

2018

The Veterans Resource Center

At The University of Tennessee

March 2018

A Division of Enrollment Management



Happy March! The staff at the UTK Veterans Resource Center would like to wish you good luck in your semester! Here are a few important dates that we want to call to your attention.

- March 5 - Stress/Anxiety Relief Break @ VRC - 11am-1pm
- March 11 - Daylight Savings Time (Clocks ahead 1 hour)
- March 12-16 - Spring Break
- March 17 - St. Patrick's Day (Saturday)
- March 19-20 - Fall Semester Priority Registration
- March 30 - Good Friday/Spring Recess
- April 3 - Last Day to Drop With a W



VA speeds up claims with new Decision Ready Claim (DRC) Program

Interested in filing a new claim with the VA? You can now file through the new Decision Ready Claim (DRC) Program. Under the program's new regulations, you will receive a decision on your claim in 30 days or less.

To determine if the DRC Program is right for you and your claim, speak with an accredited Veterans Service Organization (VSO). If you plan to file any of the following types of claims, work with your VSO to file them as a DRC:

- Direct Service Connection Claims: Claims for a disability that was caused by or during your service.
- Presumptive Service Connection Claims: Claims for a disability that the VA automatically presumes to be service connected based on unique conditions or situations you experienced during your service.
- Secondary Service Connection Claims: Claims for a disability that you have as a result of another service connected disability.
- Increased Disability Claims: Claims for a disability you have a VA rating for that has gotten worse.

Learn more about the DRC Program, including eligibility, medical evidence needed, and how to find an accredited VSO at: <https://www.benefits.va.gov/compensation/drc.asp>.



To submit information please contact Thomas Cruise • tcruise@utk.edu

VRC Staff

Jayetta Rogers

Coordinator/Certifying Official

Vickie Clark

Asst. Coordinator/Certifying Official

Thomas Cruise

Asst. Coordinator/Certifying Official

Contact Us!

<https://veterans.utk.edu>

Email: utkva@utk.edu

Phone: (865)-974-5420

VRC Partners

Regina Austin, Ph.D.

Staff Psychologist
Student Counseling Center
raustin4@utk.edu

Lori Smith, Ed.D

Accommodations Coordinator
Office of Disability Services
lorismith@utk.edu

Tatiana Leavitt

Career Services
Center for Career Development
tleavitt@utk.edu

Lyle Allen, CPSS

Vet Outreach Program Specialist
Knoxville Vet Center
lyle.allen@va.gov

2018

The Veterans Resource Center

At The University of Tennessee

March 2018

A Division of Enrollment Management

This Month in History

On March 19, 2003 at 9:34 pm EST, U.S. soldiers entered the country of Iraq, led by U.S. Army General Tommy Franks.



According to General Franks, there were eight objectives during the entry. Those objectives included ending the reign of Saddam Hussein, searching for and driving out terrorists of that country, delivering humanitarian support, and helping the Iraqi people create conditions for a transition to a representative self-government.

On April 9th, Bagdad fell, ending Saddam's 24 year rule. The invasion phase of the war lasted from March 19th through April 30th.

Looking to take a national test such as the GRE, LSAT, or CLEP?

Recipients of chapters 30, 33, 35, 1606, and 1607 may be eligible for reimbursement on all required (mandatory) fees charged for national admission tests and national tests for college credit. Currently the approved tests are:

- SAT (Scholastic Assessment Test)
- LSAT (Law School Admission Test)
 - GRE (Graduate Record Exam)
- GMAT (Graduate Management Admission Test)
 - AP (Advanced Placement Exam)
- CLEP (College-Level Examination Program)
 - ACT (American College Testing Program)
 - DAT (Dental Admissions Test)
 - MAT (Miller Analogies Test)
- MCAT (Medical College Admissions Testing)
 - OAT (Optometry Admissions Testing)
- PCAT (Pharmacy College Admissions Test)
- TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language)
- DSST (DANTES Subject Standardized Tests)
 - ECE (Excelsior College Examinations)
- TECEP (Thomas Edison College Examination Program)
- PLA (Prior Learning Assessment Testing through Learning Count)

Complete information and directions for applying for reimbursement are available at http://www.benefits.gov/gibill/national_testing.asp.

Vietnam Veterans Day - March 29th

On March 28, 2017 President Donald Trump signed the *Vietnam War Veterans Recognition Act of 2017*.

This act officially recognizes March 29th as Vietnam War Veterans Day annually. The act also encourages the display of the American flag every year on March 29th.

The Vietnam War lasted from 1954 to 1975, resulting in 58,200 U.S. deaths and 300,000 U.S. wounded.

The war spanned through North and South Vietnam, as well as Cambodia and Laos.

Until the Afghanistan War, the Vietnam War was the longest in

U.S. history.

Fighting alongside South Vietnam and the United States included Australia, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, and Thailand.



To submit information please contact Thomas Cruise • tcruise@utk.edu

VRC Partner of the Month

Name: Regina (Gina) Austin, Ph.D.

UT Affiliation:

I am a Staff Psychologist and the Couples & Groups Coordinator at the UTK Student Counseling Center. I received my Ph.D. from the University of Tennessee Clinical Psychology program in 1999. I was previously a Clinical Psychologist (OEF/OIF/OND) for the Tennessee Valley Healthcare System (VA Medical Center).

How long have you been working with the UTK Vet Center?

Since 2015 when I was introduced to the VOLFighters student veteran organization.



What is your role as a partner with the VRC?

After being introduced to Jayetta Rogers, she asked me to assist in the development of what is now known as MCCE – Military Cultural Competency Education, an HR endorsed training for learning how to best support UTK student veterans. I am part of the team who makes MCCE presentations to different programs and individuals on campus. I am also the Student Veteran VRC liaison in my role as Staff Psychologist at the UTK Student Counseling Center. I am available for referrals to provide psychological services including assessment, treatment (individual, group, and couples). I have a passion for helping veterans and their families.

What do you love most about working with the VRC?

It is all about the student veteran! I love meeting and working with as many student veterans who might need assistance in making their time at UTK as productive as possible. I try to keep myself updated on what is important to student veterans and how best to assist their stay in college and make way to their new profession. This means I have counseled student veterans in many different areas to include adjustment issues, traumatic stress, relationship issues, etc.

What advice would you give to our student veterans on campus?

I believe student veterans are one of our most valuable resources here at UTK. Student Veterans bring vast life experiences, leadership, and unique contributions from their military service. I want student veterans to please take advantage and utilize all the resources available at UTK, beginning with the Veterans Resource Center, the place to connect with other student veterans. If I can help, please call 974-2196, UTK Student Counseling Center, or check in with Jayetta Rogers or Vickie Clark and they will assist in making that connection with me.



2018

The Veterans Resource Center

At The University of Tennessee

March 2018

A Division of Enrollment Management

Veteran Staff of the Month



Name: Steve Smith

UT Affiliation: Dean of Libraries

Branch of Service: Medic, South Carolina Army National Guard

Years of Military Service: 1982-1990

What Do You Love Most About UT?
The Volunteer Spirit!

What Advice would you give to our student veterans on campus?
Enjoy college life while you can; remember and use all that discipline you learned in the service.

Important Contacts

National Veterans Crisis Hotline

1-888-244-6711

www.mentalhealth.va.gov

Tennessee Dept. of Veteran Affairs

615-741-2345





www.tn.gov/veteran

Veterans Healthcare Eligibility & Enrollment

1-877-222-8387

www.va.gov/healthbenefits

March 2018

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
Feb 25	Feb 26	Feb 27	Feb 28	1	2	3
4	5 	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17 
18	19 	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29 	30	31

To make a donation to the Veterans Resource Center/ Veteran Student Services please visit <http://giving.utk.edu/veterans>

GO VOLS!



To submit information please contact Thomas Cruise • tcruise@utk.edu