

Newsletter

Pitt Veterans Affinity Group

Issue No. 1 | March 2022



Our Service

The University of Pittsburgh Veterans Affinity Group facilitates the inclusion of veterans, military members, and their families into the University community by supporting recruitment, retention, comradery, and ongoing success in collaboration with like-minded organizations.

This is our first newsletter; we hope to use these newsletters as opportunities to share information that is relevant to the Pitt Veteran Affinity community and to celebrate our members.

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Website: <https://www.diversity.pitt.edu/engagement/campus-groups-and-committees/pitt-communities/veterans-affinity-group>



Topic 01

Pitt Profiles

Bob Chamberlain

Phil Lenz

Topic 02

Army Career Skills Program

An internship program that is great for Pitt

Topic 03

Honoring Black History Month

The Veterans Affinity Group is co-chaired by:

Cmdr. Shawn Ellies, EdD

Alisha Cuniff, CRA

Josh Cannon, PhD

Topic 01 – Pitt Profiles

Bob Chamberlain

Bob is currently the Emergency Coordinator for the Office of Public Safety and Emergency Management. He has been in this position since 2021. Prior to coming to Pitt, Bob served in the Army for 24 years as an intelligence officer, retiring with the rank of Colonel.

Bob's work in the Army and afterwards his work in DC, in a variety of high-level positions, has sent him throughout the Middle East, Africa, and South Korea.

Bob served with Phil Lenz (profiled below) at Fort Bragg in the early 1990s while both were in the 313th Military Intelligence Battalion, 82nd Airborne Division.

Phil Lenz

Phil is currently on an internship working with Bob Chamberlain (profiled above) in Pitt's Office of Public Safety and Emergency Management. He is also an active duty Lieutenant Colonel and Director of Public Safety at Fort Rucker, Alabama, a unit [recognized under Lt. Col. Lenz's leadership](#) as the best directorate of emergency services in the 2020.

Phil's internship is through the Army Career Skills Program (see Topic 02 below). He is a Pittsburgh native and enlisted in the Army in 1989, becoming an officer through Eastern Kentucky University's R.O.T.C program in 1996. Upon retirement from active service, Phil will join Pitt as the UCIS Director of Global Risk, Health, Safety, and Security.



Bob Chamberlain



Lt. Col. Phil Lenz

Topic 02 – Army Career Skills Program

The program that brought Phil Lenz (profiled above) to the University of Pittsburgh is called the [Army Career Skills Program](#).

The Army Career Skills Program (CSP) affords transitioning Service Members the opportunity to participate in employment skills training (EST), on-the-job training (OJT), pre-apprenticeships and internships with a high probability of employment in high-demand and highly-skills jobs. Participation must occur within the last 180 days of military service, with an honorable discharge.¹

This program is 2 years old and the Department of Defense pays the service member their military salary while they are on the internship. As far as we could determine, Phil Lenz is the first person to use this opportunity at the University of Pittsburgh.

Topic 03 – Honoring Black History Month

Since this newsletter did not have a February 2022 issue, we are excited to share some information in honor of Black History month here. Please note the [Veteran Affairs resources](#) regarding this opportunity to reflect on the powerful and positive impact Black Americans have had on the US military.



VA Celebrates Black History Month

February is Black History Month and VA is proud to join our country in celebrating the extraordinary legacy of Black Americans. There are more than two million Black Veterans in the United States who have made incredible sacrifices for our country.

[READ MORE](#)

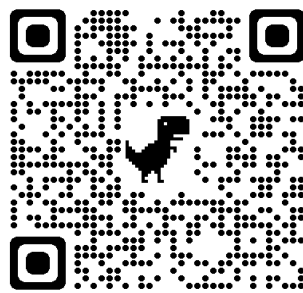
[WATCH](#)

¹ From the program's website: <https://home.army.mil/imcom/index.php/customers/career-skills-program>

Additional Resources for Veterans



Use the link [VeteransBreakfastClub](https://www.veteransbreakfastclub.com) or the QR scan code below to check out the Spring 2022 schedule.



VETERANS AFFAIRS NEWS



Resources, news, blogs, and current events

[VA honors women on the front lines](#)

Women's History Month: VA celebrates women on the front lines... active duty, Veteran, or VA employee, VA is proud to honor them. The post [VA honors women on the front lines](#) appeared first on [VAntage Point](#).

[Telling Unknown History](#)

Taken from Borne the Battle Ep. 271 ***** SUBSCRIBE to FULL EPISODES → <https://link.chtbl.com/YouTube> ***** READ MORE: <https://blogs.va.gov/VAntage/100682/borne-the-battle-271-army-veteran-tim-mccoy-historian-curator-and-ceo-of-winged-warriors-inc/> *****

[Adjusting to Civilian Life](#)

Taken from Borne the Battle 271 ***** SUBSCRIBE to FULL EPISODES → <https://link.chtbl.com/YouTube> ***** READ MORE: <https://blogs.va.gov/VAntage/100682/borne-the-battle-271-army-veteran-tim-mccoy-historian-curator-and-ceo-of-winged-warriors-inc/> *****



Women Veterans **NOT** using your earned VA Benefits & Services, we would love to hear from you. Please take our survey, it takes 5 minutes and is anonymous. <https://survey.voice.va.gov/?cwv-women-veterans>



[House advances legislation to award historic WWII all-Black, female battalion the Congressional Gold](#)

Monday night the House of Representatives passed legislation to award the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion the Congressional Gold Medal, one of the highest civilian honors. There are less than ten known living members of the unit to receive the medal, but the honor will guarantee the story of their contributions to the World War II effort has a place in history. [From CBS News]

VA PITTSBURGH REGIONAL OFFICE

VA Pittsburgh Regional Office Calendar of Events and Resources:
<https://www.benefits.va.gov/ROPITTSBURGH/index.asp>