Joint Base Lewis McChord Career Day

By VERG members

The Career Days at JBLM were attended by many members of the VERG, both on the 29th for the transition fair workshops and on the 30th for the job fair.

Participants of the VERG were asked to assist transitioning soldiers through a series of Mock Interviews, Resume Reviews and also participate in a networking social.

The Mock Interviews were set up to provide real world experience and interview practice to those members looking to obtain positions with employers they would meet with the following day.

Continued on Page 7...
Vann Smiley is a native Washingtonian having graduated from Steilacoom High School and Seattle University. He currently serves DSHS as the Director of the Operations Support & Services Division (OSSD) within the Financial Services Administration (FSA) and has served in this capacity since July 8, 2013. The division is comprised of six major units: The Operations Unit, Background Check Central Unit, Capital Facilities Management, Consolidated Maintenance Operations, Central Contracts and Legal Services, Leased Facilities Unit, and the Office of Administrative Resources. He previously served as a career Military officer for 24 years achieving the rank of Colonel, retiring in 2012. He worked primarily in Infantry, Special Operations and Garrison units to include three tours at JBLM.

Vann is an avid Seahawks 12th Man member and coaches youth tackle football for the Thurston County Youth Football League, Black Hills Wolves. He is passionate about mission accomplishment, leadership development, customer service, diversity, equity and inclusion, and helping those in need. He is married with one son in college and one daughter in high school.

“I don't have to tell you how fragile this precious gift of freedom is. Every time we hear, watch, or read the news, we are reminded that liberty is a rare commodity in this world.” – President Ronald Reagan

The Mission of The Boots to Shoes Foundation is to augment veterans support services for twenty-first century Veterans’ successful transition into civilian jobs. It serves as an example of going forward by giving back.

Veterans’ job searches encounter:

- Time limitations for completing in-service programs.
- Multi-layered on-line job search programs which lack human interface.
- Time for reconnecting with family and friends.
- Challenges in creating a civilian job network.

BOOTS TO SHOES

By Patricia Conover, Executive Director

Boots to Shoes®

Helping 21st Century Veterans Capture 21st Century Jobs®

Sign up to be a mentor to start making a difference!

www.bootstoshoes.org

Do it today!
Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans

Jennifer McDaniel
VERG Member - Washington State Lottery Employee

Most of us have heard the staggering statistics regarding the Vietnam War. Over 58,000 of our American military lost; each one of them memorialized on a polished black wall, never to be forgotten. But many more served their country whether they were drafted or enlisted and returned home changed forever.

Over the years we as Americans have come to appreciate and better understand the sacrifices that our soldiers, sailors, airmen, marines, and coast guard members make in defense of our nation. We welcome them home with ceremony, parades, greetings of thanks, and applause. This was not always the case those many years ago as our “boys” returned from Vietnam.

In March 2013 the Washington State Legislature approved a measure to recognize March 30 in honor of Vietnam Veterans. The House and Senate unanimously passed the bill and it was signed by Governor Inslee further cementing Washington State’s commitment to this generation of military service members.

Today, we honor those men and women. They are not faceless strangers that we read about in books or watch in historical film. They work in the office across the hall. They live next door. They are our friends, our loved ones, our mentors. Many of those same individuals that served our country all those years ago went on to serve the state of Washington too.

Men like Chris Liu who despite being seriously wounded, served multiple tours in Vietnam and is now the Executive Director of the Department of Enterprise Services.

Bill Hanson served in the Coast Guard during Vietnam at the height of the Tet offensive and is now the Director of Washington’s Lottery.

Craig Storey served with the 173rd Airborne in Vietnam and then went on to serve Washington State as a WSP Trooper for 30 years.

Tom Rawlings served during the Vietnam War where he was a C-123 aircrew member and now works for Department of Enterprise Services as a Statewide Veterans Outreach Recruiter.

These are just a few examples of the courageous men and women who were willing to serve their country for a cause “greater than themselves”. We must not forget what they gave up, we must not forget the lessons America learned from Vietnam, and we must not allow these veterans to go another day without showing them the appreciation they so earned and deserve.

It is with humble gratitude that I ask you to join me in saying thank you to these Vietnam era Veterans and most importantly “Welcome Home!”

"The price of freedom is eternal vigilance.” – President Thomas Jefferson
NW Edge Graduate and New State Employee (Steve Loduha) Saves a Life
by Ann Reiter, Statewide HR Planning & Strategy Specialist

I would like to share a lifesaving occurrence that happened at Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission. On 3/19/2015 Coldwell Bank Property Management service was on site at Washington State Parks and Recreation Headquarters at approximately 1300+ hours. An employee of that management company was on the third floor near the Director’s office working on a light fixture from a ladder. While performing that work the worker fell from the ladder onto the floor making a very loud crashing noise causing nearby staff to rush to his aid. It was determined by parks staff that the worker was not conscious or breathing and they began to perform CPR on him as well as calling 911 for emergency services. Other assisting staff retrieved the agency AED and started to perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation while other parks staff continued CPR. Due to the collaborative efforts and fast thinking of the staff at Parks, the worker did began to show life signs before the paramedics arrived. Due to the expert actions taken the worker was rushed to the hospital alive, and has recovered from the accident.

One of the heroic Park’s staff members is Steve Loduha, a retired 1st Sergeant of the United States Army, and a recent hire of the Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission. I asked Steve if he could explain what training came into play for this extraordinary event and he explained:

“In the Army these sorts of situations are embedded in our memory due to the years of repetitive training and become a knee jerk reaction or “muscle memory”. The first thing we were trained to look for are the ABC’s, Airway, Breathing, and Circulation. So that’s what we did, we assessed each of those and went into chest compressions, rescue breathing and aided by the AED device we brought him back after a few minutes. It’s great to know after being retired that my training is still put to good use and helping people”.

Faces in the Crowd – DOH Frank Schitoskey

My name is Frank Schitoskey and I have been with the Washington State Department of Health since September of 2012. I am currently the Survey Manager for Ambulatory Surgery and End-Stage Renal Disease Facilities with the Office of Inspections and Investigations.
I was born in Denver Colorado but have lived all over the country and overseas as my parents were in government service. I served 26 years in the United States Army in both reserve and active status in the Infantry and the Army Nurse Corps. My experience includes Basic Combat Training Company Command, leading a team of trainers that validated medical units for deployment, as well as nursing unit, section and hospital taskforce leadership. I am married to the love of my life, Lisa, without whom I would never have achieved what I have. I have one son, Adam, who is now 14.

We have lived in the Puget Sound area for over 20 years and love any opportunity to get out of doors. We enjoy camping, fishing, and hunting all over the state. I would not think of living anywhere else.

**Faces in the Crowd – DSHS Clarence Shaw**

Major Clarence R. Shaw (retired U.S. Army Reserve) began his military career in 1981 and completed Basic and Advanced Individual training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina. He was first assigned as an Administrative Specialist at the United States Military Academy, West Point, New York.

Upon his release from active duty, Major Shaw pursued his post-secondary education and with a burning desire to continue to Soldier, he joined the California Army National Guard. In 1994 he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant and was assigned to the Field Artillery Branch. He then transferred to the U.S. Army Reserve and his career as an officer would lead to many life-changing assignments including active duty assignments, federal call-ups, state-side mobilizations, overseas deployments and participation in a myriad of training missions around the globe.

Key assignments include Platoon Leader, Executive Officer, Rear-Detachment Commander, Company Commander, Logistical Officer, Policy Officer, Financial Management Officer, Training and Operations Officer, Battalion Executive Officer, Internal Review Auditor, Budget Officer, and Senior Human Resources Officer.

MAJ Shaw earned a master’s degree in Public Administration from California State University and a bachelor of arts in Political Science from the University of Arkansas-Pine Bluff. Military Schools include: Field Artillery Officer Basic Course, Adjutant General Captain Career Course, Finance Officer Advanced Career Course, Internal Review Course, Anti-Terrorism Level-2, and Support Operations courses.
Veteran’s career growth lunch program continues to flourish

By VERG members

On February 6, The Career Growth and Development sub-committee of the VERG held the third lunchtime learning event for veterans and family members. The theme was VA and State educational benefits and with over 50 attending via in person or WebEx it was our most successful ever!

The next lunchtime event is scheduled for Tuesday – June 23, 2015; see the flyer announcement on page 13 for more information.

To discuss or suggest future lunch topics, contact DOL Human Resource Consultant, Lonnie Spikes via email at lspikes@dol.wa.gov.

"Let every nation know, whether it wishes us well or ill, that we shall pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend, oppose any foe to assure the survival and the success of liberty." – President John F. Kennedy
Joint Base Lewis McChord Career Days

continued from page 1

The Resume Reviews were set up to help provide service members feedback, and give them an edge to presenting themselves well to companies and industries they apply with. It also was set up to help assist with cross-walking KSA’s, finding terminology translation for military experience for civilian.

The Networking Social was to assist service members with tips and feedback on their job search in a relaxed and informal setting.
Faces in the Crowd – DOH Irina Tiginyanu

My name is Irina Tiginyanu. I began my path with Washington State Department of Health September 2014. I am a Consultant for the Pharmacy Commission; my main focus is helping with the Pharmacy Technician licensing, education, and Pharmacy Technician practice. I have a part of Rule writing for the Pharmacy, and also assist with the Board of Naturopathy. I am extremely motivated helping improve the quality of education in the Pharmacy field, and helping out of state personnel gain their license. I really enjoy learning new things; in this case the Pharmacy and Naturopathy have been eye openers.

My career with the military started just over 3 years ago. I have been part of the Air National Guard from the start, in the Security Forces (military police). Within my time in the ANG, I had the privilege to meet some of the most influential people that motivated me to constantly learn and always keep moving forward. I have successfully completed numerous specialty training that prepared me for my first Combat assignment as a Fly Away Security team member in Afghanistan. I had the opportunity to set my foot on some of the challenging locations as well as be a part of unexpected and interesting experiences. These events definitely changed my outlook on my goals and my life at home.

Currently I am a student working towards a four year degree. I am a proud owner of an awesome Doberman, Kira. I have a large immediate and second family that I absolutely cherish, especially my father that has been a constant in my life throughout the challenges in my professional and personal life. Ever since my family moved to United States from Moldova, Washington has been my first home that I absolutely love.

I enjoy spending time with my friends and family, especially my nieces and nephews. I enjoy being outdoors and finding new adventures. Traveling has always been a big motivator for me, but coming back home was always the best feeling.

I am excited to be a part of creating better environment for patient care. And look forward to see how much can be done.

“Our debt to the heroic men and valiant women in the service of our country can never be repaid. They have earned our undying gratitude. America will never forget their sacrifices.” – President Harry S. Truman
Today the Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs was honored to receive a prestigious Abraham Lincoln Pillars of Excellence Award from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

VA Secretary Robert A. McDonald and National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs President and State Commissioner of the North Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs Lonnie Wangen presented the award to WDVA Director Alfie Alvarado-Ramos at a special Ceremony.

WDVA received the award in the category of Innovative State Programs with the Washington State Transition Model.

In May 2013, Governor Inslee signed Executive Order 13-01, Veteran Transition Support, empowering the Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs and Washington State to establish innovative strategies to help rebuild Washington’s economy, to return our veterans to full employment, and to help our veterans and their families effectively navigate the transition to civilian life.

The Executive Order directed the creation of the Washington State Military Transition Council and the Washington State Veteran Employee Resource Group. As a result of Military Transition Council’s development of the Washington State Transition Map, the Pacific Mountain Workforce Developmental Council received a $5.6 Million Department of Labor National Emergency Grant Camo2Commerce to serve 900 exiting service members at Joint Base Lewis McChord. And, the Veteran Employee Resource Group has helped to increase newly state hired veterans by 40% over the last year. The incredible work that takes place between your WDVA and our JBLM, military, corporate, not for profit and Veterans Services Organization partners is a national best practice,” said Alfie Alvarado-Ramos, WDVA director. “We have countless people who have broken through the silos and given of themselves and their organizations in order to take a community approach at a community issue, the successful transition our service members and their families.” The Washington State Transition Model is a true collaboration of government, business and non-profit organizations, each focused on their role in helping service members successfully transition from active duty. Through the Military Transition Council, the Washington Department of Veterans Affairs, Employment Security Department, State Board for Community and Technical Colleges, and other county-level organizations began collaborating with Joint Base Lewis McChord with its Army Air Force Career and Alumni Program process. Together, they are creating an integrated solution to help service members become employed Washington State residents as a part of their transition to Veteran status.

In 2014, WDVA received two Pillars of Excellence Awards. One in the category of Increasing Access to VA Benefits and Services with the WDVA/HCA Benefits Enhancement Program, and one in the category of Eliminating Veteran Homelessness by the end of 2015 with the Ending Veterans Homelessness in Washington State Program.

Visit WDVA online to learn more about the Military Transition Council: www.dva.wa.gov.
My name is Matthew Reid. I recently joined the WA State workforce as a Health Service Consultant for the Prescription Monitoring Program within Department of Health in March. This is my first job with the state, and after a career of public service to the nation, I really wanted to continue to serve the public and make a difference in the community where I live.

I was born in Victorville, CA and raised in Anchorage, AK. I graduated from Alaska Military Academy at the age of 16 in 2003. I joined the US Army in 2004 as a Financial Management Technician. I completed Basic combat training and Advanced Individual Training at Fort Jackson, SC in September 2004 then attended the Basic Airborne course at Fort Benning, GA.

My duty assignments include 5 years in the 82nd Airborne Division, NC, 3 years on the 106th Financial Management Company, Ansbach, Germany and two combat deployments to Afghanistan totaling 27 months. After completing a successful active duty military career I decided to join the Washington National Guard. While in the Guard I have served as a Human Resources Specialist in the 741st Ordinance Battalion (EOD), Seattle, WA and I am currently assigned to the state Medical Command at Camp Murray. I have loved the challenges of my 11 year military career and I continue to look forward to the many years to come. I am married and have one daughter.

My wife’s name is Jazminn and my daughter is Dessa. They have stuck with me throughout all of the challenges of being a military family and continue to support me through the adventure of starting a civilian life. My family and I love Washington and all that it has to offer. In December 2011 we decided to settle here and make Washington our new home state.

“The cost of freedom is always high, but Americans have always paid it. And one path we shall never choose, and that is the path of surrender, or submission.” -John F. Kennedy
Upcoming Events

Camo2Commerce, in partnership with Soldier For Life Transition Assistance Program (SFL-TAP) is hosting a Government Employment Sector Event, at Hawk Transition Center on Joint Base Lewis McChord.

The VERG has been asked to represent state agencies, speaking to open positions that may be available at each respective agency and also on general information about working for State of Washington.

Please feel free to join us for this sector-specific information session, on **Wednesday, May 13th, from 11am – 1pm.** For more information and event details, contact Andrea Wynne 253-548-4929 or email at awynne@workforce-central.org.

For more information, click on the following link: [http://www.jblmmwr.com/armedforcesday/](http://www.jblmmwr.com/armedforcesday/).
The story of America's quest for freedom is inscribed on her history in the blood of her patriots. - Randy Vader
CAREER GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT LUNCH PROGRAM FOR VETERANS

Attention Employees Who Have Served in the Armed Forces!

Mark your calendars and plan to attend a program to learn about Washington laws that protect/provide important benefits to Washington veterans/service members, including employment protections. The program will also include a discussion of scams targeting veterans/service members.

Date: June 23, 2015
Time: 12:00 Noon to 1:00 P.M.
(Bring your own lunch)

Locations:

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tumwater</td>
<td>AGO 7141 Cleanwater Ln SW</td>
<td>(360) 586-7777</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tumwater, WA 98501</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vancouver</td>
<td>WA State School for the Blind 2214 E. 13th St. Vancouver, WA 98661</td>
<td>(360) 696-6321 X 120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spokane</td>
<td>WorkSource Spokane 130 S. Arthur St. Spokane, WA 99202</td>
<td>(509) 532-3102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seattle</td>
<td>AGO 800 5th Ave, Ste. 2000 Seattle, WA 98104</td>
<td>(206) 464-7744</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Olympia</td>
<td>DOL 421 Black Lake Blvd, Olympia, WA 98507</td>
<td>(360) 902-4066</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yakima</td>
<td>WorkSource Yakima 306 Division St. Yakima, WA 98902</td>
<td>(509) 574-0120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tacoma</td>
<td>AGO 1250 Pacific Avenue Suite 105 Tacoma, WA 98401</td>
<td>(253) 593-2230</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Everett</td>
<td>WorkSource Veteran Serve Center 3201 Smith Ave. Suite #110 Everett, WA 98201</td>
<td>(425) 258-6344</td>
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</table>

The event features John Nelson is a consumer protection attorney with the Washington State Attorney General’s office (Seattle), where he focuses on litigation involving unfair and deceptive business practices targeted towards veterans and service members. Prior to joining the Office of the Attorney General, Mr. Nelson was an Army JAG officer for nine years, where he served as a prosecutor, legal assistance attorney, operational law attorney, and deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He is a graduate of the University of Kansas School of Law.

What is the registration process? Send an email to DOL Human Resource Consultant Lonnie Spikes at lspikes@dol.wa.gov by June 15, 2015 to reserve your seat at your location.
Dear Business Professional:

We would like to extend an invitation to you and your organization to participate in South Puget Sound Community College’s Veterans Career Fair on Wednesday, June 24, 2015 from 11am-2pm. The Fair will be held in SPSCC’s Center for Student Success which is the location of the WSECU Center for Career Services and the Veterans and Military Family Resource Center. We have space for 30 employers to participate in this exciting opportunity to connect with Veteran’s who are seeking employment in the Puget Sound area. A nominal registration fee of $10 per employer will secure your place.

Space is limited and will be reserved on a first-come-first-served basis. If you plan to attend this year’s event, the reservation deadline will be Friday, May 29, 2015. Our Veterans Career Fair is designed to provide Veterans with an opportunity to meet with employers to explore career options. The Fair is open to the public so a diverse representation of students and community members will be present. The format is informal with no structured presentation required. A six-foot table will be provided for each guest organization. There will be ample room to display printed or other resource materials that you would like to share with our students. If you think you will need additional table space for tabletop displays, please remember to make note of that when you complete your online registration. Although dependent on available space, we will make every attempt to accommodate your space requirements. For employers, the Veterans Career Fair can provide a great opportunity to meet with Veterans and share information about career fields in your industry. You will be able to share your company information with potential employment candidates. Additionally, you will also have the opportunity to learn more about our employer services, and our internship and work study programs.

If you are interested in registering for the Veterans Career Fair, please email me at dwilliams@spscc.edu so I can send you the link to complete your registration online. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 360-596-5489. - Kind regards, Dawn Williams, Career Services Specialist, SPSCC Center for Career Services
Hello,

You are invited to attend Boot2Work 2015, the military career and outdoor expo. During this annual event, you will meet over 500 highly motivated veterans, spouses and transitioning service members actively seeking full-time, part-time, and seasonal employment. There will also be an opportunity to connect with outreach programs and resources. Don't miss this unique opportunity to fulfill your workforce needs. **Space is limited, so register NOW!**

**Registration:** [click here](#) to register as an Exhibitor  
[click here](#) to register as a Veteran Service Organization

**When:** August 20, 2015  
**Time:** 9am-3pm  
**Where:** Cheney Stadium, 2502 S Tyler St, Tacoma, WA 98405

**Become a Boot2Work 2015 Sponsor!** Details are available on the registration page and see flyer above.  
Have questions or need additional information? Please contact Sarah Wright, at [boots2work@workforce-central.org](mailto:boots2work@workforce-central.org) or call 253-365-5987.
WASHINGTON STATE
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MILITARY TRANSITION SUMMIT

SEPTEMBER
22-24, 2015

Joint Base Lewis McChord
www.wamilitaryalliance.org

Look for more information in the next issue.
Communication’s Sub-Committee Roster

Leialani Jensen (DOR)
Becky Boutilier (DSHS)
Mike Stout (DFI)
Bill Allman (HCA)
Tommy Simpson (DOH)
Scott Bloom (DVA)
Sheryl Whitcomb (L&I)
Bob Euliss (RCO)
Fletcher Mansfield (DFW)
Stacey Moore (HCA)

DO YOU HAVE IDEAS FOR NEWSLETTER MATERIAL? SUBMIT YOUR INFORMATION TO THE VERG COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE FOR OUR NEXT QUARTERLY LETTER!

CONTACT: LEIALANI JENSEN (DOR), SUB-COMMITTEE LEAD AT (360) 704-5719 OR LEIALANIJ@DOR.WA.GOV