



THE UTAH

A PUBLICATION OF THE UTAH DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

VETERANS VOICE

VETERANS.UTAH.GOV • SEPTEMBER 2016



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A POWERFUL WEAPON

Berni J Davis

Director, State Approving Agency for Veterans Education

Nelson Mandela said, "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." This statement epitomizes the importance of education and the value it brings to a society. However, Veterans pursuing education, through their unique perspective and personal experiences, are in an even greater position to affect positive world change.

I am honored that Executive Director Harter asked me to write a message for the Veterans Voice, as this month's focus is education and there are few topics of which I am more passionate. Utah has approximately 5800 individuals utilizing the VA Educational benefits they earned through their service, or the service of their family members. Attending at over 100 institutions, training establishments and vocational programs, the individuals are pursuing their passions to become everything from Electricians to Cosmetologists and Philosophers to Engineers.

Education opens the door to so many possibilities. Even though many college graduates do not end up working in the field they studied, that education still created possibilities for them and enabled them the possibility to enact change.

Veterans are afforded many opportunities for education and training. This month's Veterans Voice contains information on a variety of these programs for Veterans and family members. I hope you find some value in this information, either for yourself or someone close to you. It is never too late to learn something new and never too late to pursue your passion. I encourage you to take advantage of every program you can and through that, within your sphere of influence, change the world for the better. 🇺🇸

EDUCATION BENEFIT INFORMATION For more info: <http://veterans.utah.gov/state-benefits/>

In-State Tuition: Active duty military/ their dependents and veterans may qualify for in state resident tuition at public degree granting and certificate granting schools in Utah.

Veterans Tuition Gap Program: This funding enables qualifying military veterans to receive tuition assistance for completing a bachelors degree, for up to twelve months after the GI Bill provisions are exhausted. It is for tuition only and does not include housing, books etc. Check with your school veterans center to see if you qualify.

Purple Heart Tuition Waiver: Purple Heart recipients are eligible for tuition waivers at Utah public higher education institutions.

Scott Lundell Military Survivors Tuition Waiver: Surviving dependents of service members killed while in uniform on or after Sept. 11th 2001 are eligible for a tuition waivers at state schools. Check with the school registrar's office.

G.I. Bills (Education Chapters): There are multiple chapters of the GI Bill, each pays a different amount and each has different criteria. For more information, visit: http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/comparison_tool.asp

National Guard Education Programs: There are several different educational programs that Utah National Guardsmen may qualify for, to include waivers, tuition assistance and others. Check with the National Guard education office to find out more information.

Federal Tuition Assistance: Reservists may qualify for federal tuition assistance and other programs. Check with you unit education specialist for details.



Outreach, Websites, Claims Assistance, Events, and Resources



UTAH DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

veterans.utah.gov

Register your information with the Veterans Information System:
uvisreg.utah.gov/vtsreg/public/Register



CLAIMS ASSISTANCE CALENDAR
veterans.utah.gov/outreach-calendar

CALENDAR OF EVENTS
veterans.utah.gov/events-calendar



COORDINATION OF VETERANS SERVICES
veterans.utah.gov/coordination-of-veteran-services

Upcoming Events — veterans.utah.gov/events-calendar

SEPTEMBER

Wednesday – 7 September • 1730 - 1900
St. George Veterans Legal Clinic
• Centennial Park, Riverton UT

Thursday – 8 September •
Operational Excellence Conference
• Salt Palace Convention Center, SLC, UT

Saturday – 10 September • 1300 - 1700
USARA's Recovery Day - Stand Down
Helping Homeless Veterans
• Gallivan Center, SLC, UT

Saturday – 10 September • 1000
Vietnam Veterans Monument Unveiling
• Zions Harley Davidson, Washington UT

Saturday – 10 September • 1100 - 1200
Vietnam Veterans Appreciation Ceremony
Field of Flags
• Mayor's Park 15 E Main St, Ferron, UT

Sunday – 11 September • 0800
9/11 Day of Remembrance
• Ft. Douglas Military Museum, SLC, UT

Wednesday – 14 September •
Rodeo Barn Dance
• TBD, Southern , UT

Wednesday – 14 September • 0830 - 1700
Boots to Business Reboot
• SLCC Miller Corporate Blding 9690 s.
300 w. 3rd floor #333 Sandy, UT

Wednesday – 14 September • 0900 - 1600
Veterans Education Summit
• SLCC South City Campus SLC, UT

Thursday – 15 September • 0830 - 1700
Boots to Business Reboot
• SLCC Miller Corporate Blding 9690 s.
300 w. 3rd floor #333 Sandy, UT

Friday - 16 September • 0900 -1500
Military Retiree Appreciation Day
• Hill AFB, UT

Saturday - 17 September • 0900 -1500
UTNG Governor's Day
• Camp Williams, Bluffdale, UT

OCTOBER

Saturday – 1 October • 0900 - 1830
Bear River Battle Site Field Trip
• Ft. Douglas Military Museum, SLC, UT

Saturday – 8 October • 1000
George E Wahlen Veterans Tribute Run
• George E Wahlen Veterans Home 1102
1200 W St, Ogden, UT

Saturday – 15 October • 1400 - 1700
Ft. Douglas Cemetery Tour
• Fort Douglas Post Cemetary - 431 South
Chipeta Way SLC, UT

NOVEMBER

Friday – 11 November
• Veterans Day

Tuesday – 15 November •
Veterans Employment Fair 1100 - 1500
• South Towne Expo Cntr. Sandy, UT

UVU UTAH VALLEY UNIVERSITY

Utah Valley University prides itself on being a teaching institution with an “engaged learning” focus. The University prepares students for a career after college with a traditional academic education combined with hands-on learning. With the roughly 600 Student Service Members, Veterans, Spouses, and Dependents that attend UVU each semester, engaged learning takes on an additional layer of meaning at the UVU Veteran Success Center.

The UVU Veteran Success Center officially opened its doors in October 2015 as a newly dedicated space for

Veterans and their families. UVU has a strong history of supporting this population and the opening of the center marks the beginning of a new chapter of support.

Objectives of the staff of the Veteran Success Center include assisting students to successfully navigate the policies and procedures of the Department of Veteran Affairs and Utah Valley University.

Successful assistance makes the prospect of attending school while using education benefits more attainable. The goal is personalized care for every veteran student.

The Veteran Success Center also provides robust mental health resources and provides support to Veterans and their families. It serves as a gathering place for veterans to relax, study, gather and socialize. The center stands committed to serving the men and women of our nation’s armed forces and their families.

Altogether the Veteran Success Center strives to be there every step of the way on the journey of engaged learning.

To contact the UVU Vet Center:
<https://www.uvu.edu/veterans/>
Or call 801.863.8212 🇺🇸





Davis Applied Technology College opens their Veterans Center with a Ribbon Cutting and Flag Day Ceremony.

In order to give veterans transitioning to civilian life more support and a greater chance of success, DATC opened a new Veterans Center on June 14, 2016.

“It is extremely important for veterans to have a one-stop shop for application, enrollment, registration, and course changes,” says Dan Czech, DATC’s Veterans Academic Advisor. “DATC’s new Veterans Center will provide a streamlined location for veterans to take care of most of their educational needs and help coordinate with the VA on their educational funding.”

Speakers at the Ribbon Cutting included Terry D. Schow, retired executive director of the Utah Department of Veterans Affairs and Vietnam veteran; Gary Harter, executive director of the Utah Department of Veterans and Military Affairs and retired Army colonel; and Ty Jarry, graduate of DATC’s Surgical Technology program and Air Force veteran.

The flag ceremony, which celebrated both the new Veterans Center and Flag Day, was conducted by the American Legion Post 27.

For more information about the Veterans Center please visit <http://www.datc.edu/veterans> or call Dan Czech, Veterans Academic Advisor, at 801-593-2402. 🚩



Surrounded by red rock, green trees and blue skies, that is where you will find Dixie State University (DSU). In the valley of St George Utah, there are nearly 200 veteran beneficiaries using their educational benefits. Dixie State University welcomes all military veterans and their dependents with open arms.

DSU offers a beautiful campus and small personalized classes. Furthermore, it offers its' military veterans the comradery of the DSU Veterans Club, a Student Veterans of America associated organization, an experienced staff. Our Veterans Service staff has common military experience that is dedicated to your success at Dixie State University or wherever your education may take you.

To ensure each students success at Dixie, the school offers a “First Year Experience” course. This accredited course takes in all freshman students and teaches them about the many available resources that are offered, how to transition to college life, and to develop a life plan.

Along with all of Dixie’s veteran services, the DSU Veterans Club is here to assist. The club is organized for veterans and their dependents. The club also offers a comfortable atmosphere where veterans can socialize with other veterans, network, and help each other adjust back to civilian life.

The DSU Veterans club is determined to makes its mark here at Dixie. Currently, the club is working on getting a veterans memorial put up on campus. The goal is to have it completed by Veterans Day 2016.

To learn more go to: <https://veterans.dixie.edu/> or call 1-435-652-7699. 





Obama Administration announces nearly 50% decline in Veteran homelessness

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), and the U.S. Interagency Council Homelessness (USICH) today announced the number of veterans experiencing homelessness in the United States has been cut nearly in half since 2010. The data revealed a 17- percent decrease in veterans homelessness between January 2015 and January 2016--quadruple the previous year's annual decline--and a 47-percent decrease since 2010.

To read the full article Click Here: <http://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=2805>

Million Veteran Program is Now Largest Genomic Database in the World

The Department of Veterans Affairs' Million Veteran Program (MVP) has reached an important milestone when an Army Veteran from Montgomery, Alabama, became the 500,000th to voluntarily enroll in the research database program - making MVP the largest genomic database in the world.

To read more go to:

<http://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=2806>



Powerful, productive partnerships working for Veterans

In his opening address at the 84th national convention of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, Secretary McDonald underscored a number of world-class institutions and respected organizations who are working with the VA to help Veterans.

To read more go to: <http://www.blogs.va.gov/VAntage/29985/mcdonald-to-purple-heart-patriots-va-partnerships-working-for-veterans/>

16 Servicemembers on 2016 U.S. Olympic Team

Among the 555 members of Team USA at the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil are 16 U.S. Servicemembers. The athletes represent the Army, Navy and Air Force competing in events ranging from rowing, to track and field, to shooting. Best of luck to all of these athletes in Rio!!

To read more go to: <http://www.blogs.va.gov/VAntage/29506/16servicemembers-2016-u-s-olympic-team/>





Nearly one year ago, Westminster proudly opened the doors to the Center for Veteran and Military Services (CVMS). The beautiful space supports service-members, student Veterans, ROTC cadets, and military families. In total, this population makes up about 190 people.

We have come to know and respect the students who visit the Veterans' Center. Together we have built a strong campus community, fostering understanding, comradery, and peer support. The Center acts a platform for Veterans to come together and help one another. Whether it's a simple as showing another student how to find an assignment on canvas, the support is impactful and has slowly built a community that strives for shared success.

All students, staff, and faculty can be a part of Westminster Military Association (WMA), which is the student organization dedicated to an inclusive campus that provides advocacy for issues important to Veterans.

For less formal programming, the CVMS offers a lending library. Students Veterans have the ability to borrow from the lending library rather than buy books. All students are encouraged to donate books rather than sell them back for a minimal price. To date, the library is comprised of 48 textbooks in a variety of subjects.

To learn more about how student Veterans at Westminster are creating change, follow us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/westminsterveterans/> Web: <http://westminstercollege.edu/veterans/> Or call (801) 832-2202 🇺🇸



For 68 years Salt Lake Community College (SLCC) has been a proud supporter of those who have served in all branches of the U.S. Military. In 1948, the Salt Lake Area Vocational School, now SLCC, opened its doors and began serving and training veterans returning from WWII desiring to utilize their new education benefit called, the GI BILL TM . We now have 1,259 military students.

Always having a dedicated Veterans office, Spring 2008, we opened our first Veteran's Center located at the Taylorsville Redwood Campus. This 1,900 square foot facility features a large lounge, study area and computers for the veteran's use and offers multiple services and support for our military students. Resources are available to all who have and are currently serving in the Military.

A second Veteran's Center opened January 2016 at our South City Campus. This more compact facility offers many of the same resources and provides space for our veterans to relax

study and receive support while pursuing their educational goals.

Additionally we provide outreach services to other campuses as our staff visits the West Valley, WestPointe, Jordan campuses on a rotating schedule. School Certifying Officials process educational benefits and answer questions and veteran Work Studies provide peer mentoring for other veterans.

At Salt Lake Community College, we honor those who have served in the United States Military and work to support veterans with their educational and employment goals. You are welcome at SLCC. We Proudly Serve those who have Served in the U.S. Armed Forces.

To contact us go to: <http://www.slcc.edu/veterans/>
Or call (801) 957-4289 🇺🇸





Weber State University provides a wide range of academic programs and student services for veterans. More recently we have adopted Solar Energy and Law Enforcement certifications along with our popular, Computer Science, Health and Human Performance, and Electronic Engineering degrees. Our Nursing, Criminal Justice, and Business Programs include both bachelor and master's degrees. We also have a wide variety of continuing education programs.

Our Veterans Services Center, 1352 Village Drive, on the Ogden Campus, is a stand-alone facility and is located within walking distance of all academic colleges and a first-class fitness center. We now have a peer-mentoring program, VITAL Program, VetSuccess on Campus, and Stress-Relief Yoga. We also provide services at the Davis Campus, 2750 University Park Blvd, Layton, Utah. For more information, contact us 801-626- 6039. Or visit our Veterans Services web page at:

<http://www.weber.edu/veterans>. 🚩

For Pete's Sake Use It!

*By: Roger L. Perkins, Director, Veterans Support Center
University of Utah*

Question. Do you buy tools only to let them sit on the shelf? In the box? Never used? Of course you don't! But according to The VA less than half of those eligible for the GI Bill actually use their benefits. The result is that 36 months of education you have already paid for sit on the shelf, unused. That education benefit is part of what you earned by your service so why not collect it? It's yours!

The University of Utah's Veterans Support Center (<http://veteranscenter.utah.edu/>) can help you pull that tool off the shelf and use it to make your life better. Located in the Olpin Union building, we have advisors that will help current and future student Veterans apply for and receive the educational benefits they have already earned, there is no magic to it!

To receive this you simply get accepted to a University, apply for the benefits, register for classes, and go. The tuition is paid up to the most expensive state school in the state plus you get a monthly allowance equal to BAH with dependents for an E-5 (apx \$1300). All you have to do is perform, and we've all done that before! You bring maturity, and



experience in getting things done into an environment that is mostly set up for kids out of high school.

Your skills will move you right along the path to that degree a lot easier than you think! As a Veteran you have shown you have the smarts to get things done under difficult circumstances. Build on that by picking up the right tool and improving what you have. You'll have hundreds of other student Vets to help you and I think you'll be surprised at how easy it really is! So give us a call and see what you need to do to use that GI Bill benefit you earned. We're waiting...

To contact us go to:

<http://veteranscenter.utah.edu/>

Or call 801-587-7722 📞



BOOTS TO UTES



LEARNING LIVES FOREVER

The Military Order of the Purple Heart, Chapter 0802, has chosen Southern Utah University as the first university in Utah to be designated a Purple Heart Campus. The proclamation was made official on June 24, 2016 at a special ceremony and signifies SUU's recognition and honor of veterans who were wounded in combat while serving their country.

Southern Utah University has 385 student veterans, including several Purple Heart recipients, and a robust Veteran Center that supports and aids veteran success at SUU. With this designation, SUU joins an elite group of colleges across the country that have also received the proclamation of being a Purple Heart Campus. SUU appreciates the sacrifices Purple Heart recipients have made in defending liberty and freedom. The university believes it is important to acknowledge veterans for their courage and show them the honor and support they have earned.

The mission of the Military Order of the Purple Heart is to foster an environment of goodwill among the combat-wounded veteran members and their families, promote patriotism, support legislative initiatives and most important- make sure we never forget. In March of this year, Utah was officially designated a Purple Heart state following the 2016 Legislative Session where Davis County Rep. Mike Schultz sponsored a bill, House Joint Resolution 11, making the state proclamation.

To contact us: <https://www.suu.edu/veteransaffairs/>
Or call: (435) 865-8477



As one of the nation's premier student-centered land-grant and space universities, Utah State University's mission is to foster the principle that academics come first. USU accomplishes this by cultivating diversity of thought and culture, and by serving the public through learning, discovery, and engagement. This mission is the heart of the USU Veterans Resource Office (VRO).

USU's Veterans Resource Office provides exceptional support to current and former service members and their families pursuing their academic, career, and personal goals.

In 2010 the USU Veterans Resource Office was established in a one room office, with a labor force consisting of one staff member and a single VA work-study student. USU quickly felt the rapid growth of GI Bill usage and knew there was need for additional services. Since opening the doors their focus has been on developing programming for approximately 500 student veteran, dependent, and service members. The center has expanded into a center with two offices, a lounge and is staffed with three full-time employees and 6 VA work-studies.

Students are served across the state from Blanding to Logan, throughout the United States, including Hawaii, and Alaska. Internationally deployed service members are served as far away as Germany and Qatar. USU's goal is to ensure access and services to all students regardless of location. With strong relationships and collaboration this goal has been achieved.

To contact us: <https://www.usu.edu/registrar/veterans/>
Or call: (435) 797-7886

Veterans Inspire USSA Athletes



By Kate Anderson & USSA
Photos by Tyler Tate

Earlier this month, four U.S. Ski and Snowboard Association (USSA) athletes took time out of their busy training schedules to learn from some U.S. military veterans. As part of a joint effort between the USSA, the National Ability Center (NAC) and the Utah Department of Veterans and Military Affairs, athletes came together with a group of veterans to swap stories about representing their country in different ways and overcoming adversity.

The day started off with a tour of USSA's Center of Excellence in Park City, including a trampoline demonstration by U.S. Freestyle Ski Team moguls athlete Nessa Dziemian. The veterans were thrilled to explore what goes into an athlete's training program and the innovative technologies used at the COE.

Next, the group headed to the National Ability Center (NAC). The NAC empowers individuals of all abilities by building self-esteem, confidence and lifetime skills through sport, recreation and educational programs. They work closely with several veteran outreach programs to support



these national heroes when they return from their service. At the NAC, athletes were able to hear from veterans on their experience representing the U.S. while in the line of duty, including Army veteran Bryant Jacobs. Bryant's prosthetic leg, embedded into his femur, is one of the first of its kind. He was an avid snowboarder before being injured by a roadside bomb in Iraq, and struggled with pain for years before making the decision to have his leg amputated. With his new prosthesis, he hopes to get back to snowboarding this winter for the first time in 10 years.

Finally, everyone was pushed to work as a team and test their limits to accomplish some difficult obstacles on the NAC's aptly named Challenge Course. The group excelled, with U.S. Alpine Ski Team athlete AJ Ginnis breaking the speed record on the cargo net climb. All in all it was a great day, the athletes are looking forward to getting back on snow, and seeing their new friends and fans both on the mountain and cheering them on from the stands. 🇺🇸



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Can I, as a dependent, continue to receive my Veteran's compensation benefits after they are deceased?

Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) payments are available for un-remarried surviving spouses who remarry after age 57, children under age 18, and children ages 18 to 23 (if attending a VA approved schools).

Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) is a tax free monetary benefit paid to eligible survivors of military service members who died in the line of duty or eligible survivors of Veteran's whose death resulted from a service-related injury or disease.



DIC payments may also be authorized for surviving dependents of Veteran's with a permanent and total service-connected disability at time of death but whose death did not result from service-connected disability, if the Veteran was continuously rated totally disabled for 10 or more years immediately before death.

Who can help with my PTSD?

If you are a Veteran in crisis call 1-800-273-8255 and press 1. There is the walk-in PTSD Clinic every Tuesday 11:00 A.M. at The George E. Wahlen VA Medical Center Building #16. 500 Foothill Drive Salt Lake City, Utah.

DEPENDENTS OF DISABLED VETERANS MAY QUALIFY FOR BENEFITS WHILE IN HIGH SCHOOL

Survivors and Dependents Education Assistance (DEA) Program is a benefit available to dependent children and spouses of Veterans or Service Members who died on active duty, as a result of a service connected disability or are permanently disabled as a result of their service. Eligible dependents may use their benefits beginning on their 18th birthday for the pursuit of a High School Diploma. The dependent is eligible for 45 months of education benefits. The better news is that they will not be charged entitlement for up to five months if using their benefits for the pursuit of a High School Diploma. Therefore, they are not effecting the 45 months of benefits they have available for College.

DEA pays just over \$1000 a month, directly to the student, and is designed supplement the costs of attending school. To take advantage of this program, the High School they are attending must be approved through the Utah State Approving Agency for Veterans education. They can be reached at (801) 584-1973, email davisb@utah.gov or visit our website, veterans.utah.gov. 

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HAVE SERVED AMERICA**



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National Wheelchair Games



Local NVWG Athletes Clean up the Competition...Host City Captures Hearts

Air Force Veteran Kerry Conway has lost count of her swimming gold medals. She has over a dozen. Mike Johnson, a Veteran of Vietnam, continues his four decade domination of adaptive sports. He is a former Paralympian. VFW State Commander Wendy Griffin finished second in her class in hand-cycling on one of the most brutal courses ever configured in the games 36 year history. This was her first games. Three weeks earlier Wendy was in tears during training certain she would not be able to finish.

Stories like these could be found around every corner of the Salt Palace Convention Center, and at every venue across the Wasatch Front. From Happy Barton's repeat Gold in Archery, to Stuart Content's first Gold in Table Tennis, the 36th National Veterans Wheelchair Games will go down as one of the best ever. (Yes, we are more than a little biased)

It's not every day that 537 extraordinary men and women Veterans from all over the world come to town for a week of sport. Their journeys are all different, but the end goal is the same: to overcome and succeed in ways many thought would never be possible again. Parents showed up with their children. Professionals took time off work. Organizations provided hundreds of volunteers, and thousands of dollars in donations to ensure a memorable experience for our nation's heroes. The community support was overwhelming, as over four thousand volunteers worked long days, but always with huge smiles on their faces.

Our eleven local athletes brought home 33 medals: 24 Gold, 7 Silver, and 2 Bronze. But it's not the hardware that we will remember it's the effort, comradery, and transformation despite all odds. 🇺🇸





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WORLD WAR II/KOREAN WAR • VIETNAM WAR • COLD WAR/PEACETIME • GULF WAR/OIF/OEF • FAMILY



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Utah Department of Veterans and Military Affairs
550 Foothill Drive, Suite 105
Salt Lake City, Utah 84113
(801) 326-2372
<http://veterans.utah.gov>

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Regional Benefits Office
550 Foothill Drive, Suite 200
Salt Lake City, Utah 84113
1 (800) 827-1000

VA Salt Lake City Health Care System
George E. Wahlen Veterans Affairs Medical Center
500 Foothill Drive
Salt Lake City, Utah 84113
(801) 582-1565
<http://www.saltlakecity.va.gov>

American Legion Service Office
550 Foothill Drive, Suite 105
Salt Lake City, Utah 84113
(801) 326-2380

Disabled American Veterans (DAV)
550 Foothill Drive, Suite 105
Salt Lake City, Utah 84113
(801) 326-2375

Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH)
550 Foothill Drive, Suite 105
Salt Lake City, Utah 84113
(801) 326-2471

Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW)
550 Foothill Drive, Suite 105
Salt Lake City, Utah 84113
(801) 326-2385

Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve
12953 South Minuteman Drive
Draper, Utah 84020
(801) 432-4536

Utah National Guard
Bart Davis, Transition Assistance
12953 South Minuteman Drive
Draper, Utah 84020
(801) 432-4937

U.S. Department of Labor
Veterans Employment and Training Service
140 East 200 South, Suite 209
Salt Lake City, Utah 84111
(801) 524-5703