



WORKFORCE SERVICES IN SUPPORT OF VETERANS

JANUARY 1, 2010

ISSUE 10-1

Did you know???

Welcome to another new year. And what will this one bring? I tend to be somewhat of an optimist, even though as I look around, there is certainly enough news and events to cause other than an optimistic outlook. But look a little harder. You may find there are glimpses of successes such as someone doing something for no other reason than it was the right thing to do.

So what are we, as an organization, doing? What are we going to do this new year to be one of those glimpses of success? Those in need take on many different looks, and are not always within our realm to directly assist. However, we have so many resources at our fingertips; so many contacts; so many potential answers to questions. See below story.

One of our staff recently linked together a hard to serve, indigent Veteran with Experience Works. The Dislocated Veteran had no transportation, lived with his son and daughter in law, had not worked for a year and a half, and had no other income other than a small unemployment insurance claim that was nearly exhausted. It took the staff-member close to 6 weeks to get him together with Experience Works. The staff-member had the employer lined up after completing a Job Development on the Veteran with a City Recreation Department. The staff-member negotiated a bus pass for the Veteran as he lived an hour walk into town. This Veteran started his new career on December 1, 2009.

We have the ability and the opportunities to have a positive impact in someone's life. Let's work together to makes these opportunities the rule, rather than the exception.

DVOP—Disabled Veteran Outreach Program - This term is sometimes mis-used in identifying an individual, rather than a program. The DVOP specialist's role is to facilitate intensive services to Veterans with special employment and training needs (barriers to employment). These services include: conduct an assessment; develop and document a plan of action; provide career guidance; coordinate supportive services; establish contacts with local businesses; provide referrals to training and job vacancies; and conduct outreach activities.

LVER—Local Veterans Employment Representative (Program) - Unlike the acronym "DVOP", LVER actually does refer to an individual. The LVER specialist works with other service providers to promote Veterans as job seekers who have highly marketable skills and experience. They advocate for Veterans for employment and training opportunities with business, industry and community based organizations by participating in a variety of outreach activities such as career fairs, coordinating with unions, apprenticeship programs and business organizations. They establish and maintain regular contact with employers, conduct training for Workforce Services staff on Veterans programs and issues, and plan and facilitate the Transition Assistance Program (TAP).

If you aren't familiar with (and using) "Veterans Upward Bound" (VUB) of Montana as a resource, you may be missing out. Besides offering free college prep classes at several campuses around the state, they have information on many other service

providers, organizations and programs specifically for Veterans. They also publish an extremely informative monthly newsletter. Check out their website at: <http://vubmt.com>

Select Newsletter on the top-line menu, then; Select whatever month's newsletter you prefer.

Final Rule for Priority of Service for Veterans.

The notice has been posted to Inside the Insider from: <http://insider.dli.mt.gov/wsd/resources/veterans.asp> and in the WSD Veterans section from: <http://wsd.dli.mt.gov/veterans/vetresources.asp> and a cross link under features on the WSD home page. <http://wsd.dli.mt.gov/veterans/vetpriorityofservice.pdf>

Information on the wars, campaigns, or expeditions for which a campaign badge has been authorized may be found at <http://www.opm.gov/veterans/html/vgmedal2.htm>.

- Tell Veterans about
- www.vetsuccess.gov
- www.vetbiz.gov
- www.jofdav.com
- www.vetjobcentral.com
- www.gibill.va.gov
- www.trooptube.tv/home
- www.montana.edu/ttt
- www1.va.gov/opa/vetsday
- www.aw2.army.mil
- www.military.com
- www.oefoif.va.gov

Helena Job Service hosts first Veterans Day celebration at local office

The Helena Job Service Workforce Center held our First Annual Veteran's Day Celebration on Tuesday, November 10. We had several businesses in the area assist in sponsoring this event. Starbucks on Last Chance Gulch provided gallons of coffee, Vann's Thriftway donated doughnuts, and an anonymous donor sponsored a meat tray, also from Vann's Thriftway. We were able to purchase a beautiful United States flag to display in our office.

Veterans in our area were pleasantly surprised by the impromptu celebration, and several of them commented that "this is the first time anyone's ever said thank you for our service." Our office plans to make the celebration an annual event to honor our community's Veterans.

27 Veterans attended, as well as 7 service providers in the area. Some of the Veterans were new to the area and the DVOP was able to meet with them and get them into different programs and even placed one to a part-time position.

Contributed by "Shak" Emly, DVOP, Helena Job Service

Additional (temporary) DVOP/LVER staff assigned to multiple Job Service offices around Montana

Beginning September 28, the Department of Labor & Industry received additional funding under the Jobs for Veterans State Grant to place temporary DVOP/LVER specialists in Job Service offices around the state. The communities that are affected by this additional funding

- are:
- Hamilton: 375-6041/6053
- Missoula: 542-5754/5743
- Butte: 494-0316
- Helena: 447-3210
- Great Falls: 791-5819/5820
- Kalispell: 758-6220/6230
- Cut Bank: 873-2191
- Glasgow: 228-3931
- Havre: 262-2804
- Glendive: 377-3314
- Miles City: 232-8345
- Lewistown: 535-1561
- Billings: 655-6077/6078
- Bozeman: 582-9224

Although the funding for these positions is temporary (six months), the benefit will hopefully be felt for some time. These staff members are able to focus their attention and services on those Veterans most in need (those with disabilities and homeless Veterans). We have the opportunity to conduct outreach to Veterans and establish partnerships with businesses in areas we previously were unable to access due to limited staff.

One of the immediate benefits was Dave Delaney (DVOP—Great Falls) and Joe Fletcher (LVER—Great Falls) were able to travel to the Eastern Montana Job Service offices and conduct training for staff that have not had a trained Veteran Representative in many years. They added additional training sessions to four other locations (Butte, Havre, Kalispell and Hamilton) for the remaining new temporary DVOP/LVER staff as well. The style and quality of the training was well received, and was so effective, we are already looking at setting up a recurring schedule.

Regardless of the funding, our staff will continue to provide the same quality of services to Veterans long after these additional positions disappear. But for now, we will take advantage of the training

opportunities and extra staff.

Use myPay to Get 2009 Tax Statements

Military servicemembers, military retirees and annuitants paid by the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) can expect to receive their 2009 tax statements soon. DFAS customers with [myPay](#) access will be able to retrieve their tax statements electronically up to two weeks sooner than those relying on regular mail delivery. DFAS customers who have forgotten their personal identification number (PIN) or wish to open a myPay account can do so on the [myPay website](#) at

<https://mypay.dfas.mil/mypay.aspx>

Military Spouse Scholarships

Applications are currently being accepted for the National Military Family Association's (NMFA) Joanne Holbrook Patton Military Spouse Scholarship Program. The program awards spouses of uniformed services members up to \$1,000 for professional certification, college, or graduate school. Applications are due by midnight Jan. 31, 2010. For more information, visit the [National Military Family Association](#) website at <http://www.militaryfamily.org/our-programs/military-spouse-scholarships/>

To find more family resources visit the [Military Spouse Network](#) at <http://www.military.com/military-spouse-network/page/home.html>

Information on how to contact each of the services is listed below:

DoD To Implement Retroactive Stop Loss Special Pay

The Defense Department announced today the services' implementation plans to provide retroactive stop loss special pay. Active, reserve and former service members who had their enlistment extended or retirement suspended due to stop loss are eligible for this special pay, if they served on active duty between Sept. 11, 2001 and Sept. 30, 2009.

Service members may begin submitting their claim for retroactive stop loss special pay on Oct. 21, 2009. In accordance with the 2009 Supplemental Appropriations Act, all applications must be submitted to the respective services no later than Oct. 21, 2010. Eligible personnel will receive a payment of \$500 per month for each month (or any portion of a month) that a member was retained on active duty due to stop loss. Applicants for retroactive pay who are no longer in the military had to be honorably discharged, and for those who were stop lossed in fiscal 2009, may only receive payment from one stop loss authority; either the money appropriated for stop loss special pay in the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009, or the money allocated for retroactive stop loss special pay in the 2009 Supplemental Appropriations Act, but not both.

Service members must provide documented proof they were stop lossed with their claim. Family members of deceased service members should contact the appropriate military service for assistance in filing their claim.

Army: Go to <https://www.stoplosspay.army.mil> or email RetroStopLoss Pay@CONUS.Army.Mil

N a v y : E m a i l NXAG_N132C@navy.mil

Marine Corps: Go to <https://www.manpower.usmc.mil/stoploss> or email stoploss@usmc.mil

Air Force: Go to <http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/stoploss/>

Stop loss provides a valuable and critical tool to quickly retain and generate forces to surge in a major conflict. However, as deployment schedules stabilize, the department must then adapt and minimize its use of stop loss. The Secretary of Defense announced in March a comprehensive plan to eliminate the current use of stop loss, while retaining the authority for future use under extraordinary circumstances.

Remember to Update DEERS

It's important for families to keep their DEERS records up-to-date whenever changes occur. Contact information on DEERS can be updated in person at a military ID card issuing facility, online, and by phone, fax or mail. There are two secure online options via either the new [myDODbenefits website](#), or the [Beneficiary Web Enrollment](#) website. Both are available to people who have an active DFAS-issued myPay personal identification number. Beneficiaries can call the Defense Manpower Data Center's support office at 800-538-9552 (866-363-2883 TTY/TDD) to update addresses, e-mail addresses and phone numbers. Changes can also be faxed to 831-655-8317, or

mailed to DMDC Support Office, 400 Gigling Road, Seaside, CA 93955-6771.

Learn more about [military benefits and DEERS](#) on Military.com.

Congress Passes Bill to Ease Voting

U.S. troops and other American voters overseas will get more time to send in their ballots and more electronic access to voting forms under legislation Congress passed Thursday.

The bill, called the Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment Act, aims to remove some of the hurdles that have caused thousands of overseas ballots to be lost or uncounted in past elections.

The measure was attached to a \$680 billion defense policy bill that the Senate approved Thursday on a 68-29 vote. The bill now goes to President Barack Obama for his signature.

The legislation would require that states provide military and other overseas voters with ballots at least 45 days ahead of an election to ensure there is enough time to complete and return them. States also must provide registration forms, absentee ballot request forms and emergency ballots electronically - meaning the forms could be downloaded online or sent over e-mail.

"The important legislation will modernize the way that our men and women in uniform participate in the very democracy that they are sworn to defend,"

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Bill cont'd from page 3

said Sen. Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., one of the measure's sponsors. The bill is backed by a large bipartisan group, including Senators' Saxby Chambliss, R-Ga., Ben Nelson, D-Neb., Bob Bennett, R-Utah, and John Cornyn, R-Texas.

Chambliss said the bill takes advantage of the latest technology to help troops and overseas voters get their ballots counted in time.

"It's just going to make it a lot easier for those people to cast their ballot for the candidate that they want to see elected to whatever the office may be," Chambliss said.

The measure would also bar states from rejecting military ballots for lack of a notary signature. And it facilitates voter registration assistance for troops and their family members at military installations.

The bill's sponsors say they are confident state officials can carry out the requirements in time for the 2010 elections.

Several studies have explored the difficulties that troops and other Americans living abroad face when voting.

The Congressional Research Service, in a May report, found that one out of every four military personnel and overseas voters may have been thwarted in efforts to vote in the 2008 election because of communication and bureaucratic problems. Mail delays, notary requirements and registration deadlines were some of the barriers.

The Pew Center on the States, a division of the Pew Charitable

Trusts, in January issued a report concluding that 25 states and the District of Columbia do not provide adequate time for overseas troops to vote and have their ballots count.

Navy Historical Records Available

Ancestry.com, in cooperation with the Naval History and Heritage Command (NHHHC) and Naval Historical Foundation (NHF), added more than 600 Navy cruise books to its online collection of military records. The collection, available at Ancestry.com, represents nearly 40 years of cruises following World War II, from 1950-1988, and chronicles an estimated 450,000 service men deployed at sea during that time. The Navy cruise books are part of Ancestry.com's U.S. Military Collection, which includes 100 million names that span more than three centuries of American military service. For more information, visit Ancestry.com, then select U.S. Military Collection under "Featured Collections".

Scholarships for Military Children

Scholarship applications are now available in commissaries worldwide and online at the Scholarships for [Military Children](http://www.militaryscholar.org/) website at <http://www.militaryscholar.org/>

Only dependent, unmarried children, younger than age 21 (age 23 if enrolled as a full-time student at a college or university) of active duty personnel, Reserve, Guard and retired military members, survivors of servicemembers may apply for a scholarship. Applicants should prepare to submit an essay. Applications must be turned in to a commissary by close of business Feb. 17, 2010. At least one scholarship will be awarded at every commissary loca-

tion with qualified applicants. For more information, visit the Commissaries.com website and the Scholarships for Military Children website.

American Legion Redesigns Website

The American Legion, America's largest veterans' service organization, launched a new website complete with new content and featuring a completely redesigned look. American Legion National Commander Clarence Hill said the new website "is a tremendous addition to our online presence. It's more informative, better-looking, and easier to navigate than our previous site. I encourage Legionnaires to visit www.legion.org and explore the wealth of content in its pages." The new website also includes more than 30 separate landing pages for American Legion programs and activities.

White House in Major Push for Vet's Employment

November 10, 2009

The White House yesterday announced an ambitious hire-a-vet campaign that calls on the federal government to boost job opportunities for former servicemembers. President Barack Obama signed an executive order Nov. 9 titled "The Veterans Employment Initiative" which is intended to transform federal government into a model of veterans' employment.

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"Honoring our sacred trust with America's veterans means doing all we can to help them find work when they come home so they never feel as if the American Dream they fought to defend is out of reach for them and their families," Obama said in a press statement.

But Obama said the initiative is also about filling the federal job ranks with people who have the "skills, dedication, and sense of duty that Americans deserve from their public servants."

The order calls for the formation of an advisory council to make sure the 24 federal agencies tabbed in the initiative do all they can to open doors to vets.

Among those on hand for the signing were Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric Shinseki, Labor Secretary Hilda Solis, Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano and Office of Personnel Management Director John Berry.

Shinseki and Napolitano will co-chair the new advisory group, dubbed the "Council on Veterans Employment," while Berry will serve as vice-chairman and the council's chief operating officer, the White House said.

The council will advise and assist the president and the director of OPM in setting up a coordinated government-wide effort to increase the number of veterans employed by the federal government by enhancing recruitment and training. The council also is intended to serve as a national forum for promoting vets' employment opportunities in the executive branch.

The agencies represented on the council -- among them the departments of State, Treasury, Defense, Veterans Affairs, Justice and Interior -- have each been ordered to develop plans for promoting veterans employment. Within the next three months each department will have set up a Veterans Employment Program Office with a full-time officer or employee heading it up, the White House said.

The Defense, Veterans Affairs, Homeland Security and Labor departments have been ordered to develop and implement counseling and training programs to help vets and service members bound for the civilian world find work in the federal government.

Shinseki, in remarks included in the White House release, underscored the "unmatched dedication" veterans have shown to public service.

"They offer leadership and technical skills that are in high demand, whether in the public or private workforce," he said. "Not only does this initiative present an opportunity for veterans to serve their nation once again, the nation will benefit from the education and training veterans received in the armed forces."

An Overview of VA Home Loans

The VA Loan Guaranty Program began in 1944 in order to give soldiers returning from war the same opportunities to own homes as their civilian counterparts. Today, the general purpose of VA home loans is to provide veterans with secure home financing in appreciation for their service to America. The program is administered by the Veterans Benefits Administration, an organizational element of the U.S.

Department of Veterans Affairs.

A VA loan is made by a VA-approved mortgage lender with a portion backed by the good faith and credit of the U.S. Government. The benefits of the VA loan program create one of the safest and most secure home financing options for VA-eligible borrowers.

Although there are over 23 million people eligible for VA home loan benefits, less than 10 percent have a VA mortgage. Typically those with two years of active duty in branches of Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and Coast Guard are eligible for the VA Home Loan Guaranty Program. Some surviving spouses and Reservists/National Guard members also qualify.

A Certificate of Eligibility (COE) is needed before anyone can apply for a VA loan. A COE tells lenders how much entitlement a borrower has. Most COEs can be obtained by an approved VA lender on behalf of a borrower using a system called ACE.

Borrowers can expect to find the following benefits associated with VA loans:

- No down payment (100% financing)
- No private mortgage insurance (PMI)
- Relaxed qualifying standards
- Competitive interest rates
- No penalties for mortgage prepayment
- Cash-out and debt consolidation
- Streamline rate reduction

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The DVET Corner

*Submitted by Byron Erickson, Director,
Veteran Employment and Training
(DVET) representative for Montana*

It is nice for us to have a “good job” in times when jobs are scarce. It is good to be able to pay the winter and monthly bills and feel like we are secure financially.

It is better yet to do things in our work that actually give us something less tangible in return. Like being able to assist others in becoming trained, employed, or receiving needed supportive services to help lift a burden.

There are employees and then there are employees. Whatever we do in our job can have immediate and life-long outcomes for the people we serve. What a great reward there is for those of us who have a “good job” to be able to look back and be able to say that our efforts made a notable difference in the lives of others.

If you have the desire to make a difference through your job; if you have aggression and passion for success; then look at ways to make that happen.

There have been ways to help Veterans that go way beyond our job description or the normal expectations of our “good job.” Many times those efforts may not show up on the DART report right away or at all. That is one reason the Veteran Incentive Award was offered. It rewards those who make things happen for the Veterans we serve.

The Veteran Provider Meetings that are now operating in Bozeman, Helena, and Missoula are one example. They solely focus on Veterans

and train, coordinate, and share with each other in order to solve problems for Veterans in their communities. It makes them more effective as a community team who in turn provide the best assistance possible for our veterans.

Other efforts spent on Stand Downs, Veteran priority of service, promoting partnerships with employers, or formulating other efforts to assist our Veteran heroes can also have positive residual ramifications for years to come.

Make a difference with your “good job.” As you walk the path of life look back to see if it seems better because you were there.

Estimate Your Disability Retired Pay

The Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) launched their new Medical Disability Retired Pay Estimator, an interactive online tool for medically retiring Wounded Warriors, available at the [DFAS website](http://www.dfas.mil/militarypay/woundedwarriorpay.html) at <http://www.dfas.mil/militarypay/woundedwarriorpay.html>

The scenario-driven tool provides users the ability to estimate their post retirement income from DoD and VA such as retired pay, Concurrent Receipt and Combat Related Special Compensation. Results also include how calculations are produced based on current law and the impact of legislation on total disability income.

Fact or Fiction: The Truth About Career Myths

Myth: There is no way to “test drive” a new job or career.

Reality: Wrong. There are many ways to learn about jobs and career fields without actually working in them. Taking the time to re-

search is the key. There are various resources that you can investigate. Use the internet. The Occupational Outlook Handbook (OOH) is a bountiful online resource created by the U.S. Bureau of Labor and Statistics (BLS), which provides detailed information about hundreds of occupations including the nature of the work, training requirements, salary range, and outlook through the next decade. <http://www.bls.gov/oco/>

For visual learners, there are websites that offer videos depicting a typical day for various jobs/career tracks. You can even view websites that post insider views of selected organizations. Another more personal way to gain firsthand information is by conducting an informational interview with someone in your desired field. This is not a job interview, but rather an in-person interview you initiate to learn more about the vocation.

Myth: I should choose my career based upon market demand and jobs that are currently “hot.”

Reality: The job market is constantly fluctuating. A “hot” job today may not be in demand tomorrow. Economic conditions, technological advances, and the labor supply can significantly affect employment opportunities. Job outlook trends can be useful as one facet of career selection but should not be the primary consideration. Statistics show most people will have an average of five to seven jobs and as many as three different careers in their lifetime. Your career choices will be most rewarding if they are firmly rooted in your interests, skills, and values, not dictated by market demand.

Operation Afterhours

Veteran Services Takes on New Hours to Reach Out to Veterans

(GREAT FALLS) – Supporting our Veterans takes on additional hours in the New Year at the Great Falls Job Service. For Veterans who are out of work or are underemployed, there is now additional help to hurdle those challenges – after hours.

As part of Operation: Afterhours, the Great Falls Job Service Workforce Center is teaming up with Montana Veterans Affairs to connect Veterans with valuable resources available to them during extended hours.

Normally, workforce consultants at the Great Falls Job Service are available during standard business hours (Monday-Thursday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.). Operation Afterhours opens the doors to the Job Service -- just for Veterans -- once a month, later into the evening.

“Every Montana military Veteran should have access to programs and services that can help get them through these tough times,” says Dave Delaney, a Great Falls Workforce Consultant and Veterans Representative. “And we are committed to making this happen for each of them.”

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VA Loans cont'd from page 5

Generally, full entitlement is for a loan of \$417,000. Income and credit qualifying is required before a loan of any amount is made. The VA guidelines for income and credit qualifying are more relaxed than that of many conventional loan programs.

Many of the temporary DVOP/LVER staff completed the Veteran Benefits on-line course this past quarter. Two separate courses were offered with completion dates and names below:

October 16:

J.R. Strand—Missoula
Fred Greco—Cut Bank

November 16:

William Gilbert—Kalispell
Kevin Connors—Lewistown
Bev Hagen—Havre
Shannon Kadrmas—Glendive
Paul Ayers—Billings
Diana Thomas—Hamilton
Lee Erickson—Glasgow
Joesette Lindvold—Miles City

Jim Korth (DVOP) from the Bozeman Job Service office completed Promoting Partnerships for Employment (PPE) on October 23.

Tina Whiting (DVOP) from the Central Office completed Case Management (CM) on December 11.

“Shak” Emly (DVOP) from the Helena Job Service office completed CM on December 11.

All training is conducted at (or under the auspices of) the National Veterans Training Institute (NVTI) in Denver, CO. Congratulations to these specialists.

Veterans Service Officers

Veterans Service Officers (VSO) are a vital link between the Veteran, Veteran Service Providers, DVOP/LVER Specialists, and the VA Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment staff. Below is an **updated** listing of Montana’s VSO(s) and their contact information.

Belgrade: 406-388-4601
Kelly Ackerman
Janine Mahn

Billings:

Cheryl Heald 406-656-0584
Dorothy Jarosz 406-248-8579
Jay Gaffri 406-259-5419

Butte:

406-533-0910
David Williamson

Great Falls:

406-452-2265
Valarie Martin
David Capps
Mark Blake

Havre:

406-265-4225
Diana LaBuda
Judy Loendorf

Helena:

406-495-2080/2081/2082
Elizabeth Larson
Jack Morgan
Lori Perkio

Kalispell:

406-755-3795
Sherry Stewart
Jane Gerald

Lewistown:

406-538-3174
Sue Foster

Miles City:

406-232-1203
Michael Cohan

Missoula:

406-542-2501
Len Leibinger
Melinda Buxton
Andrea Montee

Wolf Point:

406-653-5105
Chelly Harada

Time with Tina

Contributed by:

Tina Whiting

Veteran Intensive Services Coordinator (VISC)

Workforce Services Division

Hello again. This past quarter has been wonderful. I got to see the first snowfall of the year! I haven't seen that in 17 years! I'm also very excited to shovel snow and wear heavy coats. Life in Montana is a beautiful thing.

Since I last wrote I have really been able to focus on two things. First, I have been developing a process to better serve and monitor the progress of our VA Vocational Rehabilitation Veterans (Ch 31 participants). Second, I have had many opportunities to conduct outreach in various areas.

In my last article, I stated that my position is new for Montana. To that end, I took a trip to Minnesota to see how they are running their process for VA Chapter 31 participants. Also, I have spoken with several other Intensive Service Coordinators from other states. This research has given me several different ideas of ways to better serve the Ch 31 participants in Montana. Currently the process is being reviewed by the Job Service staff and the VA personnel who are partnering with us to provide better service. It is our goal to implement these ideas by April 2010. An enormous thank you goes out to Kathy Steil, who is helping us break new ground in how this review is presented to both parties in this partnership.

The travel I have done this quarter was fantastic; despite the fact that I did stay home in November. In Oc-

tober I was able to finish my initial visits in Northeastern Montana. To the following offices I want to extend a special thanks for not only welcoming me, but for taking a few moments out of your busy schedules to visit with me: Lewistown, Glasgow, Wolf Point, Sydney, Glendive and Miles City. Another special thanks goes out to Billings, Bozeman, and Missoula for letting me sit with their DVOPs for a day to see how they do the magic they do. I would also like to thank the Bitterroot JSEC committee for letting me visit one of their meetings and congratulations to the Bitterroot Job Service staff on their new building and location.

My other travels were with the VA Minority Vet Rep, Buck Richardson and his partner, Wilmot Collins. We took a week and visited with the Rocky Boys nation, Fort Belknap nation, Fort Peck nation, Northern Cheyenne nation and Crow nation. Then we spent a day in Sheridan, WY. I learned a lot about the nations, and their cultures. Thank you to everyone I encountered on this trip. You were all very wonderful. A special thanks to Buck and Wilmot too for taking me along. It would have been impossible for me to learn half as much on my own or to meet anyone.

I have already started making travel plans for next quarter. I will try to attend JSEC and CMT meetings in various areas and I am planning on attending any Veteran Clinics hosted by the Indian Health Services around the state. I am also hoping to have the new process for Ch 31 Veterans finalized.

If you or your organization has an event you would like a Veteran representative at, please let me know. I would love to attend. If you are an employer and you want to know more about employing

Veterans, please let me know, I would be happy to assist you. My email is twhiting@mt.gov. Have a safe Holiday Season, be careful driving and we'll see you in April.

Tina

The VISC is responsible for coordinating efforts between the VA Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VR&E) staff and the DVOP/LVER staff within Workforce Services.

Afterhours cont'd from page 7

Tuesday, Jan. 19, 2010, from 5:30-8:00 p.m., at the Great Falls Job Service Workforce Center, 1018 7th Street South, Veterans will get information on training and educational opportunities that will add to their job skills and abilities. They will learn how to register and find work through the Job Service and how to file for Unemployment Benefits if they are eligible.

Plus there will be information and assistance on resources available right here in our community, including obtaining records, low-cost health insurance, public assistance, credit counseling, treatment programs, senior services, and much more.

For more information, please contact the Great Falls Job Workforce Center at 791-5800.

Thank a Veteran

Thank the family members of a Veteran