changes in state and federal veterans' programs, along with events occurring locally. Your feedback on what you would like to see covered will always be welcomed.

News from the AD Works VETS Program

Veteran ONLY Networking Event at AD Works!

This monthly event is designed to place highly qualified veteran job seekers and military spouses in front of employers that are hiring. The environment is informal so that the veterans and spouses can be given immediate feedback on their networking skills, resume quality, and qualifications for the available jobs. It is less of a job fair, and more of an instructional job skill development workshop. The Networking Event for January will be held on January 29th from 930am to Noon at the Centennial offices of AD Works! Please contact Regional Veteran Employment Representative, Marty Bangert at 303 636-1253, to answer your questions and or to reserve a seat.

The Vets' Corner

The AD Works! Workforce Center has a designated area for veteran related information, to include, job fair postings, reading material from the various military related organizations, like the American Legion, VFW, and the DAV. Vets' can also find contact



information for other resources in addition to employment opportunities.

VA News

VA Benefits: Some Common Barriers for Veterans

Obtaining your VA Benefits can sometimes be a slow and arduous process. There are more than 12 million veterans over the age of 65. These veterans, who have served in WWII, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Persian Gulf War, and in Iraq and Afghanistan, are often battling for the benefits they deserve and many times have to fight to get. While we can all agree that veterans should not have to fight for the benefits they rightfully deserve, understanding their struggles can better help to solve this ongoing issue. However, for service members who face a disability years after they have served, the causal link is much more difficult to prove.



For many veterans, the struggle begins with actually obtaining service records. In 1973, a fire at the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) destroyed most of the records collected prior to that point. The VA is required to assist veterans in finding and obtaining their service records, but veterans might be able to speed up the process if they are able to ensure that all locations have been notified of the need.



In addition to the NPRC, veterans can also contact the United States Army and Joint Services Records Research Center (JSRC), the National Archives and Record Administration (NARA), and the Naval Historical Center. JSRC specializes in supporting veterans who need to prove PTSD and Agent Orange claims. NARA stores the official records to all those who were discharged from the Navy, Army, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard. The Naval Historical Center housed deck logs and ship histories,





which might prove critical when attempting to substantiate an Agent Orange claim.

FCC and VA to Combat Illegal Robocalls Targeting Veterans

The VA and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) continue to team up to combat illegal robocalls targeting veterans and their families.

Each year, the FCC receives more than 200,000 complaints about unwanted calls. While this may seem like a big number, it pales in comparison to the millions of robocalls being made each day. Scam calls frequently solicit money for fake charities, including ones claiming to support veterans, some even claiming to be VA representatives.

The following are tips to help you avoid unwanted calls and scams:

- Don't answer calls from unknown numbers. Scammers may spoof their caller ID to display a fake number that appears to be local.
- **Never** give out personal information such as account numbers, Social Security numbers, mother's maiden names, or passwords in response to unexpected or suspicious calls
- Be sure to set a password for all voice mail accounts to avoid being hacked
- Ask your phone company about call blocking tools and services for your landline, and check for helpful apps that you can download to your mobile phone

For more information, visit fcc.gov/robocalls

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In Other Veteran Related News

Soldiers Can Now Earn Free Journeyman Certificates

The Army is pushing to facilitate credentialing that soldiers can use once they leave active duty. Through the United Services Military Apprenticeship Program (USMAP), soldiers can pick one of more than 100 job titles that fit their military occupational specialty description. The USMAP site

(<https://usmap.netc.netc.navy.mil/usmapss/static/index.htm>) lays out a four step process for selecting a trade, enrolling, logging hours and then completing the apprenticeship. And if you have already been in the Army for a while, it is just a matter of filling in the blanks.

From Boots to Business – Veterans Excel as Entrepreneurs

In the course of serving our nation, veterans learn valuable skills and self-discipline that they can carry through to their post military careers. One professional path that some veterans take is entrepreneurship. According to the most recent U.S. Census data, the number of veteran owned businesses was 2.5 million, 9 per cent of all companies in the U.S. Those businesses employ over 5 million people. Veterans' military training and experiences in their tour of duty lay a foundation of responsibility and accountability. That can be a tremendous advantage when navigating the challenges of entrepreneurship. Of course, starting and growing a business also requires additional learning. Fortunately, an excellent resource exists to help veterans as they embrace their dreams of business ownership. The SCORE foundation offers a mentoring program to help veterans and their families with starting and succeeding as small business owners. SCORE volunteers understand the many challenges



facing small business owners and they have experience in all aspects of starting and growing a company. Mentoring provided by SCORE is free and available through in person sessions, email, phone calls and Skype and Google Hangout video meetings. Contact SCORE for more information about mentoring and the other educational opportunities it provides: www.score.org.

Job Search Advice

Do You Sabotage Yourself?

By Rob Riggins

How do you present yourself to the professional world? Some think if you can fog a mirror, you can get a job in the current employment environment. While odds are certainly in your favor right now, as a job seeker with desirable skills, you still need to value professionalism if you want to find the best fit for yourself. You might even be sabotaging your chances for new and exciting opportunities by portraying some simple undesirable behaviors.

Unprofessional Email Address



Your friends may love your quirky email address but it's not what you want to present in a job search. Email addresses like bighair@, bigbore@, sexybutch@, and iknowkungfu@, don't exactly convey a professional image.

Inappropriate Voicemail Messages



A 3 year old's message on the phone may be adorable to grandma, but not so adorable when it goes on forever, and you are a recruiter in a rush. The voicemail you use in your job search should be as professional as the voicemail you leave on your office phone number.



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Spelling and Grammar Errors

Have you spelled a key technology wrong? Do you have some resume bullets that are present tense and others that are past tense? If you do have errors, that is a signal to many recruiters and hiring managers that the rest of your work may be sloppy, or that you have not taken the time to take the process seriously.

Treating Others Poorly

It is astonishing how many talented professionals think that certain individuals, the receptionist, the person walking you to an interview, the recruiter who makes the initial contact, are beneath them and proceed to treat them poorly. What message does that send about how you would represent the company or the agency?

Many of these issues sound trivial, yet they can be self-sabotaging behaviors that keep you from the position you want. Talk to your friends and mentors and ask them to look at your resume. Ask them about how you present yourself professionally and whether they see any red flags. These may be difficult conversations to have, but they are worthwhile to ensure that you are not making small missteps that keep you from being the successful professional you wish to be.

Significant days and observances for the United States Armed Forces in January and February.

February 19th - Coast Guard Reserves Birthday

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We are here for you

We view this newsletter as a way to talk to veterans and find out what their needs are. I, along with the other members of the Arapahoe/Douglas Works VETS team are here for you. If you would like more information on the veteran services available at our Workforce Center, please contact one of us:

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