

MIZZOU MILITARY & VETERANS NEWSLETTER

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From Chancellor's Standing Committee Co-chair Robert Ross

Please contact us at veterans@missouri.edu

VETERANS WELLNESS CENTER INFORMATION

The Veterans Wellness Center at Mizzou provides Veterans with clinical mental health services and referrals to other resources. The center is located in the MU School of Law Veterans Center in Hulston Hall. Veterans on and off campus can work with VA specialists on mental health needs and help with case management and enrollment assistance.

"The services of the Wellness Center are designed to make healthcare, including mental healthcare, a top priority for Tiger veterans," Angela Drake, the Director of the Veterans Center, said. "Any veteran who is a student, faculty or staff can take advantage of this free service provided by Truman VA. We are very lucky to be working with a compassionate and caring VA Medical Center right here in Columbia."

Veterans can call the facility at 573-814-6393 or call Randall Rogers directly at 573-814-6278 to set up VA video connect appointments.

Other resources-

MU Student Veterans Resource and Support Center

- veterans@missouri.edu

Columbia Vet Center

4040 Rangeline Street Suite 105 Columbia, MO

- 573-814-6206

Harry S. Truman Memorial Veterans Hospital

800 Hospital Drive Columbia, MO

- 573-814-6278

Air Force ROTC Detachment 440

- umcasafrotc@missouri.edu

Naval ROTC

Contact Captain LaLonde, Marine Officer Instructor

- lalondek@missouri.edu

Army ROTC

- armyrotc@missouri.edu

MSVA EXECUTIVE BOARD ANNOUNCED

The Mizzou Student Veterans Association is a high-profile campus organization made up of male and female student veterans. Recently, the MSVA elected a new executive board, and the new MSVA officers for the 2020-2021 academic year are listed below.

- President: **Kevin Owens**
- Vice Presidents: **Kyle Andrews, Christian McKinzie**
- Treasurer: **Andrew Barton**
- Secretary: **Tristan Picard**

Kevin Owens, the new president of the group, is a U.S. Air Force veteran, and has many ideas for the MSVA moving forward. Since any student veteran on campus is a MSVA member, one goal Owens has in mind is to get more members active in the organization. Another is to provide funding to send veterans to leadership and job conferences.

"The MSVA's mission is to raise awareness at the school, community, and state-level about matters affecting student veterans and to uphold the values of service and leadership in regard to education," Owens said. "We want to ensure the successful transition from military and civilian life at the University."

ROTC STUDENTS AND LEADERS ADAPTING IN UNIQUE WAYS- THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI'S ROTC FEATURED IN MIZZOU NEWS

While the COVID-19 pandemic has kept them apart, Army ROTC students at the University of Missouri have pulled together virtually, developing new ways to engage members and maintain community.

Army Cadet Battalion Commander Shade Bullock said some students are inspiring others to exercise and maintain their physical training requirements by uploading videos of their at-home workouts to the Army ROTC's Instagram account.

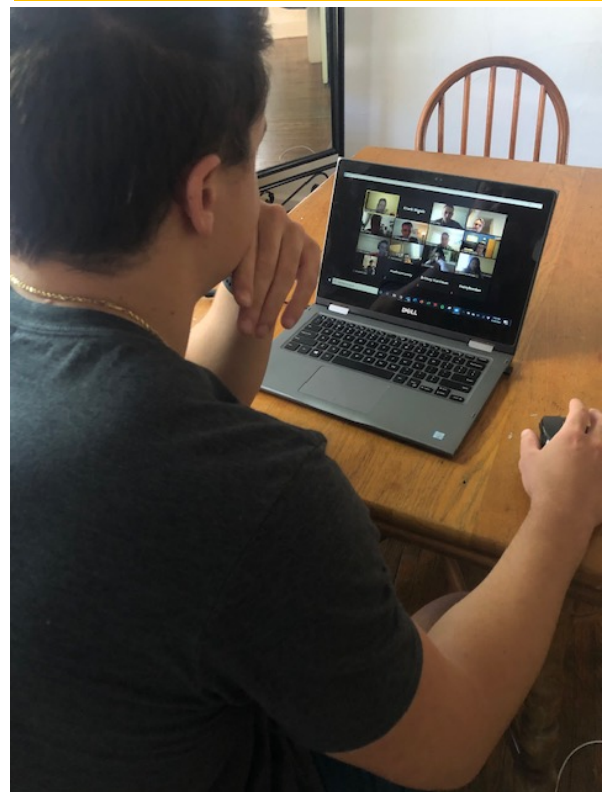
"It's important in an online environment like this to make sure that cadets are staying motivated," she said. "This is a great way to do that."

Another source of inspiration is the Fire Team Families, a mentorship program that connects cadets with older ROTC members in a ladder system designed to encourage new members to move up in order.

"Everyone is connected with their families on GroupMe, and that's a way we've been trying to encourage members as well," Bullock said. "Checking up on each other's mental health as well as physical health is really important. We're a family, not just a program."

The full story can be read on the Mizzou News website [here](#).

An Army ROTC cadet interacts with fellow students and ROTC leaders on a weekly Zoom meeting.



Patrick Seeling works out from home with his child Murphy. Seeling is a senior at MU, the Army Ranger Company Commander, and a distinguished Military Graduate. During his enlisted military career, he completed a deployment to Afghanistan in 2016.

SALUTE VETERANS NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY INDUCTEES

SALUTE Veterans National Honor Society is an academic organization which recognizes student veterans, active duty, National Guard, and Reserve members who have displayed outstanding performance in the classroom, as well as their military field. The new SALUTE members were announced May 13, and this year 16 students were inducted into the society.

- **Cody Gammon**- U.S. Army Veteran
- **David Gauci**- U.S. Army Veteran
- **Krystal Saverse**- U.S. Army National Guard
- **Andrew Deyoe**- U.S. Army National Guard
- **Will Shafer**- U.S. Army National Guard
- **Bella Gibson**- U.S. Army Veteran
- **Zachary Ignotz**- U.S. Marine Corps Veteran
- **Linda Altamirano**- Active Duty U.S. Army
- **Daniel Bridges**- U.S. Marine Corps Veteran
- **Benjamin Coe**- U.S. Air Force Reserves
- **Maria Fussel**- U.S. Air Force Veteran
- **Adama Tukuli**- U.S. Army Reserves
- **Joshua Twitty**- U.S. Air Force Veteran

Three other new inductees are featured below-

JARED BEASLEY- MISSOURI AIR NATIONAL GUARD

Jared Beasley is currently enlisted in the Missouri Air National Guard. Like many, Beasley witnessed firsthand the astounding impact that the Missouri Air National Guard can make after watching Joplin, Missouri declare a state of emergency. Seeing the positive change the Missouri Air National Guard made to the area influenced and inspired him to enlist.

Since he enlisted in 2007, Beasley has been honored with the Air Force Achievement Medal, Air Education and Training Commander's Awards, and Top Distinguished Graduate Award for his service. Beasley received one achievement medal for his temporary deployment to the Navajo Nation, where he built housing on the reservation. He received another for his Qatar deployment. Today, Beasley is a MU Graduate student pursuing Educational Policy.

"I picked Educational Policy because it's so easy for me to see how much meaningful difference you can make. I can see the impact because I was so influenced by the Educational Policy around me," Beasley said.

Being a first-generation college student, as well as a Trio program and GI Bill beneficiary, Beasley said his choice was simple. "Knowing how much it can change people's lives; I wanted to be a part of that process and help veterans."

As for his experience as a student veteran, Beasley says it can't be easily summed up. "The student veteran experience is so diverse. The best thing that people can do is treat student veterans as individuals with a unique experience, a unique background, and a unique future."



JOSEPH TOEPKE- U.S. ARMY VETERAN

Joseph Toepke served for 23 years in the U.S. Army. Toepke was influenced to serve after Operation Desert Storm and joined at the end of the conflict.

"I have a heart to serve people. I always figured if it was me fighting someone wouldn't have to," Toepke said.

Toepke received a Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal and Air Medal while serving in Iraq as a pilot. He was in charge of flying Former United States Secretary of Defense Robert Gates, as well as many high-profile admirals and government officials. Toepke was in Iraq from September 2006 to 2007, in between two parts of the war.



While Toepke is very appreciative of the awards and medals he has received, he says that being conscious of others and their influence on your career is key. "While medals are great and nice, they just sit in a box. The people that are around you that make you successful are the most important," he said.

Toepke is pursuing an undergraduate degree in Personal Financial Planning and says his experience as a student veteran has been great. Toepke attributes this to the Veterans Resource and Support Center. "The Veterans Center at Mizzou is phenomenal. I encourage anybody who is a veteran to swing by the Veterans Center and to educate themselves on the many benefits that veterans can make use of. They deserve it," he said.

JESSICA DURST- U.S. AIR FORCE VETERAN

Jessica Durst enlisted in the Air Force when she was 17 years old. While there are many military veterans in her family, she was the first female to serve.

Durst was influenced to serve because of her family, but also because of her curiosity and love of travel. While serving for six years, she was stationed primarily overseas for long tours in both Alaska and Korea. Durst received her Global War on Terrorism Service medal for serving in Alaska during 9/11 as a tracking and data-link technician.

"Being in Korea was a fantastic opportunity as a young person to learn about different cultures and definitely expanded my horizons," Durst said. "I have a great love for exploration and appreciation for the military, since being in Korea allowed me to do that."

Durst says she chose Public Affairs for her graduate studies because of her many years working for the National Parks Service after her military career. Her work allowed her to live in 17 states in just 21 years. "I have a great love for the outdoors and patriotism, it's just everything that makes our country so grand," Durst said.

