Welcome Back

The OMVS staff is extremely excited to see campus “come back to life” after the summer break. We hope that everyone had an enjoyable summer and is now refreshed and ready to go for the fall semester.

With the new semester comes new ideas and opportunities. The OMVS has been working throughout the summer developing new ideas and generating opportunities for our military and military-affiliated population (MILPOP) at Southeast. The MILPOP Dispatch is one of the many efforts the OMVS has been working on in support of our population. We hope you enjoy the information provided...

MILPOP Dispatch

Questions about this publication

Q: How often will this newsletter be produced?
A: At least twice a semester.

Q: Can students, military members, veterans etc. contribute to the newsletter?
A: Absolutely. This is our first stab at a newsletter; we invite as much participation as possible. We plan on opening an editorial page in following editions.

“It’s a difficult adjustment; it really is (military to college). I know there is a place I can go and there are people that are going to understand that...”

-James Matuszewich
US Army Veteran

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Amanda Woods

Figuring out your military education benefits can be quite a headache, but it doesn’t have to be! The Office of Military and Veterans Services (OMVS) houses the VA School Certifying Official (SCO), Amanda Woods, who is the responsible party for reviewing and processing your VA education benefits. The SCO, as well as the rest of the OMVS staff, are trained to answer any questions you may have about your benefits. We can help you determine if you’re eligible for benefits, apply and process your benefits, and help you determine what’s your best course of action to use your benefits, so that you get the maximum assistance from your benefits.

Each semester, any student wishing to use his/her VA education benefits must submit a VA Certification Request through his/her student portal, in order for the SCO to process his/her benefits. Without the certification request, the SCO cannot process a student’s benefit, so it’s extremely important to remember to certify each semester. A great practice is to submit a certification request the day after course enrollment. Also, please remember that if there is ever a change to a student’s schedule, from the time the student submitted his/her VA Certification Request, make sure to notify the SCO, so she can quickly process any appropriate changes.

For most students, certifying is as easy as logging into his/her portal, navigating to the Students SS tab, and then selecting the VA Certification Request hyperlink. For some students, like at the Cape Career Center, Law Enforcement Academy, or students submitting a retroactive request, they’ll need to contact the SCO directly, in order to complete the request. Too easy, right? That’s what we thought!

Each VA Education Benefit is unique, and therefore pays out uniquely. Any student not using the Post 9/11 or Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VR&E) benefit will be paid directly by the VA, so those students must pay the school directly. Only students accounts who are certified for Post 9/11 or VR&E can be deferred, up to their eligible payment tier, so it’s best to always check in with your SCO and Student Financial Services to make sure that you do not have any additional fees that aren’t covered by VA education benefits.

Remember, the OMVS is here to assist you, so if you have any questions, please do feel free to contact the OMVS at 573-651-2263 or veterans@semo.edu. Good
Patriot Day

Established: September 11, 2002 in remembrance of the victims of the September 11th attacks.

Campus Remembrance:
The first Patriot Day flag ceremony was held, September 11th, 2014.

Flags displayed on the front lawn of Academic: 2977

Guest Speaker: Richard Picciotto, NYFD Fire Chief (Highest Ranking NYFD firefighter in the twin towers after the attacks.

The campus came together during PD 14 to remember our fallen. Students donated their time to place flags on the Academic Lawn. The Southeast Show Band played the National Anthem and "Taps", and we invited Chief Picciotto to campus to speak about his experience while coordinating rescue efforts and subsequently getting trapped inside of the collapsed tower.

September 11th, 2014: Academic Lawn

Patriot Day 2015

God Bless America!

Patriot Day 2015 will be celebrated at Southeast Missouri State University, during the second week of September. This is an ongoing effort by the university community to ensure that Americans never forget our fallen, as well as the first responders and military members that have sacrificed their time and lives, due to the terrorist attacks. The Office of Military and Veterans Services will be coordinating campus efforts, during that week. Please participate if you are available and show your support in remembering the fallen, as well as supporting the military, first responders, volunteers, etc.

- September 10th: Flag display on Academic Lawn, (Volunteers’ appreciated)
- September 11th @ 7:40–7:50am: Flag ceremony on Academic Lawn
- September 13th: Jeff Bauman (Boston Marathon bombing survivor), Academic Hall auditorium (FREE)
The Student Veterans Organization (SVO) welcomes everyone back. We hope everyone had a great summer. This semester we will be having several organization functions that you might want to look into. We will be partnering with the OMVS for a fun day at the ropes course, as well as the homecoming celebrations. Also, we will be continuing work on the SVO Transition House. We made good progress this summer, but more work is needed. Don’t forget that our monthly meetings are held the second Tuesday of the month.

Get Involved

SVO membership and participation is easy. Contact Matthew Golden @ 573-651-2263 or email: msgolden1s@semo.edu for further details. You can also like us on Facebook at SEMO Student Veterans Organization.

SVO Meetings

Our SVO meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month, inside the Veterans Center (Rm 302), in the UC at 1700. Please mark your calendar.

- September 1st: Veterans Center @ 1700*
- October 6th: Veterans Center @ 1700*

*Times and dates are subject to change. Every effort will be made to notify members of schedule changes.

SVO

The Student Veterans Organization (SVO) is comprised of military and military-affiliated people who want to make a difference in the lives of our Veterans and their families.

The SVO is a chapter of the Student Veterans of America and is a certified non profit organization whose primary mission is to support to our Veterans and their families.

Fundraising and Philanthropy

The SVO has raised hundreds of dollars for the Wounded Warrior Project. Currently, fundraising is focused on the SVO Transition House.

Raffle!

This semester, the SVO will be raffling off a deer rifle, with all of the proceeds going to the SVO transition house fund. The cost of the tickets is $10 per entry. Contact Matthew Golden for details.
Current Events and Important Dates

September 1st, 1000-1300: Welcome Back in the Veterans Center
Join us at the Veterans Center for a free brunch! There will be bagels, coffee, and assorted pastries available from 1000-1300 on Tuesday. You can also meet with fellow students and Veterans.

September 1st, 1700-1830: Student Veterans Organization Meeting
The SVO will hold their first meeting of the semester at the Veterans Center, on Tuesday, September 1st, at 1700. SVO initiatives and events will be discussed. The SVO motto: “Together then, Together now,” resonates will all Veterans, as well as our entire military-affiliated population. Please come by and support your SVO! Membership is open to anyone that is supportive of the SVO’s mission (including military, dependents, and spouses).

September 11th, 0740-0750: Patriot Day Flag Ceremony
Our annual remembrance of September 11th will begin with a flag ceremony in front of Academic Hall. The National Anthem will be played, and the flag will be raised at 7:46 am, then lowered to half staff for the duration of the day. “Taps” will be played, and a moment of silence will also be observed. Nearly 3,000 American flags will also be on display on Academic’s front lawn.

September 13th 1400: Patriot Day Program
On the 13th of September, Jeff Bauman, Boston Marathon bombing survivor, will deliver a presentation that will give his account of the terror event and will also address heroism, patriotism, and resiliency. This event is free and open to the public and will be held in Academic Auditorium, on September 13th, at 2:00pm. More information on Mr. Bauman and his experiences can be found here at www.apbspeakers.com/speaker/jeff-bauman.

September 26th, 1000-1400: Ropes Course and Cook Out
The OMVS is sponsoring a ropes course and a cook out for our population (Military, Veterans, Spouses and Dependents). The event will be held on September 26th, from 1000-1400, at Southeast Missouri State’s ropes course. Food will be provided by the Missouri National Guard and the OMVS. RSVP notifications will be sent via email in September, but you can always contact the office at 573-651-2263 or veterans@semo.edu to RSVP early.

October 7th 1000-1400: OMVS Open House
The OMVS has been open for nearly three years, and students, faculty and staff are still unaware of what we do and the services we provide. Come by and visit, if just to say “hello”. As with all of our events, food and beverages are complimentary.

October 17th All Day: Homecoming Parade/Tailgate
The OMVS and SVO will be participating in Homecoming activities on October 17th. Participants can expect to either ride in military vehicles or walk in the parade. We are also partnering with the SEMO Vet Corp and the Missouri National Guard to hold a ‘pig roast’ tailgate, right outside of Houck stadium. Free food and free adult beverages will be on hand. For more information, contact the office at 573-651-2263 or veterans@semo.edu.
Current Events and Important Dates

November 9th, 1100-1400: Veterans Day Celebration Luncheon
The OMVS, in coordination with the Student Veterans Organization, is sponsoring a Veteran’s Day Celebration Luncheon and event fair from 1100-1400, in the University Center, Ballroom B. The luncheon will be a casual opportunity to meet with and thank military Veterans and their family members for supporting our country. Representatives from the VA, Missouri Veterans Commission, and various Veteran Service Organizations will also be present to answer questions. The event is open to all faculty, staff, military and Veteran students along with their spouses and dependents. Please RSVP for the luncheon at http://www.semo.edu/veterans/rsvp.htm or contact us at 573-651-2263. More information on this event will be provided in the OCT-DEC version of MILPOP.

December 11th 1700– 2000: Family Pool Party
We’ve had great success with our family-oriented pool parties in the past and have decided to continue the tradition. There will be competitive games, music, free food and maybe even a piñata at this semester’s OMVS Family Pool Party. Come by and relax a little before Finals. The party will be held at the North Recreation Center’s indoor pool on December 11th. More information be available closer to the event.

Finals Week Brunch
The OMVS offers a brunch during Finals week to congratulate everyone on the successful completion of the semester. We usually have a “grab and go” setup for those students that are really busy. More information will be provided as the date draws closer.