



The VRC Eagle

September 2005

Thank you for your support and interest in the Veterans Resource Central (VRC). Every quarter, we will bring you an update on the progress that the Veterans Resource Central is making.

What is the VRC? Veterans Resource Central (VRC), a Pennsylvania nonprofit organization, provides transition assistance to returning veterans, active duty military and their families through a corps of volunteers and Internet tools. We provide education, information and guidance to veterans transitioning to civilian life, to military families dealing with life issues at home and to active duty or recently returned military planning for civilian careers.

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I. From the President (John Carrigan)

We have had an eventful two months since our last communication. Katrina has struck the mainland and has affected many lives. We all have a greater awareness of how fragile our existence is and how dependent we are on one another. To that end, it is more important than ever that we continue our effort to assist our returnee veterans with career counseling and job placement. It is equally important that we not forget the needs of their families, whether the service members are in the war zone or serving on hurricane or other disaster relief missions.

Our organization continues to be made up of volunteers. We have needs for more involvement from more people. In particular, we need people who have the experience, drive and availability to take on key leadership roles within the organization. If you are interested, please contact either Barbara Groce or myself.

Like many organizations, we need to continue to grow and expand awareness of whom we are and what we are doing to support our community. To that end, I encourage each of you to send us the names and addresses of your friends who should logically be added to our mailing list. As always, I appreciate your support.



II. Funding Update

It's wonderful to see the community pulling together to support our veterans. Sovereign Bank is a prime example; recently, they were kind enough to award the VRC with a \$1,500 grant! We appreciate their generosity.

III. FamilyCenter Info (Frank Piacine)

Summer has passed and we enter the familiar drill that accompanies it. It's time to put up the patio furniture, stow the grill, winterize the pool and mow the lawn for the last time. Soon enough, time to begin raking leaves. As we start into these annual rites of fall, let us not forget that there are many families in the area who are doing the same things, but for them these mundane tasks present challenges because they are struggling without the help and support of a spouse/partner who is deployed. This separation is painful and makes these otherwise routine jobs more challenging for these families in need.

Raising the awareness of the public about the unique needs of our military families is something that we at VRC FamilyCenter are 100% committed to. I am happy to report that our efforts for FY06 (October 05 - Sep 06) are well under way and that we are headed toward an exciting year. It will be a period that sees our efforts growing in exciting and meaningful ways. Always, at the core of what we do, will be the military families and vets within our sphere of influence.

So, what is it that will make the next year a success? We will be able to guide families to help in the areas of family counseling, financial counseling and legal service support. Additionally, we are planning one Family Appreciation Event and one Family Support Seminar every three months. In addition, things will get even better. We plan to expand our services and events by April of 2006! We are working with partners such as Attorney Susan Lederer, Commerce Bank, Mechanicsburg Vietnam Vets, VFW Post 6704 Mechanicsburg, Defense Distribution Depot Susquehanna, and Naval Support Activity Mechanicsburg. All these organizations are committed to helping and all share our concern for military families.

Know that every effort we put forth, every event we conduct, contributes to the overall effect that helps the veterans and their families. You can make a difference to a veteran, a military family or a child who is missing a parent due to deployment. You can help by donating a few hours of your time and being a VRC or FamilyCenter volunteer. We need more volunteers to help us expand our services in 2006. Please contact me at francis.piacine@navy.mil or contact another VRC staff member to join us. We welcome your help, ideas and support.

Finally, if you know a family with a husband, wife or partner deployed, do not be shy about offering a helping hand this fall with those annual chores. Your offer of help will be appreciated, and can make a big difference to a family in need.



IV. CareerCenter (Wendy Robbins)

Our CareerCenter – Under Construction... The one-stop source of information and personal assistance to help transition you into the civilian business world.

What's the status of the CareerCenter? We are making progress! The project Chairs have learned the overall process design and are now working on developing their individual process area designs. In addition, we are conducting detailed design walk-throughs with our Technology Chair, focusing on data and system requirements. We are planning a 2-phase technology solution. Phase I will be a quick-to-develop streamlined system to support the initial CareerCenter implementation. Phase II will be a more robust, integrated system, which will support the Center into the future as volume increases. It will also support other VRC services.

How can you help? Our Career Planning Chair was deployed to assist the Katrina efforts and must be replaced on the project. This is a critical position for the Center, helping veterans develop career plans. We also need to recruit the Job-Matching Chair (how to match vet with employer). If you want to join the team or know someone that does, please contact us at careercenter@veteransresourcecentral.org. We would love your help!

V. Marketing Update (Jeanne Lowing)

We are an army of volunteers. The Marketing Committee continues to make progress with the marketing, public relations opportunities, and support of the overall organization. This would not be possible without the committed volunteers. The committee thanks Stephanie Nace, Marvin Laing and Paul Gallo for their continual graphics support.

The Marketing Committee welcomes Jen Carrigan who is helping with the coordination and production of the newsletter. Jen works in customer service at Commerce Bank and looks to expand her marketing and writing skills.

The Web Site Committee is working hard to keep our site up-to-date. Many thanks to Robert Cline, Augie Bravo and Rob Johnson for the fine job that they are doing! We are looking for more individuals to join this committee; if you are interested, please contact Jeanne Lowing at marketing@veteransresourcecentral.org.

Volunteer Now

Ready to roll up your sleeves and get involved? We need more volunteers in a variety of areas to help us do all that we intend to do. Please go to the Web site, www.veteransresourcecentral.org, select the How Can I Help section and complete an online volunteer form located under the Volunteer Now button.



VI. Events

Upcoming events include:

Date	Time	Event
10/22/05		National Make a Difference Day
10/22/05		Operation Brighter Day donation pickup
10/29/05	12:30 pm	Family Support Seminar, Location TBD

If you are aware of upcoming PA events or organizations that you think the VRC should be participating in, please send information to marketing@veteransresourcecentral.org.

VII. Operation Brighter Day Update (Anne Deeter Gallaher)

Life Scout Aaron J. Gallaher from Troop 54, in Camp Hill, is thrilled to have VRC support and guide him in the logistics of his Eagle Scout project—Operation Brighter Day. Aaron’s original goal of collecting and assembling items to fill 50 Operation Brighter Day boxes—one for each soldier in his friend Private First Class Shane Rapsey’s company—has just grown to 150 boxes to meet the needs of the 101st Airborne as they deploy to Iraq in late September. Aaron and his troop will be distributing door hangers throughout Lower Allen Township on October 16 asking for donations of items such as AA batteries, stationery, phone cards, computer games, Bibles, and snacks. The troop will return to the neighborhoods for donation pickup on October 22. Each box sent to a soldier sends a powerful message of hope and support to our brave troops. To make a donation or learn more about Aaron’s project, e-mail Aaron at agallaher@adgmarketing.com.

Thanks Aaron for making a difference!

VIII. Campus Pulse (Rob Johnson)

The Penn State/Harrisburg Chi Gamma Iota (XGI) campaign to name the Newville post office in honor of Medal of Honor recipient Randall Shugart has taken a major step forward; the U.S. House of Representatives passed the following bill last week:

"Ms. Brown-Waite, Ginny moved to suspend the rules and pass the bill.
H.R. 2062: to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 57 West Street in Newville, Pennsylvania, as the "Randall D. Shugart Post Office Building" Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection.
On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill agreed to by voice vote. "
Source: <http://clerk.house.gov/floorsummary/floor.html>



IX. Spotlight On...

The following has been redirected to us from Ed Chow, Vietnam Veterans of America office in Washington, D.C. We felt it important to share with you.

RECYCLE YOUR OLD CELL PHONE FOR OUR TROOPS

The American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE) encourages you to participate in the Cell Phone for Soldiers program by dropping off your old cell phones in room 141 of the Lafayette Building (811 Vermont Ave, NE). Cell Phone for Soldiers is a registered 501(3) non-profit organization started by two Massachusetts teenagers, Brittany and Robbie Berquist, in April 2004. The program accepts all cell phones, any make or model, including the battery. The phones are recycled for cash and the proceeds used to purchase prepaid phone cards which are sent to our soldiers serving in the Middle East. The phones can be dropped off at room 141 of the Lafayette Building (opposite VACO) by first sending an email to William Wetmore to make sure he is available to take them. The program has sent more than 9,000 prepaid cards to our troops. We are here to serve veterans and this is just one of the ways we can show them how much we appreciate their sacrifices. Find out more on the Web at <http://www.cellphonesforsoldiers.com/pages/1/index.htm>. The VACO program ends October 14, 2005.

OFFICE OF THE MEDICAL INSPECTOR

The Office of the Medical Inspector (OMI) carries the responsibility of helping to resolve medical problems and issues Veterans and their families may encounter with the Veterans Health Administration. Many Veterans are not aware of this office or what type of services they provide. OMI is not part of the Inspector General; they do not conduct criminal investigations nor do they address benefits issues, rather, their mission is centered on assuring good healthcare for Veterans. OMI is prepared to address any patient care issue that arises in a VA Medical Center (VAMC).

OMI's contact information is provided below for your use and dissemination.

Department of Veterans Affairs
Office of the Medical Inspector (OMI)
810 Vermont Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20420
800-634-4782 OR (202) 501-2000
OMITRIAGE@MAIL.VA.GOV



Mailing List Updates

WE NEED YOUR HELP. Information is critical to our organization. We want to stay in touch with you and keep you informed about the VRC. Please notify marketing@veteransresourcecentral.org if you change your work or personal e-mail address. Thanks!

For more information about the VRC, contact John Carrigan at jacarrigan@veteransresourcecentral.org or Barbara Groce at BGroce@sovereignbank.com.

Until our next issue, we thank you for your continued support,
Everyone at Veterans Resource Central

This eNewsletter brought to you by BeneVis Marketing.