

# Veteran Updates

News and updates on Veterans issues from the San Francisco VA Health Care System • September 2015

## IT Accelerated Learning Programs for Veterans and Soon-to-be Vets

Are you a Veteran from any era who was discharged honorably or under other than dishonorable conditions? Or are you active duty military, within 6 months of separating or retiring?

If you're interested in starting a career in information technology (IT), or already have IT experience, a VA-sponsored accelerated learning program (ALP) may be right for you.

As a transitioning Servicemember or Veteran, you are eligible to participate in an ALP in IT at no cost, without using your GI Bill benefits. ALPs help you quickly gain the skills and certifications you need to qualify for employment in IT, one of today's fastest-growing industries. You'll receive job placement services upon completing a program.

ALPs are available in locations across the country, and many are online:

- **New Horizons of St. Louis - Computer Learning Centers**

Provides coaching and online training to prepare students for approximately 25 professional IT certification exams from leading software, hardware, networking, and Web service companies and professional organizations. Online. <http://1.usa.gov/1NMghSH>

- **Full Circle Computing - Ready-4-Success in IT Boot Camp**

This provides training in a hands-on laboratory environment to prepare for

two national certification examinations. Online. <http://bit.ly/1F3EZGR>

- **Three Wire Systems, LLC - VetAdvisor IT ALP**

This will prepare you for more than 80 professional certification exams from leading software, hardware, networking, and Web service companies and professional organizations. In San Francisco and online. <http://1.usa.gov/1hlEoLh>

- **TLG Learning - IT Help Desk Job Training Program**

This is an 8-week program designed for transitioning Servicemembers and Veterans looking for an entry-level IT position who have the aptitude, desire, and willingness to learn the necessary skills for a successful IT career. Seattle. <http://1.usa.gov/1Kg2tAr>

- **TLG Learning - Network Support Engineer Job Training Program (F5)**

This is designed for those with strong IT experience and/or a college degree in IT. Seattle. <http://1.usa.gov/1EnojiC>

- **True Information Assurance - CyberAcademy**

Rapid growth in cybercrime has created an extensive need for cybersecurity professionals. This provides applied training and knowledge based on the National Cybersecurity Workforce Framework. Online. <http://1.usa.gov/1fLdmv5>

You can apply for these courses at <http://benefits.va.gov/tap/alp.asp>.

## New VA Service Animal Policy

VA has revised its rules regarding the presence of animals on VA property, to remain consistent with federal law.

Only **dogs** that are individually trained to perform work or tasks on behalf of an individual with a disability will be considered service animals.

A service animal (dog) must be kept under a handler's control and have been trained to perform tasks or work for a person with a disability, whether it be physical, psychiatric or intellectual.

A person on VA property with a dog may be asked: "Is your dog a service animal required because of a disability?" and "What work or tasks has your dog been trained to perform?"

Service animals may be restricted from certain areas on VA properties to ensure that patient care, patient safety, and infection control standards aren't compromised.



## Veteran Kudos

“There has been a lot of negativity on line lately concerning the VA.... I'm here to say, you all do a wonderful job and I thank you with all my heart, "THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE!" –J.P.F.

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“The volunteers I see at SFVAMC are true Angels, and it's great to see high school aged youth volunteering. They come through the hospital ward where I work (SFVAMC) and are making a positive impact with both the patients and staff.” –X.S.M.

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“The service and attention I get at the VA Clinic in San Bruno has been fantastic. The staff there are professional, friendly and most importantly, prompt. – B. L.

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“I have used MyHealtheVet online prescription ordering for a long time now. It has saved me! Absolutely a great part of MyHealtheVet.” - C.C.

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May our Lord and God truly bless all the staff at the VA.” - K.S.

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“The SFVAMC is the best friend you can have.” - S.T.

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## Like to Fish? Free Casting Lessons

No matter if you're a beginner, pretty good, or advanced at fly fishing and casting, the Golden Gate Angling & Casting Club offers free fly casting lessons (and free loan of fly rods—as available) to the community, usually on the second Saturday morning of each month and sometimes twice a month.

Casting classes are held at the club's lodge and casting pools located at the western end of Golden Gate Park (close to 1232 John F. Kennedy Drive, in San Francisco).

Always call first or check the website at [www.ggacc.org/events](http://www.ggacc.org/events) to make sure the class has not been moved to another date.

For more information or to pre-register for a class, contact John C. Till at [johnctill@comcast.net](mailto:johnctill@comcast.net) or at (650) 348-1216.

**The next free casting class is scheduled to be held on Saturday, September 12, from 9:30 a.m. –12 p.m.**



## Resources for Veterans

### National VA Phone Numbers:

**VA Benefits/Claims**  
(800) 827-1000

**Education (GI Bill)**  
(888) 442-4551

**Health Care Benefits**  
(877) 222-8387

**Veterans Crisis Line**  
(800) 273-8255 (Press #1)

**Women Veterans Call Center**  
(855) 829-6636

### SFVAHCS Phone Numbers:

**Billing Office**  
(866) 347-2353

**Mental Health/Substance Abuse**  
(415) 750-6674

**Pharmacy (Auto Refill)**  
(415) 750-2233

**Patient Experience Specialist**  
(415) 750-6650

**Telephone Linked Care**  
(800) 733-0502

