Greetings and welcome to the special summer double edition (June/July) of the Office of Tribal Government Relations (OTGR) newsletter. As we go to print, we welcome the new Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Secretary Robert McDonald and look forward to his leadership in the days ahead. We will make recommendations for Mr. McDonald to meet with tribal leaders and to visit Indian Country in the very near future and we also encourage our readers to offer suggestions for venues, tribal leaders and communities he should visit and meet with as well. Access to care and benefits is critical for all of our Veterans and the opportunity to see firsthand how tribal communities are working with federal, state and private partners to achieve this goal is incredibly important as we work to build bridges and ensure access is achieved for our Veterans.

Each one of our specialists has been on the road this summer, facilitating training and informational sessions between tribal leaders, Veteran service providers and Veterans. During the month of June, I participated in Senator Heidi Heitkamp’s Native American Veterans Summit held on the campus of United Tribes Technical College in Bismarck, North Dakota. Senior officials from the Indian Health Service (IHS Director Dr. Yvette Roubideaux) and the VA (Ms. Lavonne Liversage, Director, Fargo VA Medical Center and Jim Brubaker, Director of the Sioux Falls Regional Office among others) were on hand to listen to the concerns, priorities and challenges experienced by Veterans living in Indian Country. The session was very productive and Department of Interior Secretary Sally Jewell made an appearance and offered remarks towards the end of the day-long session.

In July, I had the opportunity to visit the Lac Courte Oreilles reservation in Wisconsin. Topics of discussion included innovative approaches to Veteran housing, the role of service officers, creating connections between tribal vocational rehabilitation programs and the VA and also discussions regarding the VA/Tribal Health Program Reimbursement Agreement process. Meanwhile, up in Alaska, the Veteran’s Health Administration, Office of Rural Health (ORH) Director, Gina Capra and Veteran’s Benefits Administration Loan Guaranty Director Mike Frueh (accompanied by Native American Direct Loan (NADL) program officer Ivonne Perez) are traveling this week to Alaska, home to 229 federally recognized tribal entities, visiting with tribal officials and Veterans living in remote communities in order to gain a better understanding of the cultural strengths and partnership opportunities that have arisen as a result of developing creative ways to serve Veterans living in remote Alaska.

The Office of Rural Health has supported a number of projects in Alaska in recent years, so this visit provides an opportunity for Ms. Capra to witness the good efforts first hand. Mr. Frueh is looking forward to signing the first NADL Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in Metlakatla, and working to establish many more NADL MOUs across the state. The NADL MOU opens doors for Native Veterans living in tribal communities to achieve the dream of home ownership. Mr. Frueh’s visit this week has its origins in the 2012 VA Tribal Consultation focused on NADL that was facilitated with support from the Alaska Native Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium and Alaska Native Health Board. Prior to the tribal consultation, there was a lack of awareness that this opportunity was available in Alaska, so this visit is an important positive effort in honoring this commitment to ensuring access to all of the services and benefits our nation’s heroes have earned through their service as well as advancing the goal of economic sustainability for all Veterans.

On the training and briefing front, OTGR Western Region specialist, Terry Bentley participated and presented at the 2nd Annual Veterans Summit: Gathering of Warriors, hosted by the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde and sponsored by the Native Wellness Institute in Grand Ronde, Oregon. Topics included healthcare, healing, briefings on benefits available from federal, state and non-profit entities as well as important opportunities for networking
among attendees. Over 200 Veterans and their family members attended and made important connections with the VA Portland Medical Center, VA Portland Regional Office, Salem (Oregon) Vet Center and Oregon State Department of Veterans Affairs.

Looking ahead to August, Terry plans attend Camp Chaparral, which is held on the sacred ground of the Yakama Indian Nation in Washington. Each year Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN) 20 sends 60 VA staff to attend Camp Chaparral which is an experiential sensitivity training hosted by the Yakama Nation. She is also busy with planning the Western Region Veterans Training Summit hosted by the Smith River Rancheria in Smith River, California September 18-19.

Over in the Southern Plains and Southwest Regions, OTGR specialist Mary Culley and Homana Pawiki participated in the Society of American Indian Government Employees (SAIGE) conference Veterans track during the month of June. Mary spent the summer planning the Veterans Training Summit to be held in Durant, Oklahoma (co-sponsored by the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma) at the end of August. She also stayed busy in the tribal relations arena by working the phones with VA colleagues and tribes throughout the Southern Plains region, discussing diverse topics such as how to coordinate tribally sponsored Stand Downs for homeless Veterans, coordinating Veteran enrollment fairs with tribal health programs and discussions focused on housing needs for Veterans.

Homana presented to and participated in tribal Veteran representative training hosted by the State of New Mexico Department of Veterans Affairs and has also stayed very busy working with the local planning committee for the upcoming Veterans Training Summit that will be held in Towaoc, Colorado August 20-21.

In the Central Region, Peter Vicaire has been planning the upcoming Veterans Training Summit to be held August 7 and 8 on the Spirit Lake Reservation in Ft. Totten, North Dakota. Earlier this month, Peter provided a briefing to the Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council during their meeting on the Stockbridge-Munsee reservation.

A quick note about the Veterans Training Summits, our specialists and planning committees are doing an outstanding job of coordinating exceptional agendas for each summit. If you or someone know (tribal leaders, Veterans. Health directors, service providers, family members) is interested in attending, these summits provide an unique opportunity to receive training and information that really can inform tribes and tribal communities with how to develop and advance plans for serving Veterans in Indian Country. Training topics and agendas are developed through a collaborative process, so please, engage in these events, and plan to share your experiences with the group or individually with the VA leadership, service providers and other federal, state and service organizations present.

We also ask our readers to keep the upcoming National Indian Health Board Annual Consumer Conference scheduled for the week of September 8, 2014 on the radar. VA, accompanied by leadership from IHS, will be facilitating tribal consultation focused on the VA/IHS MOU. A Dear Tribal Leader Letter is forthcoming and the Federal Register notice has been posted. Two Veteran specific workshops are also scheduled to be included in the conference workshop offerings, more information will be available on the www.va.gov/tribalgovernment website soon. We hope you find this edition informative and look forward to having the chance to meet with you during our travels in the days ahead. Happy Reading – Stephanie
Terry Bentley and Navajo Code Talker Peter MacDonald with Karuk Elder Shirlee Lincoln at the Gatherin of Warriors Summit, Grande Ronde, OR

VBA Director of Loan Guaranty Mike Frueh shakes hands with Mr. Raymond Theodore of the Board of Knik Tribal Council (Alaska) upon signing a Letter of Intent to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the VBA for the Native American Direct Home Loan (NADL) mortgage program.
Notice of VA Tribal Consultation

the Board’s burden estimates; (2) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information collected; (3) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on the respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology when appropriate; and (4) whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Board, including whether the collection has practical utility. Submitted comments will be considered and also included in the Board’s request for OMB approval.

Description of Collection
Title: End-of-Year Railroad Service Outlook
OMB Control Number: 2140-XXXX
STB Form Number: None
Type of Review: Existing collection in use without an OMB control number
Respondents: The Class I carriers and carriers that are members of ASLRRA
Number of Respondents: An average of 9 carriers respond to this request to voluntarily provide this information.
Frequency: Once per year
Total Burden Hours: Approximately 104 hours for all respondents
Total Time per Respondent: 12 hours
Total Non-hour Burden Cost: $0

Needs and Uses: The shipping community and our economy as a whole depend on reliable and efficient freight rail service. The Board and rail shippers need to understand how carriers plan to meet increased demand for rail service during the peak season, including capital plans for restoring berth capacity. For several years, the Board has asked Class I railroads, along with the ASLRRA member railroads, to provide a forward-looking assessment of their ability to meet end-of-year business demands for rail service, which typically increase during the shipping season. The Board uses this information to monitor efforts by U.S. rail carriers to meet the increased rail demand for rail service.

DATES: Comments on this collection should be submitted by August 28, 2014.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be submitted as “Paperwork Reduction Act Comments, Surface Transportation Board, End-of-Year Railroad Service Outlook.” These comments should be directed to the Office of Management and Budget, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Attention: Patrick Fleiss, Surface Transportation Board, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, NW, Room 348-A, Washington, D.C. 20573.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information regarding the “End-of-Year Railroad Service Outlook,” contact Chris Devito at (202) 245-6201 or cdevito@stb.dot.gov. Assistance for the hearing impaired is available through the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339. For this collection, as well as instructions for the collection, are available on the Board’s Web site at http://www.stb.dot.gov/peakletters123/2012/07/09. For further information regarding the “End-of-Year Railroad Service Outlook,” contact Chris Devito at (202) 245-6201 or cdevito@stb.dot.gov. Assistance for the hearing impaired is available through the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339. This collection, as well as instructions for the collection, are available on the Board’s Web site at http://www.stb.dot.gov/PeakLetters123/2012/07/09.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the PRA, a federal agency conducting or sponsoring a collection of information must display a currently valid OMB control number. A collection of information, which is defined in 44 U.S.C. 3501(2) and 5 CFR 1320.3(c), includes agency requirements or requests that persons submit reports, keep records, or provide information to the agency, third parties, or the public. Section 3507(b) of the PRA requires, concurrent with an agency’s submitting a collection to OMB for approval, a 30-day notice and comment period through publication in the Federal Register concerning each proposed collection of information, including each proposed extension of an existing collection of information.

Dated: July 24, 2014.

Jeffrey Westfall, Chairman

Notice of Tribal Consultation

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
Notice of Tribal Consultation

AGENCY: Department of Veterans Affairs.

SUMMARY: The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Office of Tribal Government Relations (OTGR) will host a Tribal Consultation on the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between VA and the Indian Health Service (IHS) and how the MOU has affected health care for Veterans. The consultation will be held on September 9, 2014, at Hyatt Regency Albuquerque, 3200 Vigil NW, Albuquerque, New Mexico from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Mountain Standard Time.

DATES: Comments must be submitted to VA no later than Wednesday, October 8, 2014.

ADDRESSES: Written comments concerning the consultation may be submitted as follows:


This deadline does not preclude anyone from providing testimony of the session and we will, to the extent that times allows, hear your testimony. For any Tribes unable to present testimony, please be aware that VA will still keep the testimony record open for 30 days after the date of the consultation. All 2014 consultation testimony, as well as official responses from VA, will be shared with tribal governments through a VA tribal consultation report to be disseminated in 2015.

Registration for the consultation is not required, but if you wish to register, please submit your name, tribal or organization, phone, and email address to tribalgovernmentconsultation@va.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Terry Bentley, Tribal Government Relations Specialist/Western Region, VA Office of Tribal Government Relations at (314) 449-1271, or by email at Terry.bentley@va.gov.
The Native American Veteran

Click [HERE](http://projects.aljazeera.com/2014/native-veterans/finding-my-place/) to read a three-part (soon to be four-part) story focusing specifically on Native Veterans. The first is entitled: “Finding my place here: Native American veterans are the highest-serving minority group yet are among the least-served.” The second is titled: “The code for farewell: Saying goodbye to the last Seminole code talker” and the third is “The family left behind: A Native American veteran’s battle with PTSD still haunts those he lived.” A fourth segment, titled “Dancing to Heal” is forthcoming. The website is: [http://projects.aljazeera.com/2014/native-veterans/finding-my-place/](http://projects.aljazeera.com/2014/native-veterans/finding-my-place/)

Fully-Developed Claims for Rural and Native Veterans

As Veterans, you may be hearing a lot about VA’s Fully Developed Claims (FDC) Program and electronic claims, also known as eClaims. You may wonder why they’re important and what they mean for you. If you’re a Veteran that needs to file a disability compensation claim for the first time or you need to submit a new claim for a previous service-related condition, the FDC Program offers a faster, easier way to get a claim decision. Want to receive the fastest decision possible? Make sure you file an FDC electronically as an eClaim. It’s up to two times faster than the traditional claims process. Here’s what you need to know about FDCs and eClaims:
To file an FDC, gather all the required documents needed to support your claim, submit them at the same time as your application, and verify that you have no other evidence to submit. It’s that simple. Filing an FDC online is also easier than ever using the VA/DoD eBenefits web portal. When you file your FDC electronically using eBenefits, it reduces the amount of paper and development time associated with the traditional claims process, allowing your claim to be processed faster.

Electronic FDCs are definitely the way to go, but if you’re a Veteran who lives in a rural or remote place far away from a VA Regional Office, or you lack computer and internet access, you may wonder how you can take advantage of the benefits of the FDC Program and electronic filing.

VA recommends that you appoint and work with an accredited Veterans Service Organization (VSO) representative to help file your claim. Accredited VSOs can be found across the country and offer free, expert assistance throughout the claims process. You can work with them in person or by phone. VSOs can access important forms, upload documents to your application, and ultimately submit claims on your behalf. They can even help you file a paper FDC for disability compensation or pension, and make sure your claim is complete before you submit it. Accredited VSOs are the best way for all Veterans to receive the claim help they need. To view a list of accredited VSOs near you, visit www.ebenefits.va.gov, www.va.gov/vso or call VA toll-free at 1-800-827-1000. If you don’t have access to a VSO or a computer, consider visiting your local library or community center. They often have computers and free internet access that you can use to file your claim. Once you sign up for a free Premium eBenefits Account, you can begin filing a claim online from any computer using your unique username and password. Just remember to log out of all public computers completely when you’re finished.

Don’t feel like you have to miss out on the FDC Program and its benefits. Contact an accredited VSO for help filing an eClaim or electronic FDC, or visit www.eBenefits.va.gov and follow the guided step-by-step process to start your electronic claim application. Agents at VA’s toll-free number 1-800-827-1000 can also answer any questions you may have. Take control of your claim and file an electronic FDC today!
Arizona Lawmaker Wants to Designate Highways to Honor Native Vets

Click HERE to read the original story, which was published in Powwows.com and click HERE for a longer article from the Tucson Sentinel

Rep. Jamescita Peshlakai, D-Cameron, a member of the Navajo Nation and an Army veteran herself, wants to honor Native Americans who have served their country. She proposes that portions of highways that pass through Navajo and Hopi land would adopt new names honoring Native American veterans. Tucson Sentinel reports that Peshlakai introduced four memorials this year that would urge the Arizona Department of Transportation to make these changes: for U.S. 89, Native American Veterans Highway; for U.S. 160, Native American Women Veterans Highway; for State Route 264, Native American Code Talker Highway; and for I-40, Navajo Code Talker Trail.

He Was Their Last Original Voice, Code Talker Chester Nez Walks On

Click HERE to read the original Indian Country Today story. Also, go to this link to see a 2012 documentary [22:07] on Mr. Nez

World War II has been over for more than 65 years, and the outcome of that war has largely been credited to the work of the original 29 Navajo code talkers. Today, [June 4, 2014] the last survivor, Chester Nez walked on according to family members speaking to KOAT.com. He was 93. For more than a decade the Navajo veteran had been devoted to educating people about the work that the code talkers did. Even into his 90s, Nez, who signed his name Cpl. Chester Nez, could be seen wearing his code talker uniform at public appearances while sharing the proud history with youth at colleges and schools across the country. His devotion to sharing the story of how 29 men developed a code in their Native language that stymied Japanese forces ultimately helping the U.S. military win the war in the Pacific was unmatched. The code talkers mission was so secretive they could not talk about it until 23 years after the war ended, and 55 years later the men were honored properly for their services.

The Navajo citizen was recruited for the code talker program after enlisting in the Marines shortly after Japan attacked Pearl Harbor in December 1941
according to an ICTMN story from 2011. The 29 men spent several months developing the code before being dispatched to the South Pacific. Nez was always “proud to serve as a Marine, and proud that his language – which he had been forbidden to speak while in boarding school – helped win the war in the Pacific,” the ICTMN story stated. In 2011 Nez released Code Talker, the only memoir by one of the original Navajo code talkers.

THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON

June 16, 2014

Mr. Ben Shelly
President
The Navajo Nation
Office of the President and Vice President
P.O. Box 7880
Window Rock, AZ 86515

Dear President Shelly:

On behalf of the Department of Veterans Affairs, I offer the Navajo Nation our deepest condolences over the loss of our last original Navajo Code Talker, Corporal Chester Nez.

As we mourn the loss of the last of this group — great Americans and courageous warriors, we remain encouraged and inspired by their monumental contributions to our Nation's security during World War II through use of their native languages. These heroes served to secure and preserve our freedoms and way of life with the very words many native people were prohibited to speak under oppressive circumstances.

We are eternally grateful to the Navajo Code Talkers for their honorable service. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Navajo Nation and the family of Corporal Nez at this time of loss and reflection on his great legacy.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
Sloan D. Gibson
Acting Secretary
How to Establish Reimbursement Agreements Between the VA and Tribal Health Programs

See below for a recently made video [58:13] explaining the process for Tribal Health Programs (THPs) to enter into a reimbursement agreement with VA for treating Veterans. [http://www.ustream.tv/channel/va-channel-2](http://www.ustream.tv/channel/va-channel-2). As of June 27, 2014, there has been over $8.5 million reimbursed by VA to IHS and THPs. To begin the process to be reimbursed by VA for serving American Indian Veterans, send an initial inquiry to: tribal.agreements@va.gov.

ASIA Washburn Announces New Initiative to Hire More American Indian and Alaska Native Veterans to Work in Indian Affairs


Office of the Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Contact: Nedra Darling
June 14, 2014 (202) 219-4152

Assistant Secretary Washburn Announces New Initiative to Hire More American Indian and Alaska Native Veterans to Work for Indian Affairs

WASHINGTON, D.C. – On the heels of President Obama’s historic visit yesterday to the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe of North and South Dakota, Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs Kevin K. Washburn today announced the implementation of a new initiative to hire more American Indian and Alaska Native veterans to work for Indian Affairs.

“In building a 21st century workforce, we recognize the importance of attracting and retaining veterans in this organization,” said Assistant Secretary Washburn. “Individuals who have served in the Armed Forces have a proven track record for integrity, discipline and leadership, and are highly qualified candidates in a variety of occupations throughout Indian Affairs.”

To achieve the goal of hiring more American Indian and Alaska Native veterans throughout Indian Affairs offices and bureaus, Washburn announced plans to increase the number of Indian veterans hired from the current rate of 9 percent to 12.5 percent.

Indian Affairs bureaus, regional offices and agencies provide a wide range of direct services to American Indian and Alaska Natives and already utilize an Indian Preference policy in hiring. Nearly 100 percent of the positions in the Office of the Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs, the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Bureau of Indian Education are staffed with American Indian and Alaska Native employees through Indian Preference. Indian Affairs officials are interested in hiring veterans prior to their discharge from the Armed Forces and are actively seeking members of the National Guard and reserves who are looking for careers that serve Indian Country.

-Continued-
Akwesasne Mohawk Veteran Signs First On-Territory VA Housing Loan

Akwesasne, NY – Mr. Dennis Phillips, a Marine Corps veteran, became the first Native American veteran in Akwesasne to sign for a home loan through the US Department of Veterans Affairs Native American Direct Loan (NADL) Program on Tuesday, June 24, 2014 at the Akwesasne Housing Authority administration building. Mr. Phillips remarked, “It feels pretty good”, as he penned his signature on the home loan agreement that will begin the process of financing the construction of his single family home. He will build his home on his family’s property within the territory of Akwesasne as soon as his agreement is submitted back to the VA.
This loan, made possible through a Memorandum of Understanding between the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe and the US Department of Veterans Affairs, was signed on December 7, 2013 at an official signing ceremony held at the American Legion Post 1479. Personnel from the VA, the Akwesasne Housing Authority, Legionnaire Officers, and the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe, with several community members, came together to celebrate the signing and invited veterans to apply for a housing loan through their NADL Program. A follow-up informational session was held to bring specific NADL program information to interested Mohawk veterans. Retha Herne, Executive Director of the AHA stated, “Since the MOU signing, the AHA has received several inquiries and assisted tribal veterans with their applications, and will continue to encourage Mohawk veterans to seek this specialized housing financing.”

Mr. Phillips began his loan application with the VA after having begun a loan application through HUD’s Section 184 Home Guarantee Loan Program, but thought he may receive a more competitive interest rate with the VA. Indeed, he qualified, and the rate he received saved him 1.5%, plus there is no down payment requirement. With the AHA’s assistance, Mr. Phillips submitted his paperwork to the VA’s Tribal Affairs office in Cleveland, Ohio. Within six months, he received his final approval, and is well on his way to securing his modular home purchase with Plattsburgh Housing, and will hire the firm to complete the setting of his home on his property. Closing is slated for early Fall.

When asked if he was at all concerned that this program may not fit the housing needs of his family, Dennis replied, “No, because I believe in the benefits I am entitled to as part of my service [in the military].” Dennis also expressed that the process was not difficult “as long as you follow the step-by-step procedures”. Dennis stated that the hardest thing about applying for this loan was to track down his DD214, but he received assistance through the Franklin County Office of Veterans Affairs, Ms. Bonnie Stewart, who helped him receive his complete DD214 (Certificate of Release/Discharge) and his COE (Certificate of Eligibility), which are absolute requirements by the VA to apply for a direct loan. His advice to other would-be applicants for the NADL Program was to ask questions to those who can help. He worked closely with Mr. Mark Jamison, from the Regional VA Office in Cleveland, who was available to him any time he called.

Mr. Dennis Phillips and family will move into their new home in early Fall. After the signing of his agreement, he received many handshakes and a loud round of applause. The AHA is thrilled to have assisted Mr. Phillips with his VA loan. Congratulations to him and his family!

Other Akwesasne Veterans can make inquiries to the AHA to start the process and receive assistance in applying for their loan. Retha Herne stated, "We are hopeful that more Akwesasne Veterans take advantage of this program that is finally available here in Akwesasne". Akwesasne Veterans wishing to look into the program can check out the website of the Veterans Affairs: www.homeloans.va.gov. Copies of the SRMT/VA MOU are also available, and AHA can assist most Akwesasne Veterans with this process. Contact AHA staff at 518-358-9020.
4 Tribes in Kansas Pass Resolution Urging Congress to Restore Illegally Withheld State Taxes

For 24 years (1977-2001) American Indians in the armed forces, though domiciled on the reservation, were improperly taxed by the states in which their reservations are located. In 2004, New Mexico (then) Representative Tom Udall introduced to the 108th Congress, Bill H.R. 5275 (American Indian Veterans Pay Restoration Act - attached) which was intended to reimburse those lost wages. The bill was co-sponsored by Rep. George Miller [CA-7]; Rep. Nick Rahall, II [WV-3]; and Dale Kildee [MI-5]. On October 7, 2004, it was referred to the House Committee on Armed Services but nothing came of it and it has since been abandoned. In 2008, the state of New Mexico began returning to Native veterans these improperly held wages. So far, it is the only state to do so.

In June of last year, the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) passed a resolution urging Congress to restore these lost wages. The Four Tribes in Kansas also recently passed a resolution urging Congress to restore these lost wages. For more information on this issue, or to request documents for further reading, please contact Peter Vicaire at Peter.Vicaire@va.gov or 651-405-5676.
RESOLUTION OF THE FOUR TRIBES IN KANSAS
Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska
Kickapoo Tribe of Indians of the Kickapoo Reservation in Kansas
Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation
Sac and Fox Nation of Missouri in Kansas and Nebraska

RESOLUTION No. 2014-4

WHEREAS: Each of the four above-named Indian Tribes in Kansas (the “Four Tribes”) are federally-recognized and sovereign Indian Tribes and maintain a government to government relationship with the United States.


WHEREAS: Historically, Native Americans serve the U.S. Military at a higher rate than any other ethnic group. Ensuring the welfare of tribal military veterans has been a sacred tradition since the founding of the United States and a cause for which they have put their lives at risk.

WHEREAS: Since 1977 the United States military withheld state income tax from the paychecks of Native American service members who were domiciled on Indian land. Under federal statutory law and federal legal principles related to state income taxation of Native American individuals, Native American military service members domiciled on Indian land are exempt from state income tax on their military pay.

WHEREAS: In 2001, the Department of Defense ended withholding state income tax from each Native American service member’s pay in response to a memorandum opinion issued by the U.S. Department of Justice. The opinion stated that federal law and federal legal principles regarding the taxation of Native American individuals preempted the withholding of state income tax from the military pay of Native service members domiciled on Indian land.

WHEREAS: The U.S. Department of Defense currently provides Form 208-2 enabling Native American Veterans who are domiciled on Indian land to prevent state income tax withholding from their military pay, however, this practice does nothing for the Veterans who were improperly taxed prior to 2001.

WHEREAS: The Four Tribes of Kansas have many tribal members who have served the United States through their military service and many of these Veterans were victims of this illegal taxation. The Four Tribes of Kansas greatly respect their tribal Veterans and the services they provided to the United States and thus, the Four Tribes support restoring improperly withheld pay to the eligible Native American Veterans and service members.

WHEREAS: The Four Tribes of Kansas urge the U.S. Congress to take action to restore the improperly withheld pay to the eligible Native American Veterans and service members. The Four Tribes of Kansas stand with the National Congress of American Indians in support of restoring pay improperly withheld as state income tax by the U.S. Military to eligible Native service members and veterans.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE Four Tribes in Kansas do hereby request that the U.S. Congress take immediate action to restore the improperly withheld pay to the eligible Native American Veterans and service members.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing Four Tribes Resolution was considered at their meeting on the 21st day of February 2014, at which all of them were present, and it has been duly approved by each of the Tribes.

Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska

Tim Reed, Chairman
Attest: D. David Kent

Kickapoo Tribe of Indians of the Kickapoo Reservation in Kansas

Steve Crow, Chairman
Attest: "..."

Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation

Stephen R. Qualls, Chairman
Attest: "..."

Sac and Fox Nation of Missouri in Kansas and Nebraska

Biggie Ringbloom, Chairman
Attest: "..."
United States Agency for International Development (USAID)

Internship Opportunity
Facilitated by The Washington Center for Internships and Academic Seminars

Paid Position
Located in Washington, DC
Full-Time Work Experience
Housing Provided
Transportation Stipend Provided

The Washington Center for Internships and Academic Seminars encourages any interested Native American Veterans to apply for this scholarship. Qualified applicants and should contact Alexandra Gavis at Alexandra.Gavis@twc.edu or 202-238-7953 for further information.
VA Grants Will Expand Transportation in Highly Rural Areas - Veterans to Have Easier Access to Health Care

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the White House Rural Council today [July 11, 2014] announced the award of eight grants, totaling $815,051.50, which will improve access to health care for Veterans living in highly rural areas. The grants will assist over 11,000 Veterans in 7 states and 56 counties by providing up to $50,000 per highly rural area to fund transportation services for Veterans to and from VA medical centers and other facilities that provide VA care. The grants are part of a program authorized by Congress to help state Veterans Service Agencies (SVSAs) and Veterans Service Organizations (VSOs) operate or contract for transportation services to transport Veterans to VA medical centers and other facilities that provide VA care.

In July 2013, VA began accepting applications for grants to help state Veterans Service Agencies and VSOs operate or contract for transportation services to transport Veterans to VA medical centers and other facilities that provide VA care. A new regulation establishes the program that will administer these grants. Transportation will be provided at no cost to Veterans.

“VA is committed to ensuring that all Veterans, including those who live in rural and remote areas, have access to the health care they have earned through service to our country,” said Acting Secretary of Veterans Affairs Sloan D. Gibson. “These grants will play a critical role in expanding access to VA healthcare for Veterans.”

Organizations awarded the grants include:

- Virginia Department of Veteran Services ($8,825.00 for one county in VA) approximately benefiting over 89 Veterans;
- American Legion Post 20 ($49,764.00 for one county in S.D.) approximately benefiting 1,507 Veterans;
- Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 8988 ($80,000.00 for two counties in CA) approximately benefiting 849 Veterans;
- Nevada Department of Veteran Affairs ($46,850.00 for one county in Nevada) approximately benefiting 1,285 Veterans;
- Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 7202 ($150,000.00 for 13 counties in far west Texas) approximately benefiting 1,579 Veterans;
- Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs ($100,000.00 for two counties) approximately benefiting 1,756 Veterans; and
- North Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs ($379,612.50 for 36 counties in N.D.) approximately benefiting 5,477 Veterans.
Solicitation of Project Proposals for Bus and Bus Facilities Program, Ladders of Opportunity Initiative

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) announces the availability of approximately $100 million from recoveries from the Section 5309 Bus and Bus Facilities Program authorized by the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient, Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU), Public Law 109–59 and prior authorizations. Additional recoveries or other unallocated program funding may result in additional funding for proposals submitted under this notice. Synopses and full announcement are posted on Grants.gov site as opportunity FTA-2014-004-TPM. Proposals must be submitted electronically through Grants.gov website by midnight Eastern Time on August 4, 2014. [http://www.fta.dot.gov/grants/13077_16008.html](http://www.fta.dot.gov/grants/13077_16008.html)

**Summary:** This Ladders of Opportunity Initiative makes funds available to public transportation providers to finance capital projects to replace, rehabilitate, and purchase buses and related equipment and to construct bus-related facilities, including programs of bus and bus-related projects for assistance to subrecipients that are public agencies, private companies engaged in public transportation, or private non-profit organizations. Projects may include costs incidental to the acquisition of buses or to the construction of facilities, such as the costs of related workforce development and training activities, and project development.

**Eligible Applicants:** Eligible Applicants include “Direct Recipients” within the meaning of FTA’s Section 5307 Urbanized Area Formula program, States, or Indian Tribes are eligible to submit proposals for this initiative. Except for projects proposed by Indian Tribes, proposals for funding eligible projects in rural (nonurbanized) areas must be submitted as part of a consolidated State proposal. States and Direct Recipients may also submit consolidated proposals for projects in urbanized areas. Proposals shall contain projects to be implemented by the Recipient or its subrecipients. Eligible subrecipients include public agencies, private nonprofit organizations, and private providers engaged in public transportation. The proposal must include a detailed statement regarding the role of any public transportation provider who is a project partner but may not be the lead applicant in the implementation of the project.
Honor Flight Program Seeking Native Veterans

**Mission Statement:** Transport America’s veterans to Washington, D.C. to visit those memorials dedicated to honor their service and sacrifices. **Goal:** Helping every single veteran in America, willing and able of getting on a plane or a bus, visit THEIR memorial. **Priority:** Top priority is given to America’s most senior heroes — survivors of World War II and any veteran with a terminal illness who wishes to visit THEIR memorial. The program will naturally transition to Korean War, Vietnam War and all other veterans who served, on a chronological basis. **Eligibility:** All men and women serving stateside or overseas **Philosophy:** Since America felt it was important to build a memorial to the service and the ultimate sacrifice of her veterans, the Honor Flight Network believes it’s equally important that they actually get to visit and experience THEIR memorial. More information can be found at: http://www.honorflight.org
FCC ONAP ANNOUNCES TRIBAL NATION TRAINING AND CONSULTATION WORKSHOP ON THE YUROK INDIAN RESERVATION, AUGUST 26-28, 2014

FCC Tribal Broadband, Telecom, and Broadcast Training and Consultation Workshop to be held on August 26-28, 2014, at the Headquarters Facilities of the Yurok Tribe in Klamath, California

Hosted by the FCC Office of Native Affairs and Policy and held in coordination with the Yurok Tribe

REGISTER NOW — COMPLIMENTARY REGISTRATION FOR TRIBAL NATIONS IS NOW OPEN

The FCC’s Office of Native Affairs and Policy (ONAP), Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau, announces the date of the next in a series of regional workshops and consultation sessions aimed at training and assisting Tribal Nations in developing more robust broadband, telecommunications, and broadcast infrastructure to serve those living on Tribal lands. It will be conducted at the Yurok Tribal Government headquarters facilities on August 26-28, 2014. Rooms in the “FCC” block code are available at a special rate at the Redwood Hotel Casino by calling 707-482-1777 or 855-729-5138, or via the web at www.ihg.com/holidayinnexpress/hotels/us/en/klamath/cecr/hotteldetail. A draft agenda will be made available soon on the web at www.fcc.gov/native. Along with regional consultation workshops on July 22-24 at the Coeur d’Alene Tribe in Idaho, and September 9-11 on the Leech Lake Reservation in Minnesota, additional events are being planned in Oklahoma and the Eastern region of the United States.

In addition to a two-day program of important information on opportunities and policy information involving Tribal communications and infrastructure issues, on August 27th and 28th, we also announce the launch of an ongoing issue and subject matter “Communications 101” orientation session from 2:00 – 5:00 p.m. on August 26, 2014. This informal workshop is ideally suited for Tribal officials, governmental managers, and enterprise specialists who are new to the subject of telecommunications, broadcast, and broadcast media. This orientation session will cover issues and questions such as:

- What is broadband? What can it do for my Tribal Nation and communities?
- What key words and concepts should I know to help my Tribal Nation improve its telephone, broadband, and broadcast infrastructure? What key information should I know?
- How can my Tribal Nation start up a radio station to broadcast to our own communities?
- How can Tribal Nations develop infrastructure to create better services on Tribal lands? How can Tribal Nations work with the FCC and the communications industries to deploy these services?
- What are the key federal government programs and subsidy mechanisms that support the deployment, sustainability, and affordability of communications services on Tribal lands?
- What is wireless spectrum, and why is it important to my Tribal Nation? What is a megahertz?
- How are telephone and broadband signals sent in underground cables and over the air on mobile phones? What does a wireless network look like? A wireline or fiber network?
- What is the FCC’s role in helping Tribal Nations create better infrastructure? How can I participate in the regulatory process and consult on a nation-to-nation basis with the FCC?
- How can I meet and work with other Tribal Nations or communications providers to get started?

Registration is now open and free of charge — simply email your name, title, and contact information as a Tribal government representative or official to native@fcc.gov or call 202-418-2930. Inquiries for additional information should be sent via email to native@fcc.gov or by calling Lyle Ishida, Policy Advisor, FCC Office of Native Affairs and Policy, at (202) 418-8240.
Monetary Burial Benefits Regulation Change

VA is changing its monetary burial benefits regulations to simplify the program and pay eligible survivors more quickly and efficiently. These regulations, effective today, 7 July 2014, will authorize VA to pay, without a written application, most eligible surviving spouses basic monetary burial benefits at the maximum amount authorized in law through automated systems rather than reimbursing them for actual costs incurred.

- Under the current regulations, VA pays for burial and funeral expenses on a reimbursement basis, which requires survivors to submit receipts for relatively small one-time payments that VA generally pays at the maximum amount permitted by law.
- The new burial regulations will permit VA to pay, at a flat rate, burial and plot or interment allowances thereby enabling VA to automate payment of burial benefits to most eligible surviving spouses and more efficiently process other burial benefit claims.
- The burial allowance for a non-service-connected death is $300, and $2,000 for a death connected to military service.

These changes will help survivors of Veterans bear the cost of funerals by changing regulations to get them the benefits they deserve more quickly.

The monetary burial benefits regulations will do the following:

- Restructure, consolidate, and clarify VA’s current monetary burial benefits regulations to make them easier for Veterans, their survivors, and other stakeholders to understand,
- Clearly establish VA’s priority of payments and enable automated payment to most eligible surviving spouses,
- Remove the requirement for most eligible surviving spouses to file a claim for basic burial allowances and simplify the burial claims process for all beneficiaries,
- Establish in regulations a presumption that VA will pay the service-connected burial allowance for certain Veterans who were rated totally disabled from service-connected conditions at the date of death, and
- Implement portions of Public Law 112-260, authorizing monetary burial benefits for Veterans without wartime service whose remains are unclaimed.
SBA Announces Boots to Business: Reboot An Entrepreneurship Training Course for Veterans

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) will host an entrepreneurship training course for Veterans in 12 U.S. cities beginning July 11. Each two-day “Boots to Business: Reboot” event will be led by representatives from SBA’s resource partners and industry experts from Syracuse University’s Institute for Veterans and Military Families (IVMF).

The two-day “Introduction to Entrepreneurship Class” will teach veterans the fundamentals of business ownership. Participants will learn how to evaluate business concepts, and effective strategies for developing a business plan.

“We have a special obligation to serve those who served us so well: our veterans,” said SBA Administrator Maria Contreras Sweet. “Our armed forces have a track record of producing outstanding leaders. Veterans own nearly 1 in 10 businesses that generate more than $1 trillion in sales a year. “SBA’s Boots to Business program has been very popular with our troops and cost-effective, so we’ve decided to adapt the Boots to Business curriculum for veterans. This summer, in 12 cities across America, we will be hosting a series of events for veterans who’ve already made the transition to civilian life.”

“Boots to Business: Reboot” will adapt the curriculum from SBA’s Boots to Business: From Service to Startup program. A training track within the Department of Defense’s “Transition, Goals, Plans, Success” (Transition GPS) program, Boots to Business is a three-step program developed to introduce transitioning service members to small business ownership. In addition to connecting with local resource networks, participants also have an opportunity to take advantage of the counseling and training offered by SBA’s resource partner network, which include Veteran Business Outreach Centers, Women's Business Centers, Small Business Development Centers and SCORE. The Boots to Business program is supported through SBA’s partnership with Syracuse University’s IVMF. The “Boots to Business: Reboot” events will kick off at the White House on July 11, and will conclude on August 25-26 during the American Legion National Convention in Charlotte, N.C. Below are the cities and dates for “Boots to Business: Reboot”:


For more information about “Boots to Business:Reboot”, visit the Boots to Business website at [www.boots2businessreboot.org](http://www.boots2businessreboot.org). Each year SBA helps more than 200,000 veterans, service-disabled veterans and reservists start and grow their small businesses. To learn more about opportunities for veterans available through the SBA, visit [www.sba.gov/vets](http://www.sba.gov/vets).
The Veteran Job Hunt Process

The following article was written by Camella, a veteran, and VA Office of Tribal Government Relations (OTGR) intern, which provides some personal insight into the job search process.

I am Camella, who happens to be a veteran, a military spouse, and a recent graduate student, who has been unemployed for the past year. This summer I accepted my second internship with the Department of Veterans Affairs to gain further government experience to add to my resume in order to, hopefully, gain employment. Following are the various avenues of networking and searching I have been exploiting.

At my internship site I have gained knowledge of VESO (Veteran Employment Services Office), a partner organization for VA for Vets. This site provides some good resources for the job hunter, offering assessment tools to highlight one’s skills, military job translation tool, and resource guides. For the employers the VEC (Veteran Employment Center) portion is beneficial too. They can be connected directly to veterans who have registered via the site by uploading their resume and completing the various sections offering an overview to employers of their skill set. However, for the veteran the job search entails also having an account through USAJobs.gov, as this is where one is taken when selecting a job for which to apply. I have had a USAJobs account for years, updating it regularly, applying for jobs, and of course updating the various extra pieces of supplement forms that need to be submitted. Hopefully in the future the two sites will merge together offering a transparent experience. Can employers not search through USAJobs.gov for veterans? If not, why not offer this as an avenue.

Maybe the above resource works for certain locations throughout the U.S. but I have had no such luck. There are other resources available to veterans if you know where to look and are actively networking. During graduate school I became connected to Veteran Recruiting because as a veteran we are enrolled into the Student Veterans Center. This translated into having a separate advisor that could assist veterans with any of their needs during their college experience. The Veteran Recruiting is a LinkedIn group in which I receive bi-weekly emails about openings and upcoming virtual career fairs. The group also offers a free professional account for which LinkedIn veterans can apply. By “attending” some of these virtual career fairs I discovered the Veteran Mentor Network, a forum filled with discussions, job postings across the U.S., and veterans asking questions, seeking advice, or asking for a mentor in a sought field. For me these avenues have offered information and advice on local areas, being as I recently relocated again and must start the job hunt anew.

Now that I am living in a new area, the job hunt I find takes a different approach. The Department of Labor has Veteran Employment Representatives (VER), though which I was connected with an individual in my local area to help with the job hunt process. This is the service offered through CareerSource, the one stop shop for veterans seeking employment. This site offers much of the same resources that can be found on
the VESO site. Many businesses that are looking specifically for veterans are connected to this site. A benefit received is one can have face-to-face assistance in their local area. Veterans are offered resume assistance, networking opportunities, invites to veteran career fairs, employment counseling, and enrollment into a local Professional Network group. To begin the search for employment one registers through a local site, in this case employflorida.com. If a veteran happens to not know about the service above, once they register through the site they are contacted and enrolled into the program once they select in the registration process that they are in fact a veteran. In my opinion, this has been a much more seamless process than the aforementioned VESO website, offering opportunities, and a local contact and office I can visit. Further, upon registering and connecting with my local VER I received three job offers within a month. On a similar note one may want to find and register with a local staffing agency. The one I am part of deals in predominantly professional employment, offers development classes, resume services, interview seminars, and has veteran status options.

With all these avenues veterans have options, the silver lining comes in finding these avenues. Jobs can be found, it is finding a career opportunity that is difficult. To the veterans out there I say be diligent, share your experiences, and get involved with the local veteran community.

Senator Heitkamp (North Dakota) Creates Native Veterans Website

“One of my key goals as your U.S. Senator is to make sure all veterans have access to the support and benefits they earned. And an important part of this mission is making sure services and benefits are reaching Native American veterans, who serve in the military at a higher rate than any other ethnic group.

In June, I held my first Native American Veterans Summit in Bismarck, where more than 140 Native veterans and advocates participated. We had a frank discussion about the challenges Native American veterans face in accessing health care and applying for benefits, and it was clear we need to do a better job connecting Native American veterans with helpful information. In response to such challenges, I pledged to create a one-stop-shop resource on my website to help answer Native veterans’ questions. This webpage provides links to information about health care, disability, and education benefits, as well as answers to frequently asked questions. It also provides helpful contact information for local, regional, and national VA facilities. In coming months, a schedule of upcoming events for Native American veterans will be added, as well as other information.”

http://www.heitkamp.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/native-american-veterans
Connecting Veterans with Social Security Administration (SSA) disability benefits is a critical step to increasing income stability for Veterans and their families, as well as providing health insurance for those who may not qualify for Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) health care. Veterans may be eligible for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI), in conjunction with, or as an alternative to VA disability compensation. They may also use the Medicaid and Medicare health benefits that come with SSI/SSDI to supplement VA health services.

The definition of disability and application process is different for SSA and VA disability benefits, and Veterans may begin receiving SSA benefits while they are waiting on a VA benefit decision.

**Definition of Disability**

**VA Benefits**

For disability benefits through the VA, also known as service-connected disability, the applicant must show that they have a disabling condition that was “incurred or aggravated by their military service.” The compensation rates are paid on a graduated scale, based on the degree of a Veteran’s disability, ranging from 10 to 100 percent, in 10 percent increments.

**SSA Benefits**

Alternatively, the definition of disability for SSI/SSDI does not require the Veteran’s disability to be linked to their military service, does not take into account a Veteran’s discharge status, and does not pay on a graduated scale. For SSI/SSDI, the Veteran needs to show:

1. Evidence of a physical or mental health condition, which results in functional impairments that limit their ability to work at a substantial gainful level (quantified as $1070/month in 2014).
2. That the disabling condition has lasted, or is expected to last, for 12 months or end in death.

**SSA Expedited Processing for Veterans**

Veterans may qualify for programs from SSA that expedite disability decisions:

1. **100% Permanent and Total Veterans Initiative**

   In March 2014, SSA introduced a new initiative to expedite the processing of applications from Veterans who have a 100% Permanent and Total (P&T) disability rating from the VA. To receive expedited processing, Veterans should identify themselves as a “Veteran rated 100% P&T” when initiating the SSI/SSDI application, and should provide the VA rating notification letter to SSA.

2. **Wounded Warriors**

   Veterans who received disabling mental or physical health injuries while on active duty on or after October 1, 2001 are eligible for expedited SSI/SSDI application processing, regardless if the injury occurred in the U.S. or in combat. When initiating the SSI/SSDI application, Veterans should inform SSA that their injury occurred while on active duty.

More information about these expedited processes can be found at [www.socialsecurity.gov/veterans](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/veterans).

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OTGR Southern Plains
Absentee Shawnee Tribal Health Awareness Fair
and Veterans Enrollment Event

Absentee Shawnee Tribal Health System

Presents
Health Awareness Fair
for All Generations
Little Axe Health Center
Friday, August 1, 2014
9:00am - 3:00pm

*Parental Consent Required
• Dental Screenings
• Health Screenings
• Free Hair Cuts - Paul Mitchell
• Wound Care & Foot Exams
• Injury Prevention
• Child Safety Seat Install/Inspection

• Veterans Enrollment Information
• Social Security Disability Assistance
• Health Insurance Enrollment
• Medication Management
• DUI Prevention and Simulations
• $5 Free Play - Thunderbird Casino

Feel Cool. Give Blood.
Each Donor Receives:
• A Feel Cool T-Shirt
• Two OKC Zoo Admission Tickets

Photo ID Required

Aboriginal Shawnee Tribal Health System, Little Axe Health Center 405.447.0300
www.asthealth.org www.astrib.com
American Indian Veterans Golf Classic
Limbs for Life Blaze 5k and VA Hero Homecoming

Limbs for Life combines 5K Blaze with VA Medical Center’s annual Hero Homecoming Celebration

Oklahoma City – Limbs for Life Foundation will partner with the Oklahoma City VA Medical Center to host the Blaze 5K Run along with the VA Hero Homecoming for the second year. What were once separate celebrations are now a combined event with a common admiration and support for one another. The events will bring together runners, service members, veterans and their families, and military and non-military amputees on Saturday, August 16th. The Oklahoma City VA Medical Center is encouraging Veterans of ALL eras to attend the Hero Homecoming this year. We also ask that all Oklahomans join us to thank these brave men & women who have so bravely served our country!

A new element for the 2014 event is “Run This Town”, a 3-race series of 5K runs held on consecutive Saturdays in August. The Blaze 5K, benefitting Limbs for Life, is the second in the series. Runners can register for The Blaze at www.signmeup.com/100648 or for all three races at http://downtownokc.com/runthistown

All races will start at 8:00 p.m. at different venues in relation to the nonprofit involved. Runners participating in all three events will receive a special “Run This Town” jacket in addition to the individual race t-shirts. Veterans participating in The Blaze will receive a discount on the race fee for that event. The Blaze and Hero Homecoming event is open to anyone to participate in the festivities by running, walking, or simply showing support for the service members. Booths, activities, and day of event registration will open at 6:30 p.m. A special flag ceremony will be held at 7:30 p.m. Hero Homecoming will include various VA services and veteran benefit resources plus, numerous businesses, non-profit organizations, and family-friendly activities, music, food trucks, and inflatables!

Proceeds from the Blaze 5K and one-mile fun run will benefit Limbs for Life Foundation, which provides prosthetic assistance for amputees without other resources. The race will start at the Chesapeake Boathouse and follow the River Trails out and back. Awards will be given to the top overall male and female runners and top three male and female runners in each age category. The race is officially timed and sanctioned. Participants may register for the Blaze 5K online at www.signmeup.com/100648 or by calling (405) 605-5462. Race registration is $35 in advance and includes the Blaze/Hero Homecoming performance t-shirt. Registration day of race is $40. Discounts are available for military members and groups. For more information about Limbs for Life, visit www.limbsforlife.org or follow at www.facebook.com/limbsforlife and www.twitter.com/limbsforlife. For further information about OKC VA Medical Center, visit http://www.oklahoma.va.gov/ or follow at www.facebook.com/OklahomaCityVAMC
Strengthening Military-Civilian Community Partnerships to Respond to Sexual Assault

Training by Request
An OVC Program

Strengthening Military-Civilian Community Partnerships To Respond to Sexual Assault

Training participants will gain information and skills related to:

- On-installation resources, including the Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC), the military's single point of contact for matters related to sexual assault prevention and response and the military victim advocate.

- Building successful collaborations, including the importance of writing Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) between their community-based program and local military installations to define roles, formalize agreements, and guarantee the longevity and continuity of such agreements.

With the knowledge gained through this training process, in combination with their existing expertise in responding to sexual assault, participants will be able to serve as knowledgeable resources to military installations throughout the United States.

OVC’s Training and Technical Assistance Center (OVC TTAC) provides training to support professional development, enhance services to the community, and expand outreach to underserved victims of crime.

Training Event Details (Lawton, OK):
August 21-22, 2014
8:30 AM - 4:30 PM
Fort Sill Conference Center
6045 Sheridan Road
Fort Sill, OK 73503

To register for the training event, please visit https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/6TP7X09
(This training is provided at no cost to participants.)

Questions? Please contact Jennifer McLaughlin, jennifer@ovcvusa.org at the OK Coalition Against Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault.
VA Office of Tribal Government Relations
Southern Plains Training Summit

SAVE THE DATE
U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Wednesday, August 27th – 8 am – 5 pm
Thursday August 28th – 8 am – 1 pm

Southern Plains Region Veterans Training Summit

SAVE THE DATE
Location: To be Announced at a later Date

For Information Call
(405)456-3876
or
To Register contact
Mary Cullity.va.gov

- Native American Direct Loan (Housing)
- Veterans Justice Outreach Programs
- Veterans Benefits Administration
- Indian Health Service & Tribal Health Collaborations
- Social Security Disability Determination
- VA Healthcare: Reimbursement Agreements
- Office of Rural Health
- Small Business Administration
- U. S. Department of Labor: Veterans Employment Services
- Just to name a few – other agencies will also be on hand providing information booths

If you work with American Indian Veterans, this is your opportunity to give back to those who have served. We will share best practices. Network with a myriad of federal agency professionals who serve Veterans in Indian Country.
Service Members, Veterans, and Families Speed Sharing – Networking

SAVE THE NEW DATE

3rd Annual
SMVF Resource Speed Sharing
(Service Members, Veterans & Families)

Friday, September 26th, 2014
Crossings Community Center (not the church location)
2208 W Hefner Road, Oklahoma City
9:00-12:00pm

A half-day event inviting resources across Oklahoma to participate and share information about their organization specific to assistance for Oklahoma Service Members, Veterans, and Families offered at NO COST!

• Interested participants will be given 3 minutes to share what their organization has to offer SMVF.
• All registrants will also be provided a resource table for networking following the sharing.
• A resource list with contact information of all in attendance will be distributed.

Registration form is provided for those who want to secure a slot early!

Hosted by Veterans’ Families United, Oklahoma Military Behavioral Health Alliance, & Crossings Community Center.
OKLAHOMA VA & COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH SUMMIT
AUGUST 29, 2014, 8:30 AM – 3:00 PM
OKLAHOMA HISTORY CENTER

The Oklahoma City Veterans Affairs Medical Center invites you to a mental health summit. The focus of the summit is to sustain collaboration between the OKC VAMC and the community in providing mental health services for the Oklahoma veterans of our Armed Services. We are asking you to take time from your busy schedule to join us for an opportunity for education, networking, and dialog between the community and the Department of Veterans Affairs. There is no registration fee for the summit. Please RSVP as soon as possible due to limited space.

Please provide the information below:

Name(s): ______________________________________________________________________

Agency: ______________________________________________________________________

Please select two of the break-out sessions below that you are interested in participating in.

☐ Veteran Families ☐ Veteran Employment Programs

☐ Military Sexual Trauma ☐ Veterans in the Justice System

Community participants are invited to learn more about Military Cultural Competence by accessing www.deploymentprc.org/military_culture. VA participants can access the course at http://www.trauma.va.gov. Additionally, the course can be accessed at http://www.health.mil/Training_Center. Participants can take the courses for continued education unit (CEU) credits for physicians, psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers, counselors, and nurses.

We have a limited amount of space for agencies to display pamphlets about their agency/services provided. If you are interested in bringing pamphlets about your agency/services please check here to let us know. ☐

Keynote Speaker for the MH Summit will be GDMHSAS Commissioner Teri White. General Rita Aragon will present on Military Cultural Competency.

Please submit your completed registration form by email to gretchen.rogers@va.gov. You may also submit your registration by fax by faxing your completed registration form to (405) 456-1558 attention Gretchen Rogers.

Lunch: on your own.  RSVP deadline: Noon August 15, 2014  We hope to see you there!

Location: Oklahoma History Center
800 Nazih Zuhdi Drive
Oklahoma City, OK 73105
405-522-0765
okhc@okhistory.org

The Oklahoma History Center is conveniently located on the Northeast corner of N.E. 23rd & Lincoln Boulevard, across the street from the Oklahoma Capitol. For details see a Google map of our location.
OTGR Southwest Region

Free Legal Advice for Veterans – Flagstaff, AZ

Free Legal Advice
For U.S. Veterans and Their Spouses

You Need Not Be Disabled To Obtain Legal Advice

FLAGSTAFF

Sponsored by
Arizona Disabled American Veterans and Arizona Disabled Veteran Foundation

We Will Provide Help In The Following Legal Areas

- Divorce/Custody/Child Support
- Debt Counseling /Bankruptcy
- Real Estate/Housing Issues
- Basic Estate Planning Documents Will Be Provided On-site.
  (Simple Wills, Medical Powers of Attorney, Financial Powers of Attorney)

Saturday, August 16, 2014
9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
American Legion
204 W. Birch Ave
Flagstaff, AZ 86001

A financial need requirement applies. However, most veterans will qualify.

To schedule an appointment and receive forms needed for clinic contact:
  Appointments will have priority over walk-in clients.

Norman Fulton III Legal Clinic Director
480.363.8880 or nsfultoniii@gmail.com

DISCLAIMER: VA assumes no responsibility for the professional ability or integrity of the organizations whose names appear on this list. This referral does not constitute an endorsement or recommendation by VA.
Veterans and Family Members Stories Performed

TELLING ALBUQUERQUE

South Broadway Cultural Center
September 11, 13, 14, 19, 20, 21 2014

We need VETERANS AND FAMILY MEMBERS TO PERFORM THEIR STORIES ON STAGE. Men and women, 18 years of age and older, are invited to interview with our director, Max Rayneard, who will help you turn your story into a performance during the rehearsal process. If you wish to perform, email info@thetellingproject.org ASAP. Videotaped interviews will be July 18-21. Rehearsals Sept 6-10. Performance dates above.

THE TELLING PROJECT ALBUQUERQUE is a testimonial theatrical performance that brings together all generations of veterans, military family members, artists, community partners, and volunteers to increase the understanding between military and civilian community members.

Please contact Caroline LeBlanc with any questions:

wildernessspalding@msn.com
505-330-6964

PARTNERS:

THE MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAN MILITARY FAMILY (MAMF), Albuquerque

The TELLING PROJECT, Texas

&

WORKING GROUP THEATRE, WORKING GROUP THEATER, Iowa
Veterans Health Summit – Flagstaff – August 15

2nd Annual Northern Arizona VA Health Care System
COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH SUMMIT
STRENGTHENING COLLABORATION AND CARE IN SUPPORT
OF SERVICE MEMBERS, VETERANS & THEIR FAMILIES

FRIDAY, AUGUST 15, 2014 - 8:30 - 3:30
(Please see agenda on next page)

NORTHERN ARIZONA UNIVERSITY - FLAGSTAFF, AZ
School of Hotel and Restaurant Management
910 S. Beaver Street, Room 112
Flagstaff, Arizona 86011
(Parking is $10 per day in the San Francisco Street Garage, just south of the training location.
Parking in a government vehicle is free.)

The Northern Arizona VA Health Care System (NAVAHCS), Northern Arizona Regional Behavioral Health Authority (NARBHA) and the Arizona Coalition for Military Families are pleased to invite key stakeholders from military, tribal, government and community organizations to participate in a Community Mental Health Summit focused on strengthening cross-sector collaboration and care for Service Members, Veterans and their Families.

Who should attend?: Summit participation is by invitation and space is limited. Invited organizations can send 1-2 representatives. Representatives should be individuals who have an organizational role focused on outreach, community engagement and collaboration and who can work to strengthen services provided to the military, Veteran and family population internally and externally.

RSVP: Please RSVP online no later than Wed, Aug 6th.

http://2014VAsummit.eventbrite.com

Questions? Please email events@arizonacoalition.org or call 602-753-8802

PRESENTED IN PARTNERSHIP BY

[Logos of Northern Arizona VA Health Care System, NARBHA, Arizona Coalition for Military Families]
veterans Command Center
Sponsor by the V.A. & American Legion

is
hosting a VA Benefit Services Aug. 13:
Time: 9am-4pm
The event will be fully staffed with VA health-care and benefits representatives, benefits claims experts, counselors and others to help veterans get the assistance they require.

at
John J. Morris Post 62
9847 W. Desert Cove, Peoria
99th Ave, North of Peoria Ave

Phillip Walls
V.A. Public Relationship Outreach Partner

Angel Juarez
American Legion State Adjutant
Pueblo of Jemez Honored its WWII Veterans With Honorary Diplomas.

The Pueblo of Jemez is a federally recognized American Indian Tribe located in northwestern New Mexico. Jemez is the only tribe in New Mexico to have chartered two schools located within tribal lands and works collaboratively with its Walatowa Head Start, K-6 BIE operated Jemez Day School and the Jemez Valley Public Schools.

Native Americans comprise the largest sector of U.S. Military by race on a per capita basis and are very patriotic. Members of the Pueblo of Jemez are no different. During World War II, 2 female veterans and 53 male veterans were called to duty and thus, some were unable to complete their education. Because of the value that Jemez Pueblo places on education, the Pueblo honored their few remaining WWII veterans by presenting them with honorary high school diplomas. This special recognition to honor five of these deserving veterans took place on Saturday, June 14, 2014. Ten veterans also received their diplomas posthumously and their surviving relatives were honored.

Pueblo of Jemez Governor Joshua Madalena, spoke to the community and guests, stating, “The Pueblo of Jemez community members are grateful to our World War II veterans for their courage and service to our Country and the freedom we have today.”

Air Force Brigadier General Judy M. Griego, Director of the Jt. Staff National Guard, spoke to the graduates and stated, “I was deeply humbled to be part of this ceremony and mark it as one of the best ceremonies and tributes I ever had the pleasure to be a part of. These World War II veterans will always be remembered as making a difference in our community and in our lives. They paved the way for the new generation of young men and women serving in the Army, Air Force, Navy, Marines, and Coast Guard of today. God Bless each and every one of them for their service and sincerest congratulations.”
Certificates of Recognition to the WWII Veterans were sent from Susana Martinez, Governor of New Mexico. Army Colonel William Dofflemeyer, 47th NM Regt. Honor Guard Commanding Officer and Brigadier General Griego presented these Certificates. Colonel Dofflemeyer had previously presented long over due metals to Veterans PFC Napoleon Loretto and Sgt. Barnaby Romero.

Although each veteran went through intense and heroic moments in their service; at this special event, veterans Cpl. Geronimo Fragua, 27th Tank Battalion and PFC Napoleon Loretto, 45th Infantry were honored by the reading of a Proclamation and given a pin from the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. They each had an active part in the liberation of the Dachau concentration camp.

The keynote speaker, former Navy Lt. Dr. Allen Whitt represented the Veterans History Project through the Museum of the American Military Family. Dr. Whitt interviewed several WWII veterans in the Pueblo along with other staff members from the Veterans History Project (VHP). He praised the WWII veterans for their historic role in America’s defense and celebrated their continuing tradition of Native American service to our country going back to the American Revolution. He noted that in the 20th Century, eight Native Americans have received the nation’s highest military honor: the Congressional Medal of Honor. The interviews are now a part of the Library of Congress and will be preserved for all time. The VHP seeks veterans from all eras to record their stories.

Walatowa High Charter School Principal Arrow Wilkinson presented the Honorary Diplomas to the World War II veterans. In the audience were representatives of up to four generations who cheered the graduates as they walked across the stage to receive their long awaited honorary high school diplomas. The graduates honored were:

Army, Napoleon Loretto
Army, Geronimo Fragua
Air Force, Richard Tafoya

Deceased: Army, Joe G. Chosa
Army, Felix Waquie
Army, Joe Pecos
Army, Pablo Fragua
Army, Nicholas Toledo

Army, Jerome Gachupin
Army, Frank Madalena

Army, Jose R. Magdalena
Army, Joe Coloque
Army, Felix Fragua
Army, Alejandro Fragua
Army, Christina Yepa

This was a momentous and historic event for the Pueblo of Jemez.

Walatowa Veterans Association – 575/834-0122

*****

The gentlemen in the above photo are (sitting l to r) Mr. Frank Madalena, Mr. Jerome Gachupin, Mr. Geronimo Fragua, Mr. Richard Tafoya, & Mr. Napoleon Loretto. The three gentlemen to the far right are the Pueblo of Jemez Governors, (l to r), Mr. Isaac Romero, 2nd Lt. Governor; Mr. Kevin R. Shendo, 1st Lt. Governor and Governor Joshua Madalena (red tie). Back row standing (l to r) Tribal Cacique Stuart Gachupin, Air Force Brigadier General Judy M. Griego, Army Colonel William Dofflemeyer, Navy Lt., Dr. Allen Witt & Interim Education Director, Odessa Waquie, Pueblo of Jemez.
Southwest Native American Veterans Association and the Pueblo of Isleta Veteran’s Association

2014 Southwest Regional Veteran’s Conference

SAVE THE DATE

Empowering Native American Veterans to Speak with One Voice to Shape Policy: Veterans Rising for Healing

September 22-24, 2014
Isleta Resort & Casino
Pueblo of Isleta

For more information, contact:

Ramus Suina:
(505) 920-5047 | rsuina47@gmail.com

Fred Lujan:
(505) 573-3733 | fredruj@iob.com

Carlene Aragon:
(505) 552-5752 | caragon@lagunapueblo-nsn.gov

Provided in partnership between Southwest Native American Veterans Association & the Pueblo of Isleta Veteran’s Association
Northern Arizona VA Community Mental Health Pre-Summit
STRENGTHENING COLLABORATION AND CARE IN SUPPORT OF NATIVE AMERICAN SERVICE MEMBERS, VETERANS & THEIR FAMILIES

August 14—1:00—5:00 p.m.
(Please see agenda on next page)
Northern Arizona University—Flagstaff, AZ
School of Hotel and Restaurant Management
910 S. Beaver Street, Room 112
Flagstaff, AZ 86011
(Parking is $10 per day in the San Francisco Street Garage, just south of the training location. Parking in a government vehicle is free.)

The Northern Arizona VA Health Care System, Northern Arizona Regional Behavioral Health Authority (NARBHA) and the Arizona Coalition for Military Families are pleased to invite key stakeholders from tribal, military, government and community organizations to participate in a Community Mental Health Summit focused on strengthening cross-sector collaboration and care for service member, veterans, and their families.

Who should attend? Summit participation is by invitation and space is limited. Invited organization can send 1—2 representatives. Representatives should be individuals who have an organizational role focused on outreach, community engagement and collaboration and who can work to strengthen services provided to the military, veteran and family population internally and externally.

RSVP: Please RSVP online no later than Wednesday, August 6th by clicking the link below.
http://vacommunitymentalhealthsummit.eventbrite.com

Questions: Please email Holly.Figueroa@narbha.org or call (928) 214.2169.

NARBHA is the Regional Behavioral Health Authority for Apache, Coconino, Mohave, Navajo, and Yavapai counties. Funds for services are provided through a contract with the Arizona Department of Health Services/Division of Behavioral Health Services and AHCCCS.
2nd Annual Northern Arizona VA Health Care System
COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH SUMMIT
STRENGTHENING COLLABORATION AND CARE IN SUPPORT OF SERVICE MEMBERS, VETERANS & THEIR FAMILIES

FRIDAY, AUGUST 15, 2014 - 8:30 - 3:30
(Please see agenda on next page)

NORTHERN ARIZONA UNIVERSITY - FLAGSTAFF, AZ
School of Hotel and Restaurant Management
910 S. Beaver Street, Room 112
Flagstaff, Arizona 86011
(Parking is $10 per day in the San Francisco Street Garage, just south of the training location. Parking in a government vehicle is free.)

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RSVP: Please RSVP online no later than Wed, Aug 6th.

http://2014VASummit.eventbrite.com

Questions? Please email events@arizonacoalition.org or call 602-753-8802

PRESENTED IN PARTNERSHIP BY

[Logos of NARBHA and NAVAHCS]
POW WOW
AUGUST - 22nd-24th
$32,000 DANCE
$7500 DRUM
$10,000 HANDGAME CONTEST

Pow-Wow Information
800-258-8007
Ext. 6116, 1003
Vending - Ext. 6128

RESERVATIONS ON-SITE:
Ute Mountain Casino Hotel
888-564-8837
Sleeping Ute RV Park
800-889-5072
OTGR Western Region

OTGR Training Summit

WESTERN REGION VETERANS TRAINING SUMMIT

HOST TRIBE: SMITH RIVER RANCHERIA, SMITH RIVER, CA

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM
(Free Conference Registration)
September 18-19, 2014
LUCKY 7 CASINO HOTEL | 350 NORTH INDIAN ROAD, SMITH RIVER, CA
Dee-ni̇' Event Center (Tolowa Event Center)

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<td>Veteran (Yes/No)</td>
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Please return this form to Terry Bentley on or before September 8, 2014 either email or FAX
eMail:  terry.bentley@va.gov
Fax:  541-877-3030

Hotel Reservations can be made by calling 1-855-487-5777, Lucky 7 Casino Hotel (Summit Rate: $85 per night)
Mid-Willamette Valley Veterans Stand-Down

This year's Stand-Down will be held at: Grace Baptist Church
4197 State Street NE Salem Or. 97301 Friday September 19, 2014
from 10am to 4pm

Guest Speakers:
Fritz Graham, Field Representative to Senator Ron Wyden and
J.D Baucom, District Aide to Congressman Kurt Schrader

FREE Services Provided for Our Veterans and their Families Includes:
Medical and Dental Services - Military Surplus - Free Lunch -
Benefits Registration and More!

For More Information Contact:
Rosy Macias - Logistic/Donations 503-362-8911
Nancy Ibarra - Service Providers/Volunteers
503-585-0232
Todd Londin - General Information 503-363-4457
Grace Baptist Church  
4197 State Street NE  
Salem Or. 97301  

September 19, 2014  
Friday 10am to 4pm  

WILLAMETTE VALLEY  
VETERANS STAND DOWN  

SERVICE PROVIDER REGISTRATION  

The STAND DOWN is designed to offer rest, recuperation and resource connections to the men and women who have served in the armed forces. Please join us as we reach out, offer support and honor veterans and their families. Fill out this form detailing the services you will provide and fax form to:  
Nancy Ibarra at (503) 375-7580. If you have questions contact Wayne Crowder (503) 363-4238  

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<tr>
<th>Name of Individual or Organization</th>
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Please check the boxes below that best fit the services your agency is willing to provide.  
(Please only check one box)  
- Benefits  
- Housing  
- Employment  
- Medical, Dental, Vision  
- Pet Services  
- Women/Children/Family Services  
- Veterans Services (for veterans only)  
- Guest Services (Haircuts, Foot bath, Faith, etc)  
- Cafe  
- Counseling Services  

Please describe in detail what services you will be providing. Also, list any items you will be making available to the participants. (Example: Supplies that relate to your service.)  

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By signing the above I agree to participate from 10am to 4pm (unless other arrangements have been made) in the Veterans Stand Down, September 19, 2014  

Monetary donations can be made payable to Serving Our Veterans At Home. Send all donations to SOVAH P.O. BOX 13054 Salem, OR 97309  

REGISTRATIONS DUE BY AUGUST 1ST
California Proclaims June 24th as “Native American Day”

Native American Day has consistently been a proclamation for the state of California, recognizing the fourth Friday of September for the celebration. But on June 24, that proclamation became an official state holiday.

Assembly member Roger Hernández (D-West Covina) announced the unanimous bi-partisan vote passing Assembly Bill 1973 by the Senate Governmental Organization Committee making the switch official. California has more than 100 federally recognized tribes, with many others state recognized.

“It is an honor for this bill to move one step closer in recognizing Native Americans in California,” Hernández said in a press release. “As with any recognized holiday, Californians will be able to share, celebrate and honor the contributions of Native Americans across this state. This measure recognizes the significant role of California’s Native peoples by establishing an official, unpaid state holiday.”

According to the release, the state established American Indian Day in 1968 to recognize the contributions of Native Americans. Thirty years later, the California Legislature passed AB 1953 changing the name to Native American Day while authorizing “public schools to incorporate the contributions of Native American peoples in school curriculum.”

The newest passing gives the day the same status as Lincoln's Birthday and Columbus Day – a day often ignored in Indian country for many reasons – as unpaid holidays.

Some cities throughout the state – Berkeley, Nevada City, Santa Cruz, and Sebastopol – recognize Indigenous People Day, recognizing the cultural contributions of Natives.

“The contributions of the Native American people demonstrate our rich history and add to the diverse ethnic fabric of our great state. This holiday has been long overdue, it is time to honor those individuals who played a major part in our history,” Hernández said.
Free Census Data Workshop for Grant Proposals

The U.S. Census Bureau
Los Angeles Regional Office Presents:

Census Data For
Grant Writers Workshop

Workshops Provided at
NO Cost

The Census Data for Grantwriters Workshop is geared toward grant writing professionals and individuals interested in learning the basics of using census data in grant proposal writing. Workshop participants will learn where to locate census demographics to help build an effective case for project funding.

Major Workshop Topics Include:
- Finding the most current and relevant data
- Accessing data on over 40 topics, including Age, Sex, Race/Hispanic Origin, Income, Poverty, Education and Language Spoken at Home
- Understanding Census Data Products
- Presenting Census Data in a Grant Proposal

To host a workshop for your organization in the states of Alaska, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon and Washington:

Send an email request to laro.pds.list@census.gov
or call our toll free number 888-806-6389

Summer Dates Available!
OTGR Central Region
Upcoming Michigan Veterans Expos

2014 VETERAN EXPOS
THE “ONE-STOP” SHOP FOR MICHIGAN VETERANS:
OFFERING JOBS, EDUCATION, HEALTH CARE, BENEFITS AND MORE!

MARQUETTE
August 8 & 9
Hiring Our Heroes Job Fair - August 8
Superior Dome - Northern Michigan University
1401 Presque Isle Ave., Marquette, MI 49855

GRAND RAPIDS
September 5 & 6
Hiring Our Heroes Job Fair - September 6
DeltaPlex Arena & Conference Center
2900 Teresa Ave. NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49514

DETROIT
November 7 & 8
Hiring Our Heroes Job Fair - November 8
Cobo Center
1 Washington Blv., Detroit, MI 48226

Expo Hours: Friday 11am - 6pm & Saturday 9am - 3pm
To Register, Please Contact: 517-324-8330 or Visit: www.events.mphi.org/vetexpo

For more information about the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency, please visit
www.MichiganVeterans.com or call 1-800-MICHVET (1-800-642-4438)
OTGR Training Summit – Spirit Lake, ND
August 7-8, 2014

Thursday, August 7, 2014
0800-0830 ~ Opening Remarks/Welcoming/Keynote Address
0830-0900 ~ VA Healthcare 101: Eligibility, Enrollment, and Billing
0900-0930 ~ VA Telehealth in Indian Country
0930-1000 ~ Veterans Benefits Administration I: Compensation & Pension
1000-1030 ~ Veterans Benefits Administration II: Vocational Rehabilitation
1030-1100 ~ Women Veterans
1100-1130 ~ Veterans PTSD
1200-1300 ~ Lunch
1330-1400 ~ Housing for Vets in Indian Country: Native American Direct Home Loan
1400-1430 ~ Housing for Veterans in Indian Country I: HUD
1430-1500 ~ Veterans State Legislation in ND
1500-1600 ~ Listening Session

Friday, August 8, 2014
0800-0830 ~ Housing for Veterans in Indian Country III: USDA
0830-0930 ~ Veterans Benefits Administration III: Education
0930-1000 ~ Veterans Educational Training: University of North Dakota
1000-1030 ~ Veterans Employment & Training Services (VETS) Department of Labor
1030-1100 ~ Job Service North Dakota
1100-1130 ~ VA/Tribal Health Programs/IHS Reimbursement Agreements
1130-1200 ~ VA Homeless Programs I: North Dakota Homeless Programs
1200-1230 ~ VA Homeless Programs II: Supportive Services for Veterans Families (SSVF) Grant

Registration is free; contact Peter Vicaire at Peter.Vicaire@va.gov or (651) 405-5670

Hotel accommodations can be made at: SPIRIT LAKE CASINO & RESORT
7889 Highway 57 – St. Michael, ND
1-701-766-4888
OTGR Training Summit – Spirit Lake, ND
August 7-8, 2014

“Working For Veterans in Indian Country”
Spirit Lake Casino & Resort, 7889 Highway 57 -St. Michael, ND
To register (free), contact Peter Vicaire at Peter.Vicaire@va.gov or call 1-651-405-5676. Book lodging ($75 room-$125 suite/night) at 1-701-766-4888 (Group reservation #207903)

Thursday, August 7th, 2014

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<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>0800-0830</td>
<td>Opening Remarks: Stephanie Birdwell, Director, OTGR Welcoming: Richard Marcellais, ND State Senator ~ Keynote Address: Spirit Lake Chairman Lesander McDonald</td>
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<td>0830-0900</td>
<td>VA Healthcare “101”: Eligibility, Enrollment, Billing</td>
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<td>David Garland, Business Office Manager, VA Fargo</td>
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<td>0900-0930</td>
<td>VA Telehealth in Indian Country</td>
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<td>Mary Walker, VISN 23 Telehealth Program Manager</td>
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<td>0930-1000</td>
<td>Veterans Benefits Administration I: Compensation &amp; Pension</td>
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<td>1000-1030</td>
<td>Veterans Benefits Administration II: Vocational Rehabilitation</td>
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<td>Ken Buatsvilo, Fargo Veterans Benefits Administration</td>
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<td>1030-1100</td>
<td>Women Veterans</td>
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<td>Glenda Trockmann, Women Veterans Program Manager, Fargo VAMC</td>
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<td>1100-1130</td>
<td>Veterans PTSD and Evidence Based Therapy</td>
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<td>Dr. Jessica Gustin, Psychologist, VA Fargo</td>
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<td>1130-1230</td>
<td>Lunch ~ on your own ~</td>
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<td>1230-1300</td>
<td>Suicide Prevention for Veterans</td>
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<td>Tammy Monsedbroten, Social Worker Fargo VAMC</td>
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<td>1300-1330</td>
<td>Nagi Kikcho Pi: “Calling One’s Spirit”</td>
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<td>Raymond Grey Bear, Bush Foundation Grant Award</td>
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<td>1330-1400</td>
<td>Housing for Veterans in Indian Country I: Native American Direct Home Loan (NADL)</td>
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<td>VA St. Paul NADL Office – Dan Anderson</td>
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<td>Housing For Veterans in Indian Country II: HUD</td>
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<td>Joel Manske, North Dakota HUD Field Office Director</td>
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<td>1430-1500</td>
<td>Veterans Legislation in North Dakota</td>
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<td>North Dakota Senator Richard Marcellais</td>
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<td>1500-1600</td>
<td>Listening Session</td>
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<td>Stephanie Birdwell, Director, Office of Tribal Government Relations</td>
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<td>Julie Bruhn, Associate Director for Patient Care, Fargo VAMC</td>
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<td>Richard Marcellais, ND State Senator</td>
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<td>Brenda Bergstrud, ND Department of Veterans Affairs</td>
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Friday, August 8th, 2014

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Opening Remarks</th>
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| 0800-0830 | Housing for Veterans In Indian Country III: US Dept. of Agriculture  
Bill Schofer, USDA Area Director |
| 0830-0930 | Veterans Benefits Administration III: Education  
Christina Hanks and Rhonda Schauer, ND State Approving Agency |
| 0930-1000 | Veterans Educational Training  
James Becks, University of North Dakota, Site Coordinator |
| 1000-1030 | Dept. of Labor: Veterans Employment & Training Services (VETS)  
Gerald Masho, Director, VETS |
| 1030-1100 | Job Service North Dakota  
Drew Nathan, Disabled Veterans Outreach Program Specialist |
| 1100-1130 | VA/Tribal Health Programs/IHS Reimbursement Agreements  
Majed Ibrahim/VA Chief Business Office (CBO) |
| 1130-1200 | VA Homeless Programs I: ND VA Homeless Programs  
Janet Nelson, Social Worker, VA Grand Forks |
| 1200-1230 | VA Homeless Programs II: Supportive Services for Veterans Families  
Laureen Seely, Project Coordinator, State of ND and Michael Carbone, Executive Director of ND Coalition of Homeless People |

Closing Comments ~ Senator Marcellais and Peter Vicaire