



Veterans Coalition of North Central Texas

“Financial Education Seminar 2012”

After Action Report

Wed-Fri, April 18th -20th

The Veterans Coalition of North Central Texas (VCNCT) hosted its second Community Initiative Event, the "Financial Education Seminar 2012" and "Hiring Fair". The event began on Wednesday, April 18th with the arrival of our Guest Speaker Mrs. Holly Petraeus of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) from Washington D.C. The Coalition partnered with the NAS/JRB of Fort Worth Commanding Officer Captain Robert Bennett to host a welcome lunch at the Moreland Dining Hall for Mrs. Petraeus and approximately 30 service men and women from each branch of services. Attendees included the Navy Sailors of the Year, Marines of the Year, Air Force and Air National Guard Outstanding Airman of the Year, the Army Best Warrior, and Million Dollar Sailor graduates.

The first Town Hall meeting was with the Jr. Enlisted, their families, and ombudsman/Family Readiness Officers. There were approximately 220 Military E-6 and below from each branch of service. Joined on stage with Mrs. Petraeus was Sarah R. Saldana, the United States Attorney and T.P. O'Mahoney, Chair of the Texas Veterans Commission. Each panelist spoke about their programs and how each service member could contact them to utilize their office. The service men and women were then given the time and opportunity to ask questions and get directives as to websites and contact information.

The second Town Hall meeting followed the first with Senior Enlisted E-7 through E-9. The same panel remained from the first meeting. There were approximately 175 Senior Officers and family members.

A final Executive Roundtable with all Base/Tenant Leadership and Executive Steering Committees was hosted by CO Bennett. At this time 25 leaders were able to speak directly to and with the Panel guest regarding issues they see that directly affect our Military men and women. The roundtable concluded with pictures with Mrs. Petraeus and guest.

Upon arrival to the Sheraton Dallas, the Coalition hosted a "Dinner and Conversation with Mrs. Petraeus". The invited guests were sponsors of the seminar and selected officials including Commissioner Maurine Dickey, Judge Clay Jenkins, and Judge Brent Carr of Tarrant County and Board Member of VETCO. The dinner opened with a song by National Country Music Recording artist Geoffrey Taylor singing "Lady Liberty". Board Member Judge Michael Snipes opened the night by introducing Nekima Booker and welcoming all to the dinner. A total of 34 attendees were present representing Sponsoring organizations from the following entities:

1. Mental Health America
2. Coalition Board Members & FES Leadership Team
3. Wells Fargo Bank
4. Wells Fargo Advisors
5. New York Life Insurance
6. Raytheon
7. NAACP
8. Dallas Jr. League
9. Dallas County Judge
10. Tarrant County Judge

11. Dallas County Commissioners Office
12. Momentum Texas
13. VSweeps(absent)
14. VFW Plano 4380 (absent)

The night ended with a group picture and a tour of the travel bus of Mr. Taylors.

On the 19th of April, the "Financial Education Seminar began at 9:00am. The event was hosted by Maj. General James Williams. There were eight speakers that covered Financial Education covering the following topics:

1. Credit Card Management
2. How to Deal with Credit Problems
3. Legal Issues and Solutions
4. Home Mortgage and Loans
5. Payday lending and Title Loan Services
6. Various types of Insurance
7. Cash Value
8. Long Term Care

Throughout the seminar, attendees were able to visit the "Resource Room" where members of the Coalition and Military supporting agencies were set up as vendors to supply resources and information to attendees and each other. The vendors included:

1. Operation Healthy Reunions
2. Life in the Trinity Ministries
3. US Army Wounded Warrior Program
4. VA of North Texas
5. Dallas County Veterans Office
6. Northwood University
7. Texas NAACP Health and Veterans Affairs
8. U.S. Department of Labor
9. Texas Housing Resource Commission
10. Volunteers of America
11. Love Your Veterans
12. Patriot Outreach
13. Center for Brain Health
14. REACH Inc. of Dallas
15. Attitudes and Attire
16. Jewish Family Services
17. Momentum Texas
18. Dallas County Vet Center

19. Starlite Recovery Center
20. METlife
21. Beacon Financial Advisors
22. University of Phoenix
23. Liberty Mutual Insurance
24. Broad Band Specialist
25. CIS Group
26. World Financial Group
27. Devry University
28. Wells Fargo Advisors
29. Wells Fargo Bank
30. New York Life Insurance Co.
31. Volunteers of America
32. Tuskegee Airman

Mrs. Holly Pretraues spoke at the noon hour to approximately 135 attendees for lunch, this includes vendors and other guest. Members of General Petraeus West Point Graduating Class were also present. Mrs. Petraeus is an Assistant Director of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB), heading up the Office of Servicemember Affairs. Her office's mission is to partner with the Pentagon to see that military families receive strong financial education; to monitor complaints from military families and responses to those complaints by the CFPB and other agencies; and to see that federal and state agencies coordinate their activities to improve consumer protection measures for military families.

The second day of the event, Friday, April 20th opened with Nekima Booker welcoming the attendees and introducing Maj. General James Williams as the Host. The "Hiring Fair" opened with a discussion panel with the Hiring Agencies and attendees. The panel introduced themselves and spoke candid with attendees about hiring practices, how to obtain Federal and State jobs, how to interview, and more. The service men and women asked questions and had an open dialogue with the Hiring Directors and Managers gaining an inside perspective of interviewing and resume conversion. Once all Hiring agencies rotated through the panel they convened in the Hiring room and the attendees rotated through. Approximately 50 service men and women participated in the Hiring Fair. The Hiring agencies present were for following:

1. J.P. Morgan Chase Bank
2. Volunteers of America
3. Beacon Financial Advisors
4. New York Life Insurance
5. Northwood University
6. Liberty Mutual

7. CIS Group
8. Broadband Specialist Inc.
9. U.S. Department of Labor
10. Dallas VA Medical Center
11. World Financial
12. Wells Fargo Bank

During the Financial Education Seminar and Hiring Fair the following Military Personal completed evaluations:

Army	13	OIF/OIF	18
Navy	5	Vietnam	5
Air Force	9	Desert Storm	4
Marine	14	Unidentified	7
Nat. Guard	3	Total Years Served	412.5

Jobs were offered on sight, follow-up interviews and call backs were offered as well. During the event breakfast, snacks, and lunch was served to all those in attendance. All those in attendance were given seminar bags that consisted of a "How Money Works: A Common Sense Guide to Financial Success, the Veterans Coalition of North Central Texas Resource Guide, give-a-ways and additional Financial Education materials. Follow up Financial Education sessions and Job Readiness Skills will be conducted once a week at Mental Health America. These one hour sessions will be conducted by Financial Advisors and Job Readiness Experts.