



Hello fellow Routt County Veterans,

JULY 2017 ISSUE

Summer is flying bye. I have enjoyed meeting 3 to 4 new veterans in Routt weekly, even though I am only here two days per week. I will be starting to do some outreach to Oak Creek and Hayden hopefully in July. I will send out more info on this as I confirm my schedule, it will more than likely be 4 hours per location once a month. I will also have a booth at the Routt County fair in August. As you celebrate the birth of our Nation's Anniversary on July 4th please remember that **FREEDOM is NOT FREE...it comes at a great cost.** Please be safe as you enjoy our beautiful summer here in Routt.

Please call me **970-870-5469** or email me at nbreitung@co.routt.co.us to set up an appointment with me and please continue to help pass on my contact info to other fellow veterans young and old in Routt County. My hours are as follows: Mon: 7:30am-6pm, Tues: 7:30am-6pm. For **EMERGENCYs ONLY** please call **651-226-4345** my mobile phone.

TOPICS THIS QUARTER:

HEALTHCARE

Veterans With PTSD

I have initiated the process of working with Grand Junction VA to come up with a better solution to provide PTSD counseling to veterans of Routt County through remote computer means. We are working through details of how to get **the BEST combat experienced psychologists** to be available multiple times a week. My hope is that the veteran will either be able to use their own computer in the comfort of their own home. Potentially if a veteran does not have a computer or Internet access they can come to a designated secure location here in Routt in order to utilize this counseling. This service is currently available at the Craig Tele clinic, but this is still a drive for those living in Routt. My goal is to get this more centralized...or ideally remote...based on need, access and location.

Sign Up at VA for Online Apts., Med Records and Pharmacy

For those of you that have signed up for VA Healthcare, if you are tech savvy and have a computer at home or even a smart phone you can sign up and: make appointments, send messages to your primary care team and even request prescription refills online. To sign up go to: <https://www.myhealth.va.gov/mhv-portal-web/web/myhealthvet/how-to-use-mhv>

You will want to UPGRADE to highest level account right away so you have all the functionality. To do so complete this form: <https://www.va.gov/vaforms/medical/pdf/vha-10-5345a-MHV-fill.pdf> and mail to Grand Junction VA. 2121 North Ave. Grand Junction, CO. 81501
Attention: Thomas Copp / Myhealthvet Admin

EMPLOYMENT / EDUCATION

Excel Energy – featured employer this quarter

They have just scheduled our next Edison Electrical Institute (EEI) CAST test. It will be hosted at their Comanche Power Plant (2005 Lime Road, Pueblo, CO 81006) in Pueblo Colorado on Thursday, July 20th from 9am-12pm. This will be a **veteran and diversity specific testing session**.

As a reminder, this EEI CAST test is required for our Utility Worker C apprenticeship that will place applicants in a department to move into any of our utility services areas such as gas fitting, journeyman lineman, and electric meter reading. Attached is a brief job description. Their apprenticeship program is Department of Labor approved so applicants will be able to utilize any Post 9/11 GI Bill benefits in order to receive BAH in conjunction with our pay of approximately **\$21.92 an hour**.

Please have interested veterans and diverse applicants click on the link below to register. They will receive a confirmation email when their testing seat is confirmed as well as sign on information to access our online practice test materials. **The last day to register is July 18th**.

To Register:

<https://career8.successfactors.com/sfcareer/jobreqcareerpvt?jobId=8824&company=29116P&userName=&st=7D9B919AE2B18F9788F14DBAF6FA85A6BB02CDAB>

LEVERAGING VETERAN DATA

Gov Apps

I am a technologist...”geek” ...have been for over 25 years. I am a believer in making things “smaller, smarter, faster and keeping communication flowing”. As technology improves and the Fed works to improve the VA Experience and all experiences for both active duty and veterans there are many new “apps” being created. See at: <https://www.data.gov/applications>

Honorably Discharged Veterans Can Shop Online

Military Base Exchange items are now available online at a discounted rate for veterans. See at: <https://www.shopmyexchange.com/>

OUTREACH

Oak Creek and Hayden

Routt County Department of Human Services is starting outreach to Oak Creek and Hayden. As part of that I will be along with them to provide outreach to Veterans in those communities. My schedule will be as follows starting in August:

OAK CREEK: Location - 227 Dodge Ave. Community Center
1st Tuesday of each month from 9:30am to 2:30pm

HAYDEN: Location - 118 N. Walnut next to Lift Up
1st Wednesday of each month from 9:30am to 2:30pm

Routt County Fair

This year I will have a Routt County Veterans booth set up at the fair in Hayden on Friday August 18th and Saturday August 19th. If any of you would like to join me either of those days you are welcome to do so.



TRANSPORTATION

The American Legion Post 44 has been awarded the VTF Grant through the State of Colorado for fiscal year July 2017- June 2018 in the amount of \$6,500. This money is meant to “supplement” veteran’s transportation costs, not to pay it in full. The State of Colorado has also cut back on the amount they awarded counties this year. Last year I paid out “mileage” to veterans that traveled to Grand Junction, Denver and Craig for appointments, which was allowed as an option in the contract. This year I will be going back to paying \$51 + gas receipts for a full day of travel. Hopefully that will help us spread this money a little further throughout the year.

If you are a Routt County veteran needing transportation to either Grand Junction or Denver VA hospital or clinic in Craig please complete the online request form. You may find information, the forms that need to be completed and the request form at: <http://co.routt.co.us/index.aspx?NID=507> and submit these forms to county VSO for reimbursement.

TOPICS OF INTEREST TO YOU

Due to the unusually dry summer we are having so far, please be careful camping or doing anything that may start a fire. Also, here are some helpful tips related to lightening. As you know Colorado has a lot of lightening and it can come up fast.

<http://www.lightningsafety.noaa.gov/>

Please email me any specific topics of interest to you and I will do my best to uncover the latest up to date information possible of your topic and include it in upcoming issues of my newsletter.