

MIZZOU MILITARY AND VETERANS NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2020 EDITION

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Please contact Robert Ross at veterans@missouri.edu with any questions regarding the newsletter.

VETERANS WEEK ACTIVITIES



Fallen Comrade Table Displays (POW/MIA)

Each year during Mizzou Veterans Week, table displays to honor and recognize POW/MIAs and those killed in action (Fallen Comrades) were presented at in-person events. This year, displays will be incorporated into dining areas or community spaces to remember those who can't be with us. Please stop and check out this recognition of the sacrifice and dedication of our service members.

Joint ROTC Veterans Day Vigil

Mizzou ROTC Cadets and Midshipmen will conduct an honor guard at the Veterans Memorial near the Courthouse columns. Please visit this site to recognize members, past and present, of the military community.

- Tuesday, November 10 at 11:00am
- Boone County Courthouse

Virtual Wreath Laying Ceremony

Join us for a virtual wreath-laying ceremony honoring Mizzou veterans on Mizzou's Instagram and Facebook. A physical wreath will be laid in the Memorial Union archway to remember fallen soldiers.

- Wednesday, November 11 at 11:30am to 12:00pm

Campus Dining Event

Join Campus Dining Service's Chef Eric and the Mizzou Student Veterans Association as they talk about and prepare a military Meal Ready to Eat (MRE). Hear about the MRE's nutritional value, how they are prepared and eaten in the field, and how to prepare one for yourself!

6 p.m. @MUCampusDining Facebook Live and @StuffToDoAtMU Instagram Live

Campus Activities Movie

In honor of Veterans Week, Campus Activities Programming Board is screening Forrest Gump on Thursday, Nov. 12, on Kuhlman Court at 7 p.m. In case of bad weather, the film will be shown at the Shack in the MU Student Center.

Military Appreciation Game

Saturday, Nov. 14 Georgia Bulldogs vs. Missouri Tigers
11 a.m. at Faurot Field

A poster for a live cooking show with Chef Eric. It features a "COOK-A-LONG KIT" logo in the top left corner. The main text reads "LIVE COOKING SHOW WITH CHEF ERIC". Below this, there is an image of a MRE (Meal Ready to Eat) package labeled "FIRST STRIKE" and "APPLE-CINNAMON FLAVOR". The text "Meal Ready-to-Eat Pick Up" is prominently displayed, followed by "10 a.m. - 2 p.m. | Tuesday, Nov. 10". Below this, it says "@MUCampusDining Facebook Live" and "@StuffToDoAtMU Instagram Live". At the bottom, it says "Free meal kit pickup @ The Shack" and includes a small logo for "MIZZOU VETERANS WEEK 2020".

FEELS LIKE HOME- VETERANS WEEK STORY



MU student veterans say they feel the support of Mizzou's commitment to a veteran-friendly campus that has earned the university a rise in rankings for Best Colleges for Veterans.

From the first day Kyle Andrews walked into the University of Missouri Student Veterans Resource and Support Center in the lower level of the Memorial Union, the 26-year-old Marine Corps veteran felt at home.

There he found other MU student veterans who shared a similar military experience — and who understood the struggles that come with transitioning from military life to academia. He also learned about a plethora of services across the MU campus for veteran students, faculty, staff and family members.

"I knew that no matter what situation arose, someone would be there to help me cope," Andrews said. "Just talking to other student veterans about your experiences in the military and how that translates to student life is comforting."

Andrews, who is president of the Mizzou Student Veterans Association, is among nearly 900 MU students who are either veterans, active duty personnel, National Guard members, reservists, ROTC cadets, midshipmen or family members receiving GI Bill benefits. This week Mizzou is

celebrating Veterans Week with a number of mostly virtual activities. You can view a list of activities at <https://missouri.campuslabs.com/engage/event/6598439>.

Mizzou's strong support for veterans has been repeatedly recognized. Most recently, MU ranked 86, up 12 spots from last year, in U.S. News & World Report's list of Best Colleges for Veterans, which includes a pool of more than 380 public and private universities. The ranking is included in the 2021 edition of Best Colleges.

This excerpt was taken from a larger story posted on the Show Me Mizzou website. To read that story, visit <https://showme.missouri.edu/2020/feels-like-home/>.

UPDATE TO GI BILL® BENEFIT EXTENSIONS

On June 11, 2020, Federal Circuit Court overturned VA rules regarding end-of-term benefit extensions in Carr vs Wilkie.

VA will now extend end-of-term benefits beyond 48 months. Prior to this decision, 48 months was a hard stop and benefits were never extended beyond 48 months. There is limited retroactive application and will only apply to cases decided within one year of date of decision: June 11, 2020. VA has begun the process of preparing procedures to implement this change that affects the administration of chapter 30 and 33 benefits (including the Fry Scholarship and STEM program benefits).

The VA is communicating with schools, students and VSOs to set expectations for this change. Schools and students may also can contact the VA Education Call Center for assistance at 1-888-442-4551 if they have any questions concerning this issue. For more information, go to <https://bddy.me/2G7jMZv>.

ROTC DOG TRAINING PROGRAM HELPS VETERANS WITH PTSD AND CHILDREN WITH AUTISM

University of Missouri ROTC cadets are training service dogs in partnership with the non-profit Retrieving Freedom for veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder and children with autism.

The three-month program pairs groups of ROTC students with aspiring service dogs. They aim to socialize the dogs and prepare them for placement with veterans and children. In each student group, there is one primary handler for the service dog and alternate students switch off with the primary handler to train with the dog.

Kylie Schatmeyer is an Army Military Science-4 cadet and a primary handler involved in the program. She trains Blaze, a Labrador retriever. She knows the service program benefits ROTC volunteers and the dogs equally.

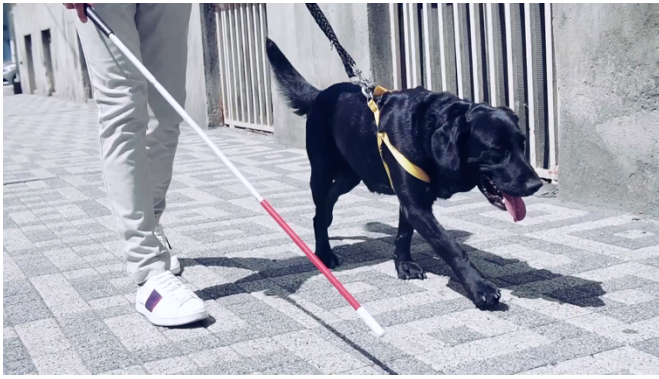


“You have to really work with these dogs in order for them to understand a command,” Schatmeyer said. “It’s great practice for ROTC because you have to be that mentor and leader and have patience.”

The program is an extracurricular and volunteer opportunity for cadets, but that does not take away from its importance.

“When we first went to Retrieving Freedom, we got to see veterans with their dogs and the impact it has on them,” Schatmeyer said. “They told how helpful their dogs were in dealing with the issues they were struggling with.”

Travis Akin is a freshman ROTC cadet and a secondary handler for Blaze. Akin decided to join the program to better himself and help others.



"I've seen people who struggle with PTSD and other disabilities," Akin said. "So being involved with something like this is a meaningful experience."

After the ROTC students finish their program, Retrieving Freedom will take over with the dogs and place them with veterans or children with autism in need. Cadets will be sad to see the dogs go, but know they had an impact.

"I know how much impact dogs can have with emotional and physical support," Schatmeyer said. "Helping whoever Blaze goes onto is important to me."

This story is posted on the Show Me Mizzou website with an accompanying video. Visit <https://showme.missouri.edu/2020/canine-companions/>.

NEW MU AIR FORCE ROTC COMMANDER- GREGORY VICE

Lieutenant Colonel Gregory Vice is the new Professor of Aerospace Studies for the AFROTC Detachment 440 at MU. He took over his role in August.

As commander, Vice is in charge of overall AFROTC operations. He trains and motivates young women and men as prospective Air Force Officers. He also instructs MU ROTC courses, educating cadets on the U.S. Air Force and Space Force.

Earlier in his military career, Vice was a member of the elite Air Force Weapons School. His time there developed his skills as an instructor.



"The instructor skills that you develop in weapons school are the ones you take with you," Vice said. "I've taken pieces from that instructor mentality and used that to teach the next generation of Air Force leaders."

Prior to coming to MU, Vice also assumed command of the 45th Operations Support Squadron and the 1st Range Operations Squadron in June of 2018.

Vice coordinated the merger of the two stations into the 45th Range Squadron. The combined squadron was in charge of launching satellites and astronauts into orbit.

"Since the retiring of the space shuttle in 2011, the U.S. hasn't had any domestic space launch capabilities," Vice said. "So, astronauts going back into orbit was a big deal and we were a big part of

that."

In December 2019, the 45th Space Wing, along with the rest of Air Force Space Command became part of the United States Space Force.

Within the last month, Vice has transferred over to the Space Force. He is excited to incorporate the new branch into education for the AFROTC cadets.

“One of the major goals I have moving forward is to give ROTC cadets more information about the Space Force,” Vice said. “As a Space Weapons Officer, it’s near and dear to my heart.”

The opportunity for ROTC students to commission into the Space Force post-graduation is a new and exciting one. The AFROTC is treating this option much like how the Naval ROTC treats a Marine Corps commission.

AFROTC students now have the option to commission to either the Air Force or Space Force.

“We are excited to start educating students on what the Space Force is and what their options are if the Space Force is something they are interested in,” Vice said. “Our overall mission is to create leaders of character for both the Air Force and Space Force.”

GREGORY L. BIER AND THE ENTREPRENEURSHIP BOOTCAMP FOR VETERANS WITH DISABILITIES

Gregory L. Bier is the Director of the Entrepreneurship Bootcamp for Veterans with Disabilities.

Gregory Bier is an MU professor and the Executive Director of Entrepreneurship Program. Bier works for the MU office of economic development and directs many entrepreneurially focused programs at Mizzou, including the Entrepreneurship Bootcamp for Veterans with Disabilities.

Bier is a veteran himself. He was commissioned into the Army from the Missouri S&T ROTC program. He began his military career as a combat engineer, but went on to serve in many different positions around the world.

His personal experience as a veteran makes his role with the bootcamp meaningful.

The Entrepreneurship Bootcamp for Veterans with Disabilities finished their fifth cohort of veterans this year. The entire program is free to veterans and is sponsored by Veterans United.

The bootcamp is dedicated to providing personalized entrepreneurial teaching to veterans in order for them to succeed.

“The purpose of this program is to support disabled veterans,” Bier said. “We want them to be able to provide for their families and their communities again.”



Veterans from all over the country apply for the program. Bier makes sure the 20-25 veterans involved each year are well supported and connected.

“We involve and offer the entire mid-Missouri entrepreneurial ecosystem to our veterans in the second phase of the program,” Bier said. “We help veterans apply what we teach to their specific business. So, we contact entrepreneurs who are relevant to the industries our veterans are involved in.”

Bier explains that the program continues to check in on veterans after the bootcamp is over for a period of 12 months. Those involved in the boot camp are proud of its results.

“We’ve had 70% of the veterans participate actually start their business by the 12-month mark.”

Bier knows the real reason why the program sees its level of success.

“Entrepreneurship is a team sport just like the military,” Bier said. “All of the veterans involved are leaders and team-builders. It just makes sense for them to succeed like they do.”



SHOW ME RENEWAL

Visit the Show Me Renewal Update page for the latest from Mizzou, updates to the Show Me Renewal Plan and messages for the campus community.

<https://renewal.missouri.edu/>

THE VETERANS WELLNESS CENTER AND OTHER RESOURCES FOR VETERANS

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 Clinic 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.

If Veterans wish to enroll for VA health services, they can call 573-814-6535 and get enrolled over the phone. Veterans can also utilize the VA Video Connect for behavioral health services if needed.

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.

- **To get information about your VA Benefits:** You can obtain this information directly from the VA by one of these methods: You can submit your request by e-mail to the VA through the *Ask A Question* link on <https://iris.custhelp.va.gov>, or contact a benefits representative at 1-800-827-1000 Monday-Friday.
 - The VA has a page dedicated to maintaining your mental health at this time. <https://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/coronavirus/index.asp>.

- **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.
 - 573-814-6000 main number
 - 573-814-6486 number for mental health services
- **Veterans Crisis Line:** For immediate, free crisis counseling please contact the Veterans Crisis Line. Help is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Serves all veterans, all service members, National Guard and Reserves, as well as military family and friends.
 - 1-800-273-8255 and press 1 for main number
 - Text 838255 for the text chat
 - 1-800-799-4889 support for deaf and hard of hearing
 - Chat online at <https://www.veteranscrisisline.net/get-help/chat>.

TWITTER ACCOUNT

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Support Center on Twitter.**

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veterans news!**

