



2009 National Conference
on Volunteering & Service

June 22-24, 2009 • San Francisco

civic.energy.generation.



Service to Country Service to Community

Welcome

Bill Basl, Executive Director

Washington Commission for National & Community Service

Debbie Schuffenhauer, Associate Director

Washington Commission for National & Community Service

Dixon McReynolds, AmeriCorps Alum

Retired United States Air Force



Learning Outcomes

As a result of this session, participants will be able to:

- Describe the benefits of engaging veterans in AmeriCorps programs and community service projects;
- Identify opportunities for engaging military members and veterans as leaders in national service programs and activities;
- Initiate new partnerships with Warrior Transition Battalions and others to implement successful veterans community service initiatives; and
- Develop an understanding of opportunities to recognize members of the military for their voluntary service to the community (i.e. Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal, President's Volunteer Service Award).



Participant Brainstorm

Veterans and members of the military have so much to teach others and should be given the opportunity to use their skills to improve communities and inspire others through community service initiatives.

Tap the knowledge, skills and abilities of veterans by engaging them in AmeriCorps national service positions which will enable them to make a positive difference in their community and improve their quality of life as a civilian.

How could your AmeriCorps program benefit from the knowledge, skills and abilities of veterans and members of the military?



Veterans Initiatives in Washington State

- Partnership with Warrior Transition Battalion
- Development of a Memorandum of Understanding
- Warriors in Transition as Volunteers
 - a. Hillside Elementary School
 - b. Habitat for Humanity
- Veterans College Navigator Project
- Washington Veterans Corps

Memorandum of Understanding

The purpose of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is to :

- Serve as the formal agreement to allow volunteer and service opportunities as part of the WTB soldiers' Comprehensive Transition Action Plan; and
- Clarify the roles and responsibilities of the soldier and the service site in supporting the soldiers' rehabilitation requirements while engaging in service as a reintegration activity.

Habitat for Humanity

Local News | Fort Lewis' wounded warriors team up with Habitat for Humanity | Seattle Times Newspaper

Page 1 of 3

The Seattle Times

Thursday, June 11, 2009 - Page updated at 12:00 AM

Permission to reprint or copy this article or photo, other than personal use, must be obtained from The Seattle Times. Call 206-464-3113 or e-mail resale@seattletimes.com with your request.

Fort Lewis' wounded warriors team up with Habitat for Humanity

By Erik Lacitls
Seattle Times staff reporter
TACOMA —

Every little bit helps, when you're back home from Iraq or Afghanistan or wherever you were stationed, and know that because of your injury or illness, your Army days are likely over.

And so Wednesday, a group of 27 soldiers who are part of the Warrior Transition Battalion out of Fort Lewis were helping build low-income houses on a Habitat for Humanity project.

They said they wanted to give back to the community, as if they hadn't done enough for the country already.

"It makes them feel needed," said Staff Sgt. James Warren, who has 10 soldiers in his Alpha Company squad that's part of the battalion. He was there helping hammer and hoist materials.

He's 35 and if you're speaking from his right side, sometimes he asks you to repeat what was said.

"Gunfire battles," he explained. That would have been when he was in Afghanistan from 2003 to 2004.

Now he's with the transition battalion, of which there are 37 units across the country, started back in January 2008 after searing reports of troubled medical hold units. Wounded and sick soldiers felt as though they were adrift for months, sometimes years.



DEAN RUTZ / THE SEATTLE TIMES
Staff Sgt. James Warren hammers away at the roof of a house that will soon be home to a low-income family in Tacoma. Warren has 10 soldiers in his squad that's part of the Warrior Transition Battalion at Fort Lewis. Many of the battalion's soldiers were injured in combat.



DEAN RUTZ / THE SEATTLE TIMES
This housing project in East Tacoma, in which ground was broken on 12 homes in January, is expected to be

Examples of Activities

- Tap the knowledge, skills and abilities of veterans by engaging them in AmeriCorps national service positions which will enable them to make a positive difference in their community and improve their quality of life as a civilian;
- Engage veterans and soldiers assigned to the Warrior Transition Battalion in community-based efforts to meet the needs of military families while a family member is deployed and/or upon that family member's return home;
- Address identifiable public needs to improve the lives of veterans (e.g. affordable and accessible housing units created for veterans by veterans and/or WTB soldiers);
- Develop mentoring relationships with the children of deployed military members or other disadvantaged youth;
- Assist veterans in developing education and employment opportunities (including opportunities for professional certification, licensure or credentials) or service assignments that may lead to employment in the private and public sector;

Examples of Activities

- Connect with veterans attending colleges and universities in Washington state who have recently served in Iraq and Afghanistan so they can organize, partner, volunteer or serve on local service projects as a group or with other AmeriCorps programs;
- Connect veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan who are recovering from Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) with civilians also recovering from TBI (e.g. partnership opportunity with Headstrong) to engage them in service opportunities that utilize service to others as aid in recovery from TBI;
- Utilize AmeriCorps members to organize and publicize volunteer opportunities for active duty military and members of the Guard and Reserve to enable them qualify to receive the Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal and/or the President's Volunteer Service Award; and
- Inform veterans of new and/or expanded leadership opportunities within national service that were created as a result of the Serve America Act.

Recognizing Military Volunteers

Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal



Recognizing Military Volunteers

President's Volunteer Service Awards



PVSA – Gold Level



Presidential Volunteer Service Award Criteria Gold Level

Kids: 100 hours or more

Young Adults: 250 hours or more

Adults: 500 hours or more

Family & Groups: 1000 hours or more

PVSA – Silver Level



Presidential Volunteer Service Award Criteria Silver Level

Kids: 75 to 99 hours

Young Adults: 175 to 249 hours

Adults: 250 to 499 hours

Family & Groups: 500 to 999 hours

PVSA – Bronze Level



Presidential Volunteer Service Award Criteria Bronze Level

Kids: 50 to 74 hours

Young Adults: 100 to 174 hours

Adults: 100 to 249 hours

Family & Groups: 200 to 499 hours

Questions?

If you have questions or would like additional information, please feel free to contact :

Bill Basl bill.basl@ofm.wa.gov

Debbie Schuffenhauer debbie.schuffenhauer@ofm.wa.gov

Dixon McReynolds dmdmac@gmail.com

