

## Mission

To promote employment for disabled Veterans and adults with developmental disabilities

## Vision

It is our vision that Kitsap Applied Technologies will provide Quality, individualized vocational services as measured by participants, their families and recognized evaluating and accrediting agencies.

KAT works to ensure the highest level of independence for people who experience disabilities through provision of individual employment services.

## Service

Kitsap Applied Technologies will provide a continuum of services to adults in the full range of developmental disabilities to enhance their lives and promote independence with the ultimate goals of competitive employment, independent living, and community interaction.



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## Veterans Education and Skills Training Program



# V.E.S.T.

United Way of  
Kitsap County



## FACTS

According to the National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics there are approximately 832,200 veterans in Washington state alone.

As of August 2011: 2.3 million service members have been deployed to Iraq and/or Afghanistan. Since August 2011, 977,542 veterans have had multiple deployments to Iraq or Afghanistan.

More than 95% of troops that were injured in these wars have survived their wounds.

Employment rate of **Gulf War era I veterans**, by service-connected disability status (about 17 percent of Gulf War era I veterans reported having a service-connected disability).

- Overall employment rate for those with a disability: 68.9 percent.
- Less than 30 percent disabled: 85.7 percent employed.
- 30 to 50 percent disabled: 62.8 percent employed
- 60 percent disabled or higher: 41.9 percent employed.
- Overall employment rate for those without a service-connected disability: **82.2 percent.**

Employment rate of **Gulf War era II veterans**, by service-connected disability status (about 27 percent of Gulf War era II veterans reported having a service-connected disability).

- Overall employment rate for veterans with a disability: 64.7 percent.
- Less than 30 percent disabled: 79.2 percent employed .
- 30 to 50 percent disabled: 73.6 percent employed
- 60 percent disabled or higher: 46.6 percent employed.
- Overall employment rate for veterans without a service-connected disability: **76.1 percent.**

Source: August 2012 Veterans Supplement (BLS, March 2012, USDL -13-0477, T6), Table 6 (<http://www.bls.gov/news.release/pdf/vet.pdf>)



## What is KAT doing to help?

Anxiety disorders or other acute trauma can overwhelm the individuals' ability to cope in employment environments.

Kitsap Applied Technologies (KAT) now provides disabled veterans the opportunity to overcome the limitations and barriers to individual employment goals.

Utilizing a focused training methodology called V.E.S.T. (Veterans Education and Skills Training) we are helping Veterans gain the skills and confidence needed to make the often difficult transition back into the civilian workforce.

KAT offers safe facility-based training that reduces stress levels and allows individuals to relearn basic life tasks in a proper social context. Participants acclimate gradually back into the work world in full responsive mode.

Veterans will learn to identify their personal stressors and utilize coping skills before they have a chance to sabotage their intended outcome. They will learn proactive coping strategies to help them reduce stress levels and provide them with the tools they need to succeed.

## What is the process to participate in V.E.S.T. and what can I expect?

In cases where a VET has been determined to have employment barriers we want to assist the Vet in reaching employment goals. The V.E.S.T. program seeks to:

- Evaluate, train, and improve one's ability to achieve vocational goals in a suitable occupation
- Provide services needed to overcome barriers for suitable employment; and
- Enable the client to achieve maximum independence in daily living.

The first step is yours. Let your Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor know you are interested in V.E.S.T. After being assessed by your VRC as a disabled veteran in need of an extended evaluation under Chapter 31 (Authority: 38 U.S.C. 3106 (c), Pub. L 99-576), the VRC will contact KAT of your interest in the V.E.S.T. program.

The V.E.S.T. Program Manager will arrange for an initial interview and you will decide together whether the program, its goals, and its setting is right for you. If they are, you will receive assistance to determine a start-date and an appropriate schedule fitting your individual need.

This is your program and we are here to assist you. You will perform an array of work-related tasks, attend vocational education meetings, and expand your work tolerance and coping strategies. The program will be designed in way to overcome your barriers to work and improve your job retention skills. The program is oriented towards assisting you in achieving your future employment or educational goals.