

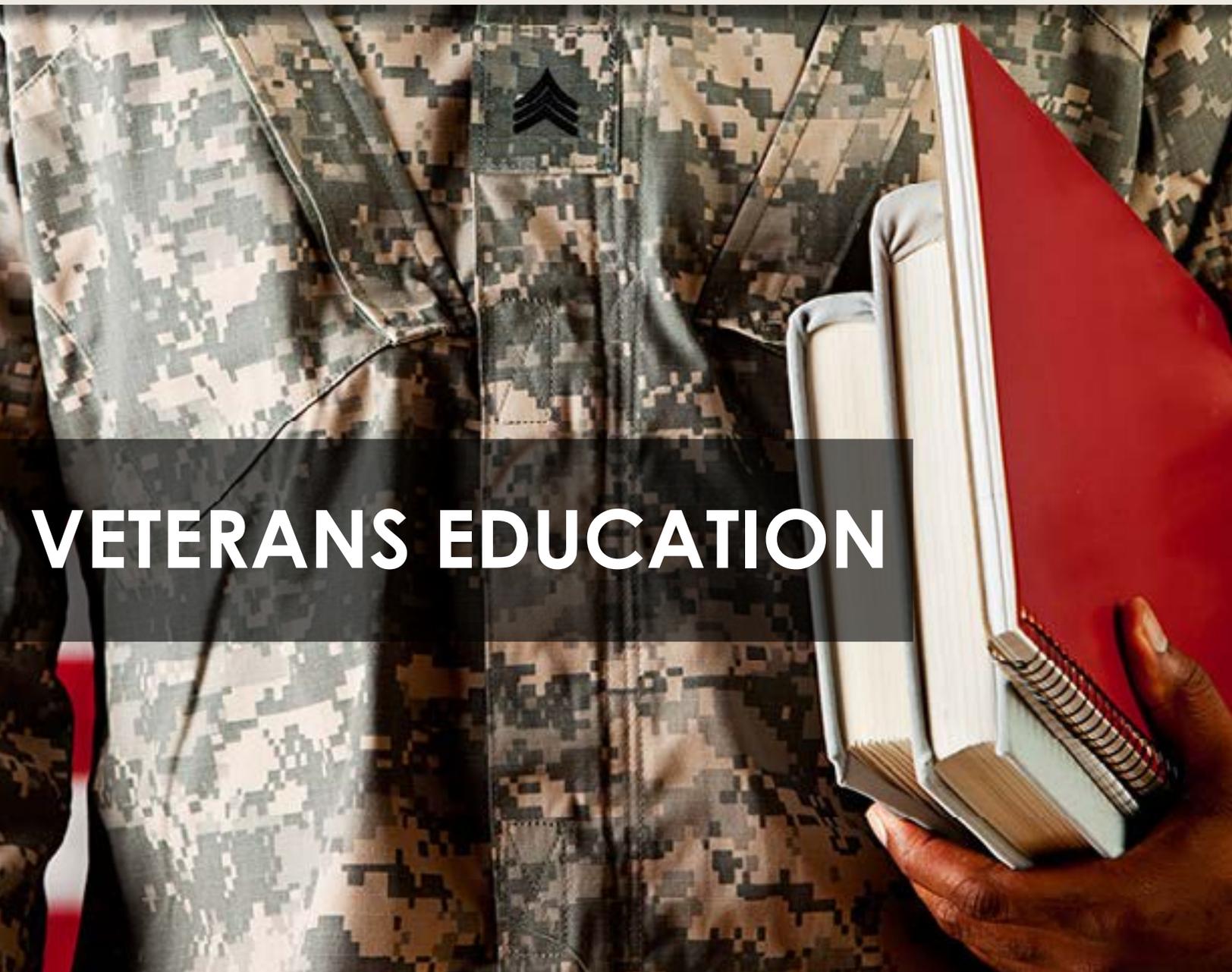


THE UTAH

A PUBLICATION OF THE UTAH DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

VETERANS VOICE

VETERANS.UTAH.GOV • SEPTEMBER 2018



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

Outreach, Websites, Claims Assistance, Events, and Resources



**UTAH DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS
AND MILITARY AFFAIRS**
veterans.utah.gov



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

Monday – 3 September
Labor Day

Saturday – 8 September • 1000 - 2200
Utah State Fair Outreach Event
• State Fairgrounds SLC, UT

Saturday – 8 September • 1200 - 2100
Barons 19th Annual Show and Shine Moto Show
• American Legion Post 112, SLC, UT

Monday – 10 September • 1600 - 1800
Congressman Bishop Veterans Resource Fair
• Hill Air Force Museum Ogden, UT

Tuesday – 11 September • 1000 - 2200
Utah State Fair
• State Fairgrounds SLC, UT

Thursday – 13 September • 0900 - 1300
Millcreek Senior Fair
• Millcreek Senior Center, Millcreek, UT

Saturday – 15 September
Governors Day

Friday & Saturday – 21 - 22 September
1st OHV Veterans Ride
TBD

Saturday – 29 September • 1000 - 1300
Tooele 5th Annual Senior Expo
• Tooele Technical College, Tooele, UT

OCTOBER

Thursday – 11 October • 0800 - 1700
2018 Utah PTAC Symposium/ Vendor Fair
• Viridian Event Cntr. West Jordan, UT

Friday – 12 October • 0700 - 1600
Salt Lake City Homeless Stand Down
• Salt Palace, SLC, UT

Thursday – 18 October • 1600 - 1900
Mia Love Veteran's Resource Conference
• SLCC Jordan Campus, Student Pavilion Bldg.

Wednesday – 31 October
Halloween

NOVEMBER

Friday – 2 November • 0730
SUVH Golf Tournament
• Sun River Golf Club, St. George, UT
<http://bit.ly/SUVHgolf2018>

Sunday – 4 November
Daylight Savings Time

Tuesday – 6 November • 1100 - 1500
Hiring Utah's Heroes
• Mountain America Expo Center, Sandy, UT
http://bit.ly/HUHjobFair_Nov2018

Thursday – 8 November • 1100
Veterans Day 100th Anniversary of the Armistice
• Utah Capitol Rotunda, SLC, UT

Friday – 9 November • 1100
Veterans Day Program
• Bennion Veterans Home, Payson, UT

Friday – 9 November • 1300
Veterans Day Program
• Southern Utah VH, Ivins, UT

Friday – 9 November • 1330
Veterans Day Program
• GEW Veterans Home, Ogden UT

Saturday – 10 November • 1100
Veterans Day Parade
• At Talbot & Gentile St., Layton, UT

Sunday – 11 November
Veterans Day

Thursday – 22 November
Thanksgiving





DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Cory Pearson, Director of Veterans Services

Utah Department of Veterans & Military Affairs

I hope everyone had a great summer enjoying the sun, great outdoors, or spending time with family traveling! This issue of the Veterans Voice is the time when schools are just getting back into session for their fall terms. There are many programs within the Utah System of Higher Education and Utah System of Technical Schools that assist Veterans and their family members while attending college. Consistent with that, we are focusing this issue on education and training. Our Department has been busy working with the different Veterans Student Service Offices at the different institutions to ensure they are ready and able to help Veterans and family members with their college experience.

There are approximately 7,500 Veterans and 400 family members using federal education benefits at 118 institutions across Utah. Veterans and military members are either paying on their own or are using state and other benefits. The military prides itself on service members being well trained to perform their missions under the most demanding circumstances. In the military we are taught to be flexible, adapt and overcome in any situation. Working with the schools throughout the state, we continue that same focus and thought that veterans succeed in school. It's truly great to see that so many Veterans continue that drive for education and training after, or in some cases, in-between deployments. Utah is a very patriotic state and each day more individuals raise their right hand and take an oath to defend and protect our country. What is also great to see is the tremendous coordination and work happening across the state to ensure Veterans, military, and family members are successful in their educational pursuits.

In this edition of the Veterans Voice, you will hear from the different schools/institutions and partners about the programs they have in place, services, benefits, and activities in Utah. 🗣️





INTERNSHIP PROVIDES INSPIRATION FOR SCIENTISTS AND ENGINEERS, BOTH SEASONED AND NEW

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio – For some students, summer means lifeguarding or scooping ice cream. For others, it means generating synthetic data using Generative Adversarial Networks or researching convolutional sparse representations.

This summer, 86 hand-picked interns from 48 universities (and two high schools) are spending their summer researching topics devised by scientists and engineers doing top-level work for the Department of Defense – more specifically, the Air Force Research Laboratory's Sensors Directorate.

Ed Zelnio, a Sensors Directorate researcher, runs the Autonomous Technology Research Center, or ATRC program, which is in its 10th year, as a way to support and encourage the best and brightest students. “We do this for several reasons,” Zelnio said. “We get high-quality research done in new areas at a relatively low cost. It also helps the mentors refresh their skills.”

Mentors are chosen from the Sensors Directorate's

deep pool of scientists and engineers. By volunteering as a mentor, they gain valuable assistance in their own research.

Dr. Theresa Scarnati, a mathematician, was an intern with the program for two summers before being hired by AFRL. After earning her Ph.D., Scarnati volunteered as a mentor for the program. “Before coming to Dayton as an intern, I didn't even know to work for the DOD was an option,” she said. “I thought it was either industry or academia.”

Dr. Fred Garber, an engineering professor at Wright State and Mr. Zelnio's partner in running the ATRC program, is consistently amazed at the quality of the students chosen for the program.

“It floors me every year,” he said. “They come from places all over, begin working on projects they have no idea about with somebody they just met, and they ramp up the learning curve within the week. We have more leaders than followers.” 🚩



At White House, VA Secretary underscores low unemployment for Veterans under President Trump

In his first White House Cabinet Meeting as Secretary of Veterans Affairs yesterday, VA Secretary Robert Wilkie underscored for President Donald Trump and the public how the President's policies have led to near-record-low unemployment rates for America's Veterans. Asked by the President to talk about Veterans' Choice with reporters present, Secretary Wilkie said, 'Sir, it's moving along well, but I would start with something else. We are experiencing, with the economic boom, lowering rates of vets unemployed. Probably the best trends that we've seen in many years And that is -- that is a boon for our warriors across the country.'

To read the full article visit: <https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5097>

VA Secretary clarifies collective bargaining authority related to professional conduct, patient care

VA Secretary Robert Wilkie clarified that unions can no longer use collective bargaining rights when it comes to professional conduct and patient care by VA providers. Specifically, Secretary Wilkie has taken back rights the VA gave away under the previous Administration to preclude collective bargaining on issues indirectly related to VA providers' professional conduct or competence (patient care).

To read more go to: <https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5096>



VA, Walgreens collaborate to improve care coordination for Veterans

WASHINGTON - As part of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) efforts to improve care coordination for Veterans, the department is working with pharmacy services provider Walgreens to coordinate patient and pharmaceutical care for VA-enrolled patients.

To read more go to: <https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5095>

Expand your horizons with VA Education benefits.

Need an education but don't know where to start? Explore VA education and training benefits. VA education benefits may be used toward traditional degrees, non-college degrees, certifications, test fees and more. And, with the Colmery Act (also known as the Forever GI Bill), eligible Veterans have more time to finish their education.

To read more go to: <https://explore.va.gov/education-training>



VA | U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs



ASSISTING STUDENTS WITH MORE THAN JUST THEIR EDUCATION.

For students to succeed in school, they sometimes need help outside of their education. Over time, faculty and staff have learned that if a student is struggling with finances, medical problems, emotional issues, and/or challenges with life outside of school they are less likely to succeed or finish their degree.

Veterans face another challenge, adapting to life outside the military and assimilating into the student population. It can be difficult for them to go from the highly structured setting of the military to the much more relaxed, self-reliant atmosphere of college. Campus Veteran Centers recognize that this can be a hard transition for their Veterans and try to support them during this evolution. In the fall of 2017, The Southern Utah University Veterans' Resource and Support Center launched its First Year Mentor Program to help Veterans during this critical transition.

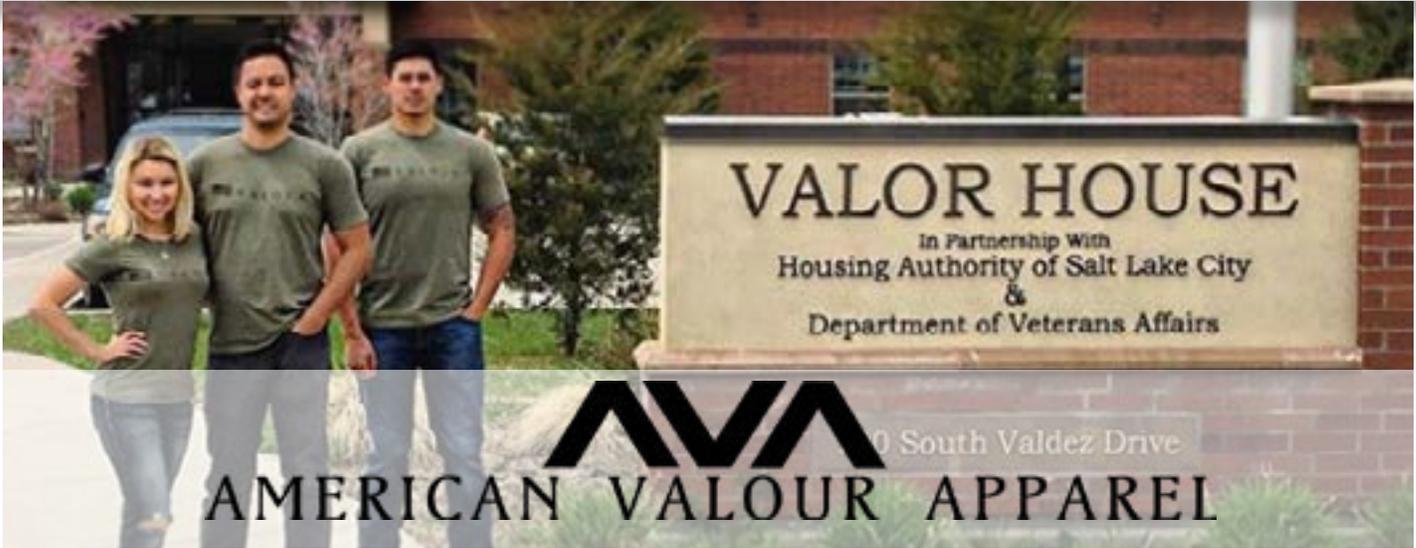
Participation in this program is mandatory for all "military connected" students using Veterans Educational benefits, to include all dependents that are using benefits. Our center has found that it helps them understand their benefits in addition to what our office has to offer. Students are required to attend mentor meetings for their first three semesters while they are using benefits (excluding summer). During these meetings, students are provided with educational guidance, assistance with student life, employment assistance, housing advice, and a myriad of other non-traditional student concerns. Students are provided with the contacts and resources essential to success. Since SUU is located in rural Cedar City, Utah, we do not have access to VA medical resources without traveling to St. George or Salt Lake City. As a result, we try to help them in our office as much as possible. With that being said, we have also been working with Dr. Ahern out of Salt Lake to bring the VITAL Program to Cedar City via telehealth.

Since the program's inception, we have increased our retention rate to 84% for new Veteran students. In spring 2018, our mentor-ship program held 110 appointments and exchanged countless emails assisting over 100 students with all aspects of their life both on and off campus. Students get help with class schedules, building degree plans, verifying summer MAH, transferring VA medical files, finding housing, assisting with deferring school for medical/family reasons, finding the right degree, and much more.

Some other resources that SUU offers to all of their military-connected students (including those that aren't utilizing VA educational benefits) include access to laptops and printers, our Knowledge Locker and lounge. Our Knowledge Locker was started by Veterans donating textbooks for other Veterans to borrow as a way of helping save money. This program has been a big success especially for our general education courses where some of the textbooks cost \$150+. Our newly expanded lounge provides students a space to be themselves with fellow Veterans. It is a "hangout" spot where they can be social, study in between classes, or utilize provided computers for schoolwork and printing services. When visiting the lounge a student can also enjoy some coffee, watch TV, play X-box, heat up their lunch or just take a break between classes.

SUU is proud of what we have to offer and continues to improve programs and services available to military-connected students. We are constantly trying to think of new ways to get students connected to student life and succeed in their goal of degree completion. The VITAL program is another step in our goal to become the One-Stop Shop for our students instead of just a place to get their benefits certified.

Karen Adsitt conducting a 1st year mentoring meeting 🇺🇸



As Marines, my brother and I along with my wife wanted to start a movement among the veteran community and beyond. We saw a massive need for something that fosters the silent majority in our community. This movement that we envisioned is about confidence without arrogance, leadership without loudness, and boldness without pride — a movement of strength in silence and being a true professional. We live in a world full of noise, and many of those noisemakers offer a lot of talks, but not a lot of action. We know that the majority of the veteran, law enforcement, first responder, and civilian communities believe in this same silent strength that we believe in, but there isn't really a movement to unite us all in this idea. We thought that if we could rally up and build a community of this silent strength, we could become prominent enough to be truly effective in distributing our message and making a difference. We knew that building a movement on these ideas would mean we are not held back by things that often keep people in the veteran community and beyond from progressing. We know that apparel is a highly effective way for people to express themselves and identify with an idea. Thus, American Valour Apparel began.

Building a business while attending college is an incredible opportunity not only as a student, but as a veteran because Utah Valley University offers entrepreneur workshops, networking opportunities, the UVU Veteran's Center, and a massive amount of other resources. We have access to these resources quickly for extremely cheap, or even free. All we have to do is show up. One of our most useful resources has been the Veteran's Business Resource Center, which we have heavily used. This resource was an integral part of the start of our business because it was the

"one stop shop" where we could receive answers to almost any question, from finances to legalities to marketing. We also have used the small business development center here at UVU.

Because we used these resources, the majority of launching our business was not difficult. We had the proper support from the University and other entities. Much of the difficulty of starting a new business is the fear of the unknown. Once you properly educate yourself on the steps it takes to start and identify where you can gain support and information, building a business becomes much less intimidating. The only difficult part is the amount of time and heart that is required to make a business successful. It requires discipline to get up and continue to build your business when you are tired, burned out, and overwhelmed because nobody is going to do it for you. Either you get up and work at it, or your business will fail. However, once you begin to see your business succeed, it becomes exciting, and it's not so difficult to find the time and the passion.

My advice to other Veterans who aspire to start a business is to listen, listen, listen. The world is full of free knowledge and information, and many people have made mistakes that you can learn from. Learn everything there is to know about the field you will be in. Never stop being a student. Then, find the balance between humbly taking in as much advice as possible and discarding any information that will not help your business grow. Finally, never lose sight of why you started the business, especially on those days when you feel like quitting. Remembering the "why" will get you through most challenges you will face as an entrepreneur. 🇺🇸



The University of Utah's award-winning Veterans Support Center (VSC) serves nearly 1,200 Veterans, service members, and military family members enrolled at the university. The VSC provides a one-stop shop for "U Vets" to find services, support, advocacy, and camaraderie. Through The VSC, student Veterans can access services and resources such as enrollment certification for VA educational benefits, VA counseling and benefits advising, career coaching, a computer lab with CAC card readers, a textbook loan library, and free tutoring. The VSC also offers special career services events such as lunches with employers, employment networking socials, and site visits just for student Veterans.

Each November, the university hosts Vet Week, a week-long series of events focused on service members and Veterans. Some of the events include a formal Veterans Day commemoration, Veterans Cup dodge-ball tournament, panel discussion, and tailgate before a football game.

The U is home to the National Center for Veterans Studies, a leader in the research and treatment of issues affecting the well-being of Veterans, service members, and their families, including treatment for PTSD, effects of TBI, and moral injury. The university is also fortunate to be located across the street from a

VA regional office and medical center and the Utah Department of Veterans and Military Affairs.

The University of Utah is a military-friendly institution that offers more than 100 undergraduate and graduate degree programs and provides some of the most extensive academic, research, and support resources available. The U is not just a topnotch school – it's a topnotch school for Veterans.

For more information, contact the Veterans Support Center at (801) 587-7722 or [vetcenter@sa.utah.edu](mailto:veteranscenter@sa.utah.edu) or visit the VSC website at veteranscenter.utah.edu. 





WEBER STATE UNIVERSITY

WEBER STATE UNIVERSITY EXPANDS SERVICES

Weber State University Veterans Services now provides assistance to multiple campuses including Davis, Roy, Farmington, and Morgan. In her new position as Veterans Education Specialist, Sheila Simko provides centers with literature and contact information and plans and implements Veterans Day activities and processes veteran educational benefits at the Davis Campus.

Seth Lund will provide counseling at both Weber and Davis campuses under the newly awarded Veteran Success on Campus Program (VSOC). The VSOC program aims to help Veterans, Service members, and their qualified dependents succeed and thrive through a coordinated delivery of on-campus benefits assistance and counseling, leading to completion of their education and preparing them to enter the labor market in viable careers. The VSOC program provides a VA Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor (VRC) to each VSOC school. These VRCs are called VetSuccess on Campus (VSOC) Counselors. A VA Vet Center Outreach Coordinator is also provided, and co-located on many campuses, to provide peer-peer Counseling and referral services.

Through the VSOC program, VA is strengthening partnerships with institutions of higher learning and creating opportunities to help Veterans achieve success by providing outreach and transition services during their transition from military to college life. VSOC Counselors ensure that Veterans receive the support and assistance needed to pursue their educational and employment goals. Because VSOC Counselors are easily accessible on campus they help resolve

any problems that could potentially interfere with a Veteran's educational program, to include assisting with disability accommodations. If needed, they can also provide referrals for health services through VA Medical Centers, Community-Based Outpatient Clinics, or Vet Centers.

Weber State University Veterans Services will continue to provide first-class services to Veterans and their family including processing educational entitlements, mentoring, and referrals to existing campus and community services. Veterans Services for Davis Campus is located at 2750 University Park Blvd, Bldg D2, Room 260, Layton, Utah, 84041 phone 801-395-3460 and Ogden Campus is 1352 Village Drive, Annex 5, Ogden, Utah 84408 phone 801-626-6039. 🇺🇸





Understanding that Utah State is the state land-grant institution serving all 29 Utah counties, the Veterans Resource Office is working with our regional campus locations to provide services to our rural Veterans. We are committed to assisting the individual to achieve their educational and career goals. Beginning with veteran's point of contacts at the Uintah Basin, Moab, Tooele, Salt Lake, Eastern, Price, Brigham City campus locations our goal is to provide comprehensive resources to all of the students we serve. USU has also developed a Veterans competency program for faculty and staff modeled after Virginia Commonwealth University's Green Zone program, called "Got Your 6", this program gives participants tools to help better serve and understand Veterans/service members. Participants receive a patch at the end of the course so that students know they have completed the course and are committed to their success.

Our VITAL peer mentoring program is beginning their second full year at the USU. It has been an excellent resource to assist students to gain access to additional resources to help them meet their educational goals. Our goal this year is to expand the program across the USU system and have peers housed in multiple regional campus locations.

Due to some institutional restructuring, the Veterans Resource Office move to the new dedicated space has been temporarily delayed. Once the new space remodels are completed the center will provide a dedicated lounge and study area along with private office space. One especially beneficial feature will be an exterior entrance to our center which will allow individuals to come directly to the office and lounge spaces and the opportunity for us to expand our operating hours. 🇺🇸

DSU

DIXIE STATE UNIVERSITY



Dixie State University (DSU) every year has made greater strides to improve the inclusion and outreach of its veteran students and has improved their ability to assimilate into a successful academic environment. 2017 marked several milestones for the Dixie Veterans Success Center including an established area set apart for the college community to focus on the outreach of Veterans and friend of Veterans to meet and study. Furniture and luxuries such as a television and refrigerator were acquired for the lounge area and new computers were purchased to provide a computer lounge for study. A printer was also set up to provide free printing for students. Our Veterans center received a recent remodel with new paint, carpet, cabinets, and desks creating a professional study and work environment.

DSU Veterans Success Center received an increased grant for tutoring and education. The grant provided funding for private tutoring, mathematics testing,

and a part-time position for a Veterans outreach coordinator to aid the veteran's coordinator in seeking out resources for the students. Peer mentoring for freshmen students was also established to help aid service member's fresh out of the military to assimilate into a civilian/academic lifestyle. The peer mentoring was also successful in providing resources for success such as tutoring, focus groups and advising to help students reach graduation.

Finally, the Veterans Success Center also hosted its annual Veterans Day gathering on campus. Senator Evan J. Vickers was invited to speak along with Richard Biff Williams, President of DSU. They both expressed their gratitude towards all Veterans and the military service members that attend Dixie. The service was concluded with a flag ceremony and refreshments. While still a small campus, Dixie continues to grow its support of veteran students and their ability to learn and enter the workforce. 🇺🇸

Congresswoman Mia Love
invites you to the
**4th District Veterans Resource
Conference**



Thursday, October 18, 2018

4:00pm-7:00pm

SLCC Jordan Campus Student Pavilion Building

3491 W. Wights Fort Rd.

West Jordan, UT 84088

Veterans and their families can obtain direct connections and advice from various organizations that provide services to Veterans in the Fourth Congressional District. The conference will feature resource booths from federal, state and local agencies and veteran support organizations.

Featured guest speakers will begin at 5:30pm.

This event is open to 4th District Veterans and their accompanying families.

Have questions?

Phone: 801-996-8729

Email: Barry.McLerran@mail.house.gov



At the Utah Valley University Veteran Success Center (VSC), we are more than just a campus resource; we are family. We support our veterans every step of the way from registration to graduation. We provide a myriad of services including scholarships, tuition assistance, tutoring services, mental health support, veteran and family events, as well as assistance with military education benefits.

This year, the UVU VSC will be awarding \$20,000 in scholarships. Scholarship funds are raised through various events, including our annual "Putts For Patriots", and private and corporate donors. Our scholarship recipients will be honored at our Honor Ball and a Scholarship Recognition Night this fall.

We believe that by supporting the family, we are supporting the individual veteran. We have a variety of family-friendly events planned throughout the school year. In addition to the many family fun nights we have planned, this September we will be participating in United We March, a 9/11 Memorial

Ruck March patterned after the Bataan Memorial Death March in New Mexico. Every November UVU hosts a week of events on campus to celebrate Veterans Week. Events include panels on a variety of military topics, thank you notes to veterans, campus events and a Veteran Day Celebration with speakers, a children's choir, flag ceremony, and more.

In addition to our events, we believe in taking our students out into the world to foster engaged learning through excursions and life experiences with community mentors. Some of the excursions students have participated on this year are a turkey hunt, horseback riding trip and an east coast historical photography trip that included military reenactments and historical sites up and down the east coast.

Come see our beautiful new office and student day room. You can check out what events we have going on by following our Facebook page @UVUVeterans. 🇺🇸

Salt Lake Community College



Salt Lake Community College's new Westpointe Workforce Training & Technical Education Center at 1060 N. Flyer Way, Salt Lake City, UT. Will open FALL 2018 Semester, August 22, 2018. The new Workforce and Training Center is 121,000 square feet and encompasses the state-of-the-art education facilities, skill labs, classrooms and administrative support.

Westpointe Career and Technical Education Center is a high-quality facility that encompasses all the training equipment and tools for careers in Diesel Systems, Machining, Manufacturing, Engineering Technology, Solar Energy Technology, Welding, Fabrication, Inspection and Truck Driving, to name a few careers.

Students will be able to complete their entire certificate or degree in one location. The state-of-the-art equipment allows students even more competitive in the marketplace.

Many of the certificates and degrees are available for Veteran benefits at Salt Lake Community College. For more information regarding your Veteran benefits and starting a new career, please contact:

Salt Lake Community College's Veterans Services:
4200 South Redwood Road. Salt Lake City UT 84123
801-957-4289

PROGRAMS OFFERED:

- Composites Technology
- Diesel Service Technician
- Diesel Service Technician and Driver
- Diesel Systems Technology
- Engineering Design/Drafting Technology (AAS Degree)
- Engineering Design/Drafting Technology (AS Degree)
- Manual Machinist
- Plastics Injection Molding Technology
- Professional Truck Driving (CDL)
- Solar Photovoltaic - Sales
- Solar Photovoltaic - Installation
- Welding Technology
- Welding Fabrication and Inspection
- Welding

Also taught from the Westpointe campus:

- Aviation Maintenance
- Automation & Instrumentation Technician (KAIT)
- Non-Destructive Testing 

STATE APPROVING AGENCY



Article by David Salgado, State Approving Agency Director

With a new school year upon us, it is important to look back at a few of the significant changes that have taken place over the last year.

One of the most noteworthy changes occurring is the implementation of a large portion of provisions within the Harry W. Colmery Veterans Education Assistance Act of 2017, "The Forever GI Bill." Many of the provisions within the bill have begun taking effect on August 1, 2018, to include Medical Orders Equity, Purple Heart Equity, BAH to Reflect Real Housing Location, and Benefits Transferability for Survivors. Multiple revisions have required a massive overhaul of numerous VA systems and processes. These substantial changes will undoubtedly come with some tweaking to ensure all operations run smoothly, but the end result will mean enhanced or expanded benefits for Veterans, service members, families, and survivors.

This past year we began to expand locations for school certifying officials to receive training. We not only held

our annual school certifying official conference in Salt Lake City, but we had the opportunity to hold an additional conference in St. George. This expansion allowed more individuals to attend without having to come to the Wasatch Front. I want to extend a great big THANK YOU to Western Governors University and Dixie State University for hosting. We hope to continue to expand these conferences to different areas throughout the state in the upcoming year.

I would be remiss not to mention that Berni Davis has moved on to a different position as a State Officer within the Utah Department of Veterans and Military Affairs. Her expertise in understanding of Veterans education benefits during her tenure as the Director of the State Approving Agency will be greatly missed.

Utah continues to increase those individuals utilizing VA Educational benefits with approximately 6000 students in the month of July attending over 115 institutions, training establishments, and vocational programs. 🇺🇸



SAVE THE DATE

Congressman Rob Bishop
2nd Annual
Veterans Resource Fair

Monday, September 10, 2018

4pm - 7pm

Hill Aerospace Museum

1955, 7961 Wardleigh Rd

Hill AFB, UT 84056



DEPARTMENT OF **WORKFORCE SERVICES**

ACE PROGRAM SUPPORTS VETERANS AND SPOUSES IN NEW CAREERS

The Department of Workforce Services started the Accelerated Credentialing to Employment (ACE) program as just a pilot program that was expected to last only one year. Seven years later the program is going strong and continues to support Veterans, National Guard, Reservists and their spouses in helping them get licenses, credentials, and equipment to get that first job or to help to find that career to support their families. ACE fills a gap to help Veterans and spouses to become employed, even if they don't fit the VA definition of a veteran. In 2017, the ACE program conducted over 350 briefings for the Guard, Reserve, HAFB, and Yellow Ribbon events. It placed 361 individuals in training programs and helped 250 individuals to receive professional licenses or certificates. Workforce Services placed 319 service members or spouses into the workforce last year through the ACE program.

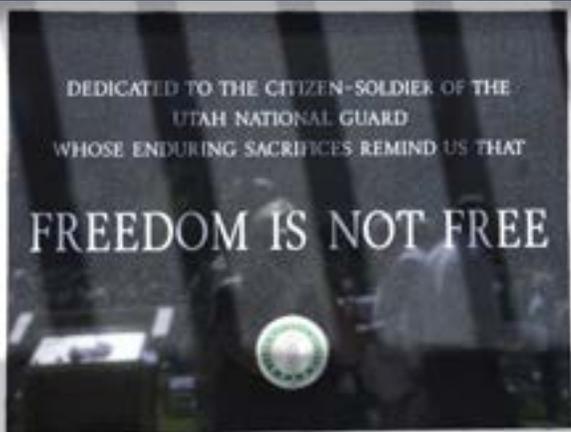
A recent ACE participant shared his experience: "I recently moved to Utah from Idaho with the hopes

of finding a career I would love for years to come. I thankfully discovered Workforce Services when I needed them the most. I met [ACE Outreach Specialist] Chuck who helped me with my resume and I truly believe with his help, it improved my chances of finding a fantastic job in the welding field. To my surprise, Chuck informed me that Workforce Services could offer me the funds to purchase the tools I needed to excel at my new job as a professional welder. I couldn't have asked for a better experience and I'm eternally grateful for the resources I received to make my story a success!"

To find out more about the ACE Outreach Program, to contact an ACE Outreach Specialist, or to connect with other services that the Department of Workforce Services offers Utah's Veterans, please visit:

<https://jobs.utah.gov/jobseeker/veteran.html> 

Utah National Guard



UTAH WARRANT OFFICERS CELEBRATE 100 YEARS OF SERVICE

CAMP WILLIAMS, Utah —Warrant Officers from around the state gathered at Camp Williams in Bluffdale, Utah, for the centennial celebration of the U.S. Army Warrant Officer Corps on July 9.

Lt. Gov. Spencer Cox spoke along with the Adjutant General of the Utah National Guard, Maj. Gen. Jeff Burton.

"Over the past five years, I've had a lot of wonderful opportunities, but at the top of those has been the chance to associate with each of you," said Cox. "As warrant officers, you represent the very best of our nation, you are the technical experts... but it's not just your service here, it's your service in the community when you're not in uniform that makes your service so valuable."

Three plaques donated by Zions National Bank were unveiled during the ceremony celebrating the service and sacrifices of warrant officers and soldiers since the Corps was established in 1918. Utah has more than 250 warrant officers currently in service.

"These guys save lives... because they understand systems and they make them work," said Burton. "That's what warrant officers do, and have done since 1918. We're very proud of you."

During World War I, an act by Congress in 1918 established the Army Mine Planter Service, or MPS, as part of the U.S. Army Coast Artillery Corps. But long before any congressional action, the Army recognized a need for technical experts and leaders in support of mine-planting operations.

Due to the constant flux of personnel, the Army Chief of Coast Artillery requested legislation in 1916 to help militarize the mine-planting vessels. Two years later, Congress granted the request. Along with the MPS, the act established the U.S. Army Warrant Officer Corps.

A total of 40 warrant officers were sanctioned to serve as masters, mates, chief engineers, and assistant engineers within the Army MPS.

Throughout the war and beyond, warrant officers served alongside crews of enlisted mine-planting specialists in support of MPS operations. Mine planting teams were responsible for the maintenance of underwater minefields to defend U.S. coastal fortifications at major ports, including the Panama Canal and Manila Bay in the Philippines.

One hundred years later on July 9, 2018, the Army still relies upon warrant officers to be adaptive, technical experts, combat leaders, trainers, and advisors, according to Chief Warrant Officer 4 Billy L. Fritz, the Army staff senior warrant officer and the assistant executive officer for Chief of Staff of the Army Gen. Mark A. Milley.

"On the centennial of the warrant officer cohort, we celebrate who we are, knowing that every situation represents an opportunity to improve our service and support to Army leaders, soldiers, and families," Fritz said. "Today's warrants are faced with limited resources, demanding conditions, and an Army that must meet the challenges of the day while keeping an eye on preparing and modernizing a ready force."

Story by Maj. D.J. Gibb
Photos by Ileen Kennedy 🇺🇸

VA Health Care System SLC



Anne
Veteran Services



A lot of Veterans want to pursue higher education when they get out of the armed forces. And it doesn't matter if you served four years or retired after decades of service, heading back to school can be a daunting task, and Veterans face their own unique challenges when pursuing a degree. The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Veterans Integration to Academic Leadership program or VITAL program is helping Veterans face that daunting task.

VITAL exists to serve all student Veterans. That could be student Veterans headed back to school on the GI Bill, or those using vocational rehab and other programs. VITAL's mission is to aid Veterans in overcoming obstacles and achieving academic success. The coordinator of VA Salt Lake City Health Care System's (VASLCHCS) VITAL program, Dr. Aaron Ahern, says VITAL accomplishes this in three ways,, 1) outreach to student Veterans 2) provide mental health clinical care on campus to make it more accessible 3) training school faculty and staff.

The mentors are fellow student Veterans, who get significant training through VA in a variety of services, including benefits, mental health, and suicide prevention. The peer mentors conduct most of the outreach for the program and are the go-to person for the student Veterans.

"Among our Veterans—in general—there is a stigma about asking for help and not wanting to appear weak," says Dr. Ahern. "...but if they can hear it from another student Veteran, it can make it kind of normal."

"They are getting the one-on-one attention they deserve," says Travis Murphy, a Marine Corps Veteran, peer-to-peer mentor, and Weber State student. "I want to say I see myself as an advisor and peer—someone they can come to and talk about their classes if they are struggling."

Currently, VA Salt Lake City's program encompasses 7 schools in Idaho and Utah. Those schools are Idaho State University, Utah State University, Weber State, University of Utah, Westminster College, Salt Lake Community College and Utah Valley University. Talks are underway to expand to Southern Utah University, Dixie State University, and Western Governors University.

If you would like to learn more about the VASLCHCS vital program, visit the VITAL website or email VASLCHCS VITAL Program Coordinator D. Aaron Ahern Ph.D. at Dennis.Ahern@va.gov. 🇺🇸

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VETERANS CAREER AND BENEFITS FAIR



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(formerly South Towne Exposition Center)

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www.jointservicesupport.org/Reg/52L551

For registration questions, please call Mark Harrison at 801-432-4536.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT ARE MY VETERANS BENEFITS?

The State of Utah Department of Veterans and Military Affairs has put together an informational pamphlet explaining some of the benefits available to Veterans. You can access this document from the website <https://veterans.utah.gov/resources-and-publications/>, or you can request a copy by calling 800-894-9497 or 801-326-2372.

WHAT IS THE DISABLED VETERANS PROPERTY TAX ABATEMENT?

A Utah permanent place-of-residence property tax abatement using the military service-connected disability rating percentage is available for disabled Veterans, their un-remarried widows, or minor orphans. The Veteran's disability rating must be at least 10% in order to qualify for this abatement.

Here is the formula used to determine eligibility: The maximum property tax abatement rated at 100% military service-connected disability is \$260,370. Multiply your percentage of disability by 260,370. Example: a 10% disability X 260,370 = \$26,037.00 tax abatement. This amount is then subtracted from the taxable value of the property and taxes are paid on the remaining amount.

HOW DO I APPLY FOR THE DISABLED VETERANS PROPERTY TAX ABATEMENT?

To apply for Utah Disabled Veterans Property Tax Abatement, request a Summary of Benefits Letter from U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). Once received, submit the letter with a completed Property Tax Abatement application, on or before 01 SEP, to the applicable county treasurer, tax assessor, or clerk/recorder located in the county courthouse or county government building of the county in which the property is located. All property must be on record as of 01 JAN of the year you wish to file. However, a recent change allows qualified widows and orphans an exemption to that rule. Disabled Veterans only have to file for the abatement one time; after which it will automatically renew each year. However, Veterans will have to refile if:

- all or a portion of their abatement is used towards tangible personal property
- their service-connected disability percentage changes
- the Veteran dies, sells the property, or no longer claims that property as the primary place of residence.

Ref: (Utah Code 59-2-1104 & 1105). 

Benefits & Resources



Camp Williams Medical Records:
801-878-5120

CHAMPVA
800-733-8387

Defense Finance & Accounting Services (DFAS):
888-332-7411 or
800-321-1080

eBenefits
800-983-0937

Fisher House Foundation
<https://www.fisherhouse.org/>
&
<http://www.fisherhousesaltlakecity.com/>
801-588-5900 or x5900

Homeless Veterans Fellowship, Ogden
801-392-7662

Medicare Customer Service:
800-633-4227

National League of POW/MIA
<http://www.pow-miafamilies.org/>

North Star Substance Abuse Program
801-528-1565 Ext. 1840/5405

Office Personnel Management (OPM):
202-606-1800

Operation Home Front Post 9/11 Financial Assistance
www.operationhomefront.org
888-305-1486

Outpatient Clinics
Nephi: 435-623-3129
Ogden: 801-479-4105
Orem: 801-235-0953
Roosevelt: 435-725-1050
St. George: 435-634-7608 ext. 6000
West Valley: 801-417-5734

Salt Lake City VA Homeless Program
801-582-1565 ext. 2746

St. George Veterans Legal Clinic
435-634-7608

The Road Home
801-359-4142

Tri-Care West Region is United Health Care:
877-988-9378

UTA Customer Service:
801-743-3882

Utah DMV:
800-368-8824

Utah Honor Flight
435-272-0254
<https://www.utahhonorflight.org/>

Utah National Guard Military Records:
801-432-4558

Utah Veterans Legal Clinic
<http://younglawyers.utahbar.org>
&
www.representveterans.com

VA Caregiver Program post 9/11 Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers
www.caregiver.va.gov/support/support_benefits.asp
855-260-3274
801-582-1565 ext. 6317

VA Debt Management:
800-827-0648

VA Dental Office:
801-584-1206

VA Emergency Care Authorization within 72 hours
888-795-0773

VA Enrollment
801-584-2585

VA Fiduciary Hub:
888-407-0144

VA GI Bill Education:
888-442-4551

VA Home Front
877-424-3838

VA Loan Office (in Colorado)
888-349-7541

VA One Choice Card:
866-606-8198

VA Patient Advocate office Direct Line:
801-582-1565 Ext. 1900

VA Payment Problems
888-795-0773

Valor House
801-582-1565 ext. 2703
or 800-613-4012 ext. 2703

Veteran, Spouse and Marriage Counseling Support Groups
Provo: 801-377-1117
Salt Lake: 801-266-1499
St. George: 435-673-4494

Veterans Upward Bound
801-626-7173

Veterans Vocational Rehab, Ogden
8001-625-5057



UDVMA

HELPING
VETERANS
SUCCEED

PENSION

CLAIMS

JOBS

TRAINING

EDUCATION

BENEFITS

NURSING HOME

CEMETERY



Outreach Calendar

A Veterans Service Officer (VSO) is scheduled to be at the location on the day and time indicated. Be advised that unforeseen events may cause the VSO to cancel or change a visit. Please verify this by calling the Utah Department of Veterans and Military Affairs (UDVMA) at 801-326-2372 or by visiting the UDVMA website: <http://veterans.utah.gov/outreach-calendar/>

Please note all appointments with (*) are by appointment only. To make appointment call - 801.326.2372

Beaver DWS

- September 10, 0900 - 1000
- October 15, 0900 - 1000
- November 12, 0900 - 1000

Cedar City

- September 04, 0900 - 1400
- September 18, 0900 - 1400
- October 09, 0900 - 1400
- October 23, 0900 - 1400
- November 06, 0900 - 1400
- November 20, 0900 - 1400

Clearfield DWS

- September 05, 1300 - 1630 *
- September 12, 1300 - 1630 *
- September 19, 1300 - 1630 *
- September 26, 1300 - 1630 *
- October 03, 1300 - 1630 *
- October 10, 1300 - 1630 *
- October 14, 1300 - 1630 *
- October 17, 1300 - 1630 *
- October 24, 1300 - 1630 *
- November 07, 1300 - 1630 *
- November 28, 1300 - 1630 *

Farmington DWS

- September 05, 1130 - 1230 *
- September 19, 1130 - 1230 *
- October 03, 1130 - 1230 *
- October 17, 1130 - 1230 *
- November 07, 1130 - 1230 *
- November 28, 1130 - 1230 *

Hurricane

- September 19, 1100 - 1300

Kanab DWS

- September 10, 1400 - 1500
- October 15, 1400 - 1500
- November 12, 1400 - 1500

Logan DWS

- September 06, 0800 - 1600
- October 04, 0800 - 1600
- November 01, 0800 - 1600

Manti DWS

- September 12, 1200 - 1400
- September 26, 1200 - 1400
- October 10, 1200 - 1400
- November 07, 1200 - 1400

Ogden DWS

- September 05, 0800 - 1000 *
- September 12, 0800 - 1200 *
- September 19, 0800 - 1000 *
- September 26, 0800 - 1200 *
- October 03, 0800 - 1000 *
- October 10, 0800 - 1200 *
- October 17, 0800 - 1000 *
- October 24, 0800 - 1200 *
- November 07, 0800 - 1000 *
- November 14, 0800 - 1200 *
- November 28, 0800 - 1000 *

Ogden Veterans Home

- September 10, 0800 - 1600
- September 13, 0800 - 1600
- September 17, 0800 - 1600
- September 20, 0800 - 1600
- September 24, 0800 - 1600
- September 27, 0800 - 1600
- October 01, 0800 - 1600
- October 11, 0800 - 1600
- October 15, 0800 - 1600
- October 18, 0800 - 1600
- October 22, 0800 - 1600
- October 29, 0800 - 1600
- November 05, 0800 - 1600
- November 08, 0800 - 1600
- November 15, 0800 - 1600
- November 19, 0800 - 1600
- November 26, 0800 - 1600
- November 29, 0800 - 1600

Panguitch DWS

- September 10, 1130 - 1230
- October 15, 1130 - 1230
- November 12, 1130 - 1230

Payson

- September 03 & 04, 0900 - 1500
- September 10 & 11, 0900 - 1500
- September 17 & 18, 0900 - 1500
- September 24, 0900 - 1500
- October 01 & 02, 0900 - 1500
- October 08 & 09, 0900 - 1500
- October 15 & 16, 0900 - 1500
- October 22, 0900 - 1500
- October 29, 0900 - 1500
- November 05 & 06, 0900 - 1500
- November 12 & 13, 0900 - 1500
- November 19 & 20, 0900 - 1500
- November 26, 0900 - 1500

Price DWS

- September 04, 1000 - 1530
- September 18, 1000 - 1530
- October 02, 1000 - 1530
- October 16, 1000 - 1530
- November 06, 1000 - 1530
- November 20, 1000 - 1530

Provo Vet Center

- September 05 & 06, 0830 - 1530
- September 12 & 13, 0830 - 1530
- September 19 & 20, 0830 - 1530
- September 26 & 27, 0830 - 1530
- October 03 & 04, 0830 - 1530
- October 10 & 11, 0830 - 1530
- October 10 & 11, 0830 - 1530
- October 17 & 18, 0830 - 1530
- October 31, 0830 - 1530
- November 01, 0830 - 1530
- November 07 & 08, 0830 - 1530
- November 14 & 15, 0830 - 1530
- November 21 & 22, 0830 - 1530
- November 28 & 29, 0830 - 1530

Richfield DWS

- September 05, 0930 - 1130
- September 12, 0930 - 1130
- October 10, 0930 - 1130
- October 24, 0930 - 1130
- November 07, 1130 - 1330
- November 21, 1130 - 1330

Roosevelt DWS

- September 11, 1000 - 1530
- October 09, 1000 - 1530
- November 13, 1000 - 1530

Salt Lake VA Medical Cntr

- September 04, 1000 - 1200
- September 11, 1000 - 1200
- September 18, 1000 - 1200
- September 25, 1000 - 1200
- October 02, 1000 - 1200
- October 09, 1000 - 1200
- October 16, 1000 - 1200
- October 23, 1000 - 1200
- October 30, 1000 - 1200
- November 06, 1000 - 1200
- November 13, 1000 - 1200
- November 20, 1000 - 1200
- November 27, 1000 - 1200

St. George

- September 06, 0900 - 1400
- September 13, 0900 - 1400
- October 11, 0900 - 1400
- October 25, 0900 - 1400
- November 01, 0900 - 1400
- November 15, 0900 - 1400

Tooele DWS

- September 12, 1330 - 1500
- September 21, 1330 - 1500
- October 10, 1330 - 1500
- October 19, 1330 - 1500
- November 16, 1330 - 1500

ADDRESSES:

- Beaver DWS (875 North Main St.)
- Cedar City (176 East 2nd North)
- Clearfield (1290 East 1450 South)
- Farmington (28 East State St.)
- Kanab DWS (468 East 300 South)

- Logan (180 North 100 West)
- Manti DWS (55 S. Main, ste 3)
- Ogden DWS (480 27th Street)
- Ogden Wahlen Veterans Home (1102 North 1200 West)
- Panguitch DWS (665 North Main St.)

- Price DWS (475 West Price River Dr.)
- Payson VH (1551 N. Main Street)
- Provo Vet Center (360 State St, Orem, UT 84058)
- Richfield DWS (115 East 100 South)
- Roosevelt DWS (140 West 425 South)

- Salt Lake VA Medical Cntr. (500 Foothill Dr)
- St. George (162 North 400 East)
- Tooele DWS Center (305 N Main St #100)

Please note all appointments with (*) are by appointment only. To make appointment call - 801.326.2372



THE UTAH

VETERANS VOICE

A PUBLICATION OF THE UTAH DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS & MILITARY AFFAIRS
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CONTACT INFORMATION

Utah Department of Veterans and Military Affairs
550 Foothill Drive, Suite 105
Salt Lake City, Utah 84113
(801) 326-2372
<https://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

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