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HIGHLIGHTS



JUJULY 13, 2012

SPOW ON!



Brig. Gen. Michael Cunniff, left, the Adjutant General of New Jersey, watches as 1st Sgt Michael Colbert, Military Advisor Team III, demonstrates weapons proficiency at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J., July 12. Cunniff visited New Jersey National Guard Soldiers assigned to the 508th Military Police Company and Military Advisor Team III as they underwent pre-mobilization training. (U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen)

SetFocus earns Seven Seals Award

IT training program to benefit veterans

By Donna Clementoni
Employer Outreach Director

SetFocus, an IT training center headquartered in Parsippany, N.J., has expanded its mission of helping individuals achieve their goals of attaining and sustaining rewarding and relevant jobs by launching their new program, **GI to IT**. This program focuses on job specific training and vocational counseling program for military veterans seeking application and database development careers.

GI to IT will allow veterans eligible for the Veterans Administration GI Bill programs (Post 9/11, Montgomery Bill, Chapter 35 for eligible dependents, Chapter 1606 and Chapter 1607 for Reservists) to receive their GI Bill benefits through participation in the program.

The 20 week, intensive training will allow graduates to ‘hit the ground running’ toward their IT career with the equivalent of 1-2 years work experience. The team at SetFocus are deeply committed to placing their graduates with global companies who they have developed business relationships throughout their 15-year history.

The numbers speak for themselves. While unemployment figures are alarming for veterans in the 18-25 age brackets, the IT industry is boasting they average a 3% unemployment rate. Consequently, this program is an attractive option for veterans and their eligible dependents to pursue. SetFocus has historically directed students into this dynamic field who never considered they would have the aptitude or skills necessary to succeed.

“SetFocus is committed to the premise that economic viability is an outcome of learning, growth and job sustainability,” said Mike Landau, founder and chief executive officer at SetFocus. “GI to IT will assist Veterans to apply their diligence, dedication and ability to turn training into action toward seeking sustainable IT employment.”



Pictured left to right, State Command Chief Vince Morton, Donna Clementoni, director of employer outreach for ESGR, Mike Landau, chief executive office and founder of SetFocus, Jerry Masin, SetFocus president and Col. (ret) Alan Smith, ESGR New Jersey State Chairman. (Courtesy photo)

Furthermore, housing assistance is available for the length of the course, which began in July at the Parsippany campus.

In addition, SetFocus publically pledged to promote the mission and activities of the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR). As a formal recognition of this partnership, SetFocus CEO Mike Landau signed a Statement of Support, which is a symbolic demonstration of support for service members in the National Guard and Reserve.

“We honor the sacrifices that have been made, both personally and professionally, by the men and women of the US Armed Services Forces to protect and sustain our beliefs and way of life,” noted SetFocus president Jerry Masin.

Consequently, ESGR presented SetFocus with their prestigious Seven Seals Award at a recent ceremony. This award, depicting the heraldry of the seals of the seven military services, recognizes efforts by a citizen, business or organization whose support has benefitted the

Guard or Reserve in a significant manner. Like SetFocus - whose new IT training program will focus on preparing veterans to enter the rewarding field of IT - recipients are chosen for their outstanding support, commitment and patriotism to the U.S. military.

ESGR’s employment initiative program applauds the GI to IT option of specialized training that will increase a veteran or current Guard/Reserve member’s probability of securing a rewarding career.

Accordingly, ESGR invites all other businesses to follow SetFocus’s lead and arrange for a Statement of Support signing for their business. Employer support is critical in maintaining the delicate balance for National Guard and Reserve members that serve both their employers and the Department of Defense.

For more information, visit www.esgr.mil. Employers are welcome to post job openings, free of charge, on <https://H2H.jobs>.


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**The New Jersey State Library
presents**

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ROME: The Eternal City



JULY 17

noon to 1 p.m.

Alex Lang will take us to Rome through photographs. We'll explore the remains of ancient Rome, examine the artistic and architectural works of renaissance and baroque Rome, and discover Mussolini's plans to re-make Rome according to the ideals of fascism.

All are welcome; RSVP is appreciated.
Contact Cindy Warrick at cwarrick@njstatelib.org
or 609-278-2640 ext. 172.

The State Library is located at 185 West State Street in Trenton.

Free beach passes for Ocean City

Ocean City, N.J. is providing free beach tags for military members as part of their Active Military Beach Tag Program.

The City of Ocean City, NJ has enacted an ordinance to provide free beach tags to active military personnel, their spouse and dependent children over age 12.

Beach tags will be available after June 9, 2012 at these locations: City Hall, 861 Asbury Avenue, Monday thru Friday from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.; Music Pier, Moorlyn Terrace and the Boardwalk, Daily 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. (weather permitting); Chamber of Commerce Welcome Center, 34th Street and Simpson Avenue, Saturday 10 a.m. - 6 p.m., Sunday 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Active military personnel and their immediate families will be required to present proper identification in order to receive their beach tag. In addition, active military beach tags are not transferable. Beach tags are in effect beginning June 9, 2012 thru Labor Day.

Beach Tags are required for children ages 12 and up and are in effect from June 9 thru Sept. 3.

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Heart of a Hero Scholarship Program accepting applications

Last month was the start of the New Jersey Heroes' Heart of a Hero Scholarship Program for New Jersey veterans.

The scholarship will help New Jersey military service members pursue a post-secondary education, be it college or vocational school. The scholarship can be used for the 2012-2013 school year.

In the spirit of New Jersey Heroes, the selection committee will be looking for applicants that demonstrate a commitment to volunteerism and community contribution, like our monthly Heroes.

Applicants may apply directly through the New Jersey Heroes' their website <http://newjerseyheroes.org/> by clicking on the "Heart of a Hero Scholarship" button or by printing out and mailing in the PDF on the application page.

All applications must be submitted by Friday, July 20. Recipients will be announced in August.

New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs

Brig. Gen. Michael L. Cunniff – The Adjutant General
Brig. Gen. James J. Grant – Director, Joint Staff
Raymond Zawacki – Deputy Commissioner for Veterans Affairs
Chief Warrant Officer 3 Patrick Daugherty – Public Affairs Officer
Air Force Staff Sgt. Armando Vasquez - Public Affairs Specialist
Army Staff Sgt. Wayne Woolley – Public Affairs Specialist