



The Veterans View



Happy New Year 2016

2016 marks the beginning of a New Year and the staff of the Veterans Upward Bound program look forward to working with participants and to assist them in attaining their academic goals successfully.

There are 3 expectations that we ask each of them to do in order for them to achieve their goals;

- 1) Come into the office and visit with the Program Specialist
- 2) Complete your pre and post test
- 3) Apply to a college of their choice

The staff at VUB are committed to serving the eligible veterans!

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Wichita State Veterans Upward Bound Celebrate NATIONAL Trio Day



What is National TRIO Day?

“National TRIO Day” is a day on which the nation is asked to turn its attention to the needs of disadvantaged young people and adults

aspiring to improve their lives, to the investment necessary if they are to become contributing citizens of this country, and to the talent which will be wasted if that investment is not made.

This year’s event was held on Thursday, February 11, in the RSC Beggs Ballroom. The theme “Ignite Freedom Through Education” resonated throughout the evening as speakers, TRIO Achievers and TRIO Programs were recognized

for their continued efforts to improve access to educators for first generations, low income and individuals with disabilities. The Wichita School Board USD 259 received the “Building Bridges” award and school board member President Betty Arnold was the keynote speaker. The Veterans Upward Bound program honored Richard Rangel for his accomplishments.





Veterans Upward Bound

Richard Rangel

Staff Sergeant Richard Rangel graduated from Wichita North High School in 1992 and joined the Army after graduation. He entered as an Infantryman at Ft. Benning, Georgia, and later re-classed to Petroleum Supply at Ft. Lee, Virginia. Rangel's duty stations were numerous: Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, Ft Lewis, Washington, Ft Sill, Oklahoma, Ft. Bragg, North Carolina, and Ft. Richardson, Alaska. Rangel has been deployed on three combat missions, to Iraq and Afghanistan as well as a humanitarian deployment to New Orleans assisting in the recovery efforts after Hurricane Katrina. Rangel has other deployments around the world, which include the Bahamas, Thailand, and Australia, as well as extensive trainings to the National Training Center (NTC) and Joint Readiness Training Center (JRTC). His military education includes Airborne, and Air Assault school; Cold Weather, Advanced, Primary leadership courses and Master Driver Courses. Rangel has also served in multiple positions throughout his military career from Radio telephone Operator (RTO), Infantry Team, Squad Leader, Vehicle Commander, Forward Arming Refueling Point (FARP) Section Chief, Field Support Command (FSC) Platoon Sergeant and Cadre for Warrior Transition Units (WTU.)

After Rangel retired from the Army, he decided to achieve a goal of helping other others, especially veterans. Today Rangel attends Wichita State University, and is working on a bachelor's degree in Social Work. His goal is to obtain his Master's Degree in Social Work specializing in PTSD therapy to assist other veterans, first responders, and their families.

*"Never miss an opportunity to say a word of congratulation upon anyone's achievement."
- President Lyndon Johnson*

Veterans as Employees

Transitioning from serving our country into civilian life has its challenges however there are some very positive advantages that were added to your skill base that will help you as you enter into the employment world.

Why Veterans Make Good Employees:

Employers and companies can benefit from hiring Veterans. Military personnel are often cross-trained in multiple skills and have experience in varied tasks and responsibilities. Many Veterans have learned what it means to put in a hard day's work. They have also come to appreciate the challenges and satisfaction of a job well done. Much of this experience can translate to their participation in the workforce making the Veteran an asset on the job.

Strengths the Veteran can bring to the workplace include:

- Working well in a team. Teamwork is considered an essential part of daily life and is the foundation on which safe military operations are built.
- Having a sense of duty. Responsibility for job performance and accountability for completing missions are something to take pride in.
- Experiencing self-confidence. Holding a realistic estimation of self and ability based on experiences is expected of each Service Member.
- Being organized and disciplined.
- Possessing a strong work ethic. In the military, the mission always comes first.
- Having the ability to follow through on assignments, even under difficult or stressful circumstances.
- Possessing a variety of cross-functional skills, such as extensive training on computer programs and systems, interacting with various people with different skills to accomplish a task, and coordinating and troubleshooting problems in novel and known conditions.
- Being able to problem solve quickly and creatively.
- Being able to adapt to changing situations.
- Being able to follow rules and schedules.

Hiring a Veteran can result in the hiring of a dedicated employee who has developed valuable teamwork, leadership, and job skills.



FUTURE FOCUS

323rd Firefighters Sendoff

February 19 -Send off for 323rd Firefighters Co Army Reserve at VFW post 1174
El, Dorado KS –2:00 pm

February 21- 451st ESC Army Reserve farewell event

Women Veterans Event

March 19 - Women Veterans Event at Alpha One Drop Zone/Army Navy Store
2:00 pm until 4:00 pm- Guest speaker Katie Conklin

Veterans Preference Program

WSU- The university's new Veterans Preference program is designed to attract more veterans to work for the university.. Wichita State University has initiated a new outreach program -- Veterans Preference in the Application Process -- in an effort to attract more veterans of military service to work for the university. Veterans Preference reflects Wichita State's recognition of the unique talents, skills and experiences that former service personnel offer. To discover career opportunities for veterans at Wichita State, go to wichita.edu/employment/wsuveterans.

AccreditedOnlineColleges.org, recently released their 2016 Guide to Veteran Education Benefits. This is a veterans guide to all the grants, scholarships, and education resources that are available to them.

The guide is a user-friendly guide that includes features like our GI Bill calculator, grants and scholarship directories, and interviews with the top universities that have programs designed specifically to support veteran higher education. It is located at this website :

<http://www.accreditedonlinecolleges.org/resources/veteran-continuing-ed/>

Scholarship Announcements



The American Legion's Scholarship Programs were created to promote and provide programs that encourage children to make use of their educational opportunities. The Legion offers several scholarships:

- The American Legion Legacy Scholarship
 - The American Legion Baseball Scholarship
 - Samsung American Legion Scholarship
 - National High School Oratorical Contest Scholarship
 - Eagle Scout of the Year
 - Eight and Forty Lung and Respiratory Disease Nursing Scholarship
- Visit their website for information specific to each one.

CONTACT

American Legion National Headquarters, Indianapolis Office
700 North Pennsylvania St.
P.O. Box 1055
Indianapolis, IN 46206
317-630-1202
<http://www.legion.org/scholarships>

It is not happy people who are thankful. It is thankful people who are happy.....Mercury Row



Need Help with your FASFA! Come on into the VUB office and visit our staff we're available to help !

Veterans Upward Bound

1845 N. Fairmount

Brennen Hall 1—4th floor

Wichita, Kansas

VUB Legend

The Tuskegee Airmen

Overcoming Adversity



The **Tuskegee Airmen** is the popular name of a group of African-American military pilots (fighter and bomber) who fought in World War II. Formally, they formed the 332nd Fighter Group and the 477th Bombardment Group of the United States Army Air Forces. Beginnings

Prior to the Tuskegee Airmen all combat pilots had been white. However a series of legislative moves by the United States Congress in 1941 forced the Air Corps to form an all-black combat unit, much to the War Department's chagrin. In response they set up a system to accept only those with a level of flight experience or higher education that they expected to be hard to fill, a half-hearted effort to eliminate the unit before it could begin. This policy backfired, and soon the Air Corps was receiving applications from men who clearly met the grade.

The U.S. Army Air Corps had established the Psychological Research Unit 1 at Maxwell Army Air Field, Alabama, and other units around the country for Aviation Cadet Training, which included the identification, selection, education, and training of pilots, navigators, and bombardiers. Psychologists were employed in these studies and training programs using some of the first standardized tests to quantify IQ, dexterity, and leadership qualities in order to select and train the right personnel for the right role (pilot, navigator, bombardier). The Air Corps determined that the same existing programs would be used as well for all-black units. At Tuskegee, this effort would continue with the selection and training of the Tuskegee Airmen.

On March 19, 1941, the 99th Pursuit Squadron (Pursuit being an early WWII synonym for "Fighter") was activated at Chanute Field in Rantoul, Illinois. Over 250 enlisted men were trained at Chanute in aircraft ground support trades. This small number of enlisted men was to become the core of other black squadrons forming at Tuskegee and Maxwell Fields in Alabama — the famed Tuskegee Airmen.

In June 1941 the Tuskegee program was officially started with the formation of the 99th Fighter Squadron, formed up at the Tuskegee Institute, a famous school founded by Booker T. Washington in Tuskegee, Alabama. The unit included an entire service arm, including ground crew, and not just pilots. After basic training at Moton Field, they were moved to the nearby Tuskegee Army Air Field. They were put under the command of Captain Benjamin O. Davis Jr., a West Point graduate. Colonel Noel Parrish took over as commander. Parrish, though white, was open-minded and petitioned Washington to allow the Airmen to serve in combat.

Cont'd

The 99th was ready for combat duty during the USA's first actions and was transported to Casablanca, Morocco on the *USS Mariposa*. Oujda near Fes for training then to Tunis to operate against the Luftwaffe. The flyers and ground crew were largely isolated by the segregation policies of the military, and left with little guidance from battle-experienced pilots. The 99th's first mission was to take the island of Pantelleria. For a time they were attached to the 33d Fighter Group, whose commander left them out of most missions. Things changed when they were moved to Sicily and attached to the 79th Fighter Group, whose commander involved them fully. The Airmen signature plane was the P-51 Mustang. The squadron took bomber escort duty, helping make the Anzio Campaign a success. Here they quickly racked up an impressive combat record, often entering combat against greater numbers of superior planes, and coming out victorious. The Luftwaffe soon awarded them the nickname, "Schwarze Vogelmenschen," or Black Birdmen, and started to avoid them when possible. The Allies called the Airmen "Redtails" or "Redtail Angels" because of the distinctive crimson paint jobs on their aircraft's vertical stabilizers. Although bomber groups would request Redtail escort when possible, most bomber crewmen never knew at the time that the Redtails were black.

By this point more graduates were ready for combat, and the all-black 332d Fighter Group had been created from three new squadrons, the 100th, 301st and 302d. Under the command of Colonel Benjamin O. Davis, these were moved to mainland Italy, where they were eventually joined by the 99th. The Airmen eventually served on bombing raids into Austria, Hungary, Germany. The 477th Bombardment Group (Medium), was forming in the US, but completed training too late to see action.

By the end of the war the 332d had claimed over 400 Luftwaffe aircraft, a destroyer sunk only by machine gun fire, and numerous fuel dumps, trucks and trains. They flew more than 15,000 sorties and 1500 missions. The unit received recognition through official channels, and won two Presidential Unit Citations, 744 Air Medals, 150 Distinguished Flying Crosses, fourteen Bronze Stars and several Silver Stars.

In all, 992 pilots were trained in Tuskegee from 1940 to 1946. About 450 deployed overseas and 150 lost their lives in training or combat.

All of these events appear to have simply stiffened their resolve to fight for their own rights in the US. After the war the Tuskegee Airmen once again found themselves isolated, but a series of events over the next few years would end this. Perhaps the most important changes occurred when the 332nd entered the 1949 gunnery competition and won, while at the same time commanders across the US were looking for experienced pilots and crew. The result was the official end of segregation, ordered in 1948 by Harry S. Truman with Executive Order 9981. The Tuskegee Airmen now found themselves in high demand throughout the newly formed United States Air Force.

The Tuskegee Airmen continued and expanded a tradition that began with Bessie Coleman. Their effect on American culture is undeniable. The Tuskegee Airmen are even represented in the G.I. Joe action figure series. The airfield where the airmen trained is now the Tuskegee Airmen National Historic Site.





Education Programs

Open to dependent children of Active Duty, Title 10 Reserve, Title 32 AGR, Retired, Retired Reserve, and Deceased Air Force members; spouses of Active Duty and Title 10 Reserve; and surviving spouses of Deceased Air Force members. One online application gives access to:

Gen Arnold Education Grant:

<i>Awards:</i>	<i>Range from \$500 to \$4,000 based on need</i>
<i>Must have:</i>	<i>Minimum 2.0 GPA</i>
<i>Will be:</i>	<i>Enrolled full-time as an undergraduate student</i>
<i>Apply:</i>	<i>Online at Air Force Aid Society's website (http://www.afas.org/education-grants)</i>
<i>Deadline:</i>	<i>March 18, 2016 for the 2016-2017 academic year</i>

Merit Scholarship:

<i>Awards:</i>	<i>Minimum of ten scholarships of \$5,000 each</i>
<i>Must:</i>	<i>Apply for Arnold Education Grant; be a first-time Freshman with verifiable GPA of 4.0</i>

Eligible applicants will be contacted directly by AFAS for additional application requirements (essay, transcript, etc) in June.

Supplemental Education Loan Program:

<i>Awards:</i>	<i>Interest-free loans up to \$1,000 per student</i>
<i>Must:</i>	<i>Apply for Arnold Education Grant; document out-of-pocket education expenses; repay by allotment over 10 months</i>

Eligible applicants will be contacted directly by AFAS in August with application forms.

For additional information on these programs and other ways Air Force Aid Society can help, please visit our website at <http://www.afas.org>.

VUB STAFF HAS BEEN BUSY



- ⇒ *January 5—Round table at VA*
- ⇒ *January 15—Homeless stand-down at VA*
- ⇒ *January 17—4 mile ruck march with Team RWB*
- ⇒ *January 22—Veterans Provider Coalition*
- ⇒ *January 28—Homeless point in the time count*
- ⇒ *January 31—4 Mile ruck march with Team RWB*
- ⇒ *February 2—Job Fair with EOC at Airport Hilton*

Good schools, like good societies and good families, celebrate and cherish diversity

— Deborah Meier

Talk to our Program Specialist—Brad, Shondella, or Stacia about ways to go to the college of your choice. They can help you with your financial and academic needs.



WATC

WATC is a Servicemembers Opportunity College



Butler Community College is listed in the top 15% of military Friendly Schools

Are you seeking

A BETTER JOB

- MORE SKILLS
- A NEW CAREER
- HIGHER PAY
- AWAY TO MOVE FORWARD

Come visit the

Veterans Upward Bound Office—WSU

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Wichita, Kansas 67260-0137 (316)978-6742



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