

The Region VI CRP-RCEP e-News Bulletin is published monthly through a grant awarded by the Rehabilitation Services Administration to the Department of Rehabilitation, Social Work & Addictions at the University of North Texas.

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### From the desk of: Martha Garber

Within the 5.8 million veterans the VA medical care anticipates serving in 2008 are nearly 263,000 Iraq and Afghanistan veterans. The disabilities most prevalent among our recent veterans are post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), traumatic brain injury (TBI), blindness, spinal cord injuries, amputations, depression and substance abuse. As the wars continue, the number of wounded warriors will most certainly continue to grow. By all accounts, the numbers of veterans that need service and the complexity of services they need are overwhelming. And, while the media is focused on our current wars, we have veterans from prior wars who still need assistance. Our government provides services; however, due to the sheer number of folks needing service, the delivery of those services will increasingly come from community providers.

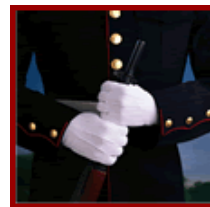
We must prepare ourselves to help our veterans with disabilities reintegrate into our communities and employment. In this edition, we will explore some of the anticipated challenges and opportunities.

### Resources for Vets

We all know that a key to rehabilitation success is serving one person at a time and focusing on their unique strengths and characteristics. While each veteran is an individual, some threads of commonality are present. Each veteran will have acquired the disability; the onset of the disability will have occurred as an adult; and, each person will have a military experience unique to their particular service to our country. As a result, adjustment services are likely to play a large role in the rehabilitation process for veterans.

Fortunately there are many resources available to assess veterans with reintegration and adjustment services. In addition to being useful to the veteran, these resources may be helpful to further educate ourselves and better position our services to collaborate with those already available:

<http://www.va.gov>



### Training Schedule

January 10, 2008: [Workforce Re-entry & the Ex-offender](#), New Orleans, Louisiana

January 15, 2008: [Job Coaching](#), Austin, Texas

January 29-31, 2008: [Certificate in Employment Services](#) (Session II: Feb 26-28), Houston, Texas

Feb 8, 15, 22, 2008: [Social Security Disability Benefits & Impact of Work](#), Online Webinar

February 12-13, 2008: [Supported Employment: Basic Skills Clinic](#), San Antonio, Texas

February 26-27, 2008: [Supported Employment: Basic Skills Clinic](#), Hot Springs, Arkansas

March 1, 2008: [Job Coaching](#), El Paso, Texas

March 12-13, 2008: [Supported Employment: Basic Skills Clinic](#), New Orleans, Louisiana

**Upcoming Conferences**

remove your name  
from our email list.

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<http://www.vetcenter.va.gov/>

<http://www.dol.gov/vets/>

<http://www.military.com/benefits/veteran-benefits/vocational-rehabilitation-and-employment>

<http://govbenefits.gov>

<http://www.pva.org>

<http://www.dav.org>

## *Skills Translator: Military to Civilian*

Translating skills learned in the infantry into words that will mean something to a civilian employer may not be as difficult as you think. The military understands this problem and has resources available to help veterans convert military skills into civilian language. Here are two websites that address this issue:

<http://www.hirevetsfirst.gov/militaryskills.asp>

<http://www.vetsuccess.gov/resources/milskills/>

## *State Support for Vets*

Benefits counseling is as important to a veteran with disabilities as it is to any other individual. Without full information about the costs and benefits of working, an individual cannot make an informed decision. Each state has a veterans agency that provides information and assistance to veterans on a number of issues. Links to these agencies are provided below:

Arkansas: <http://www.veterans.arkansas.gov/>

Louisiana: <http://www.vetaffairs.com/index.asp>

New Mexico: <http://www.dvs.state.nm.us/about-dvs.html>

Oklahoma: [http://www.ok.gov/ODVA/War\\_Veterans\\_Commission/](http://www.ok.gov/ODVA/War_Veterans_Commission/)

Texas: <http://www.tvc.state.tx.us/>

## *CRP Brief for January 2008!*

Look at our CRP Brief on the **Continuum of Care Model for Blind and Visually Impaired Veterans**. The VA is forging partnerships with community rehabilitation programs who provide blind services. The continuum of care model for blind and visually impaired veterans includes adjustment to blindness counseling, patient and family education, benefits analysis, and other services needed to help individual veterans manage their disability.

[National ADA Symposium & Expo](#), May 12-14, 2008, St.

Louis, Missouri



Title VII of the  
Civil Rights Act  
of 1964 (Title

VII), the Americans with  
Disabilities Act of 1990 ( ADA ),  
and the Age Discrimination in  
Employment Act of 1967  
(ADEA) prohibit the use of  
discriminatory employment  
tests and selection  
procedures. The US Equal  
Employment Opportunity  
Commission just issued a fact  
sheet that provides technical  
assistance on some common  
issues relating to the federal  
anti-discrimination laws and the  
use of tests and other selection  
procedures in the employment  
process. [Click here for the  
factsheet.](#)

## *What Would You Like to Hear About in Future Issues of e- News?*

Send your comments and story  
ideas to e-News Bulletin [Project  
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Garber.](#)

Total Source for  
Hearing-loss and  
Access, Oklahoma

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