

# TROOPS TO TEACHERS

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## Bridging the Gap

from the **Service** to the **Classroom**

*(This article by community editor Derek Gean appeared in the May 7, 2009, edition of the Guidon and is excerpted with permission.)*

To see Jerry Herndon in the classroom, you wouldn't know that he has only been teaching junior high history for less than a year. Herndon handles his Waynesville Middle School classroom with ease, and his students seem to warm to his care.

He attributes his classroom success to his military experience and the Missouri Troops to Teachers program.

"When I was getting ready to retire from the Marine Detachment (at) Fort Leonard Wood, I knew I wanted to stay in the teaching field, and the easiest way of doing that was with Troops to Teachers," said Herndon, who was the senior instructor for the motor-transport school. "I love it. The military provided a great foundation for doing this sort of job, and it is absolutely well worth it."

Teaching for less than a year in the public school system, Herndon has already had great success – he was recently named 2009 Troops to Teachers Teacher of the Year. He said for service members looking to make a difference after retiring, teaching could be their answer.

"The whole time that somebody is in the military, the more senior you get, you become a teacher without even knowing it," Herndon said. "We call it mentorship, and doing this (teaching) is just a progression of that. It's not the military, but now you are (working) with younger students and instilling some of the discipline and life skills we have developed. We are passing it on to the younger kids now."

The Troops to Teachers program can provide a pathway for service members to become educators in the civilian world. The program provides former service members with financial aid, job placement and guidance as they seek to enter the education field.

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Jerry Herndon, the 2009 Troops to Teachers Teacher of the Year, instructs students at Waynesville Middle School. Herndon served a full career in the Marines before retiring at Fort Leonard Wood.

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## Bridging the Gap *(Continued)*

Chad Schatz, Missouri Troops to Teachers director of education and training, said schools are usually quick to utilize service members in the classroom.

"Public school teaching is a very beneficial second career for soldiers; and at the same time, the schools and the kids benefit as well because the soldier brings in so much experience," Schatz said. "They have seen the world. They have experience in teaching. Obviously, the military teaches their own, and that teaching experience translates to very effective teachers in a public classroom."

Schatz said the transition from the military to public school teaching is facilitated by some good teacher certification programs, especially in Missouri.

"Once they are certified and ready, we have what is called a hotlist that is unique to Missouri," Schatz said. "This is a list of people that are pre-qualified, and we update it and send out to all the public schools that request this list. A lot of school districts pick up that list and make a call, which is how they recruit."

Herndon is glad he took advantage of the program and hopes other service members will do the same.

"Without a doubt I would do this all over again," he said.

*(To read the full text of the article, click [here](#).)*

## TTT Program Faces Budget Reduction

The Troops to Teachers (TTT) program will experience a 26-percent budget cut for FY2010. Chad Schatz, director of Troops to Teachers and the Veterans Education and Training Section, said, "Missouri will maintain the quality of service that is currently being provided to the TTT program through this fiscal year."

Schatz said that, like virtually all government programs, TTT has been impacted by the current economy. However, he said, "The stipend and bonus money that is being utilized will not be affected for current participants. As the economy improves, we hope to gain a budget increase for operations as well as stipend and bonus (funds)."

## Troops to Teachers is Still a Win-Win

Troops to Teachers continues to pursue its goal of helping to relieve teacher shortages (especially in math, science, special education and other high-need subject areas) while assisting military personnel in making the successful transition to a second career in teaching. DESE's Division of Career Education is among the network of state TTT program offices established to provide participants with counseling and assistance regarding certification and employment. Financial assistance may be provided to eligible individuals. Participants who accept a stipend or bonus must agree to teach for three years in targeted schools in accordance with the authorizing legislation.



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The national **Troops to Teachers Web site** is located at <http://proudtoserveagain.com>.

### Teacher Certification Contact Information

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In order to qualify for the Troops to Teachers program, a veteran must have at least six years of military service. Most have much more than that.

Often, a TTT veteran is a retiree with at least 20 years of service. This gives the school administrator a dependable teacher for today's challenging school environment.

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# VETERANS EDUCATION & TRAINING SECTION

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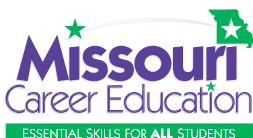
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## Special Points of Interest

- The Post-9/11 GI Bill went into effect on Aug. 1. There are several issues to think about when considering if it is right for you.
- One-stop career centers are a valuable source of information for veterans.

The **Missouri State Approving Agency Directory** features all schools and colleges approved for the GI Bill. Request a copy by calling **(877) 530-2765**.

MISSOURI  
Career Education  
ESSENTIAL SKILLS FOR ALL STUDENTS

## Is the New Post-9/11 GI Bill Right for You?

When any new program is introduced, there are sometimes more questions than answers. This is the case with the Post-9/11 GI Bill, which went into effect on Aug. 1. The Education 4 Military Web Portal has outlined a number of things to take into consideration regarding the new GI Bill. (*Click [here](#) to read the full article.*)

You are eligible if you served a minimum of 90 days on active duty after Sept. 10, 2001. The benefit does not require a monthly payment, and one major advantage is that you can transfer your benefits to your spouse or children. (If you are an active-duty service member with at least six years of experience, you can shift your GI Bill benefits to your spouse or children if you commit to a minimum of four additional years of service.)

### What's in it for me?

- Full tuition and fees
- Monthly housing stipend
- Money for books and supplies
- Transferability of entitlement
- Kickers (if you receive them now, you'll still get them with the new benefits)

### Percentages of payment

Your percentages of payment can be affected by the amount of military service you have completed and your discharge status.

- 100 percent – 36 or more months
- 100 percent – 30 or more consecutive days with a disability-related discharge
- 90 percent – 30 total months
- 80 percent – 24 total months
- 70 percent – 18 total months
- 60 percent – 12 total months
- 50 percent – 6 total months
- 40 percent – 90 or more days

The Department of Veterans Affairs has been accepting applications since May 1 of this year. If you are already enrolled in the Montgomery GI Bill and also meet the criteria for the Post-9/11 GI Bill, you have the option to transfer your remaining benefits to the new program. Check it out; you might discover that the original bill better suits your needs.

For more information, call (888) 442-4551 or visit <http://www.gibill.va.gov>.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Missouri Career Fairs

- Oct. 19: Kansas City  
(Kansas City Marriott Country Club Plaza)
- Oct. 21: Fort Leonard Wood  
(National Guard Armory)
- Nov. 10: Kansas City  
(North Kansas City Community Center)
- Nov. 12: St. Louis  
(Busch Stadium)



Singer/songwriter Thom Shepherd provided banquet entertainment at the National Association of State Approving Agencies (NASAA) Conference this August in Nashville.

Shepherd wrote and produced a new song for NASAA, which helped to roll out the new Chapter 33 benefits program for Veterans Affairs. A music video was recently completed, and the song is featured in a NASAA-produced film titled, "A Brighter Future, A New Beginning."

## 10 REASONS TO HIRE A VET

1. Accelerated learning curve
2. Leadership
3. Teamwork
4. Diversity and inclusion in action
5. Efficient performance under pressure
6. Respect for procedures
7. Technology and globalization
8. Integrity
9. Conscious of health & safety standards
10. Triumph over adversity

From <http://hirevetsfirst.dol.gov>

## One-Stop Career Centers

One-stop career centers are the focal point of the workforce-investment system, supporting the employment needs of job seekers and the human-resource needs of businesses.

The Employment and Training Administration (ETA) of the U.S. Department of Labor is working with one-stop career centers to realign and improve the workforce system's capacity to meet the changing needs of business by assisting with the recruitment, training and retention of skilled workers.

A one-stop career center provides the following services:

### Recruitment and screening

- Recruits, screens and refers veterans ranging from entry-level workers to highly skilled professionals
- Recruits full-time, part-time and seasonal workers
- Posts job openings
- Hosts job fairs
- Partners with businesses to clarify job descriptions and eligibility criteria
- Screens veterans to ensure that the right workers with the right skills are selected for interviews

### Training

- Provides training that supports the human-resource needs of businesses

### Other valuable services

- Increases the potential labor pool, expands job retention and enhances workforce quality
- Provides employers with access to the veteran labor pool
- Provides information about wages and employment trends, as well as national comparisons
- Provides state demographic and economic information, as well as links to educational, cultural and recreational resources
- Provides office space for on-site screening, interviewing and training
- Supports employee retention by offering services such as transportation, child care assistance and mentoring programs

(Source: <http://hirevetsfirst.dol.gov>)

TO FIND OUT IF YOU ARE ELIGIBLE FOR VETERANS EDUCATION AND TRAINING BENEFITS, OR TO SEE HOW MUCH YOUR ENTITLEMENT IS, CALL (888) 442-4551.