The House of Delegates recommends that AAPA create a central resource for veterans; the purpose being to recruit veterans to the PA profession and to provide information that will assist them through the process of applying to PA school.

**Rationale/Justification**
The PA profession originated with the recruitment and training of four U.S. Navy Hospital Corpsman due to medical provider shortages\(^1,2\). Their extensive training and experience treating high-acuity patients in austere and combat environments provided the foundation for the PA profession\(^3\). Yet today, only 3.7 percent of matriculating PAs have military experience\(^4,5,6,7\). This decline has occurred due to the evolution of the PA profession. Current military personnel and veterans pursuing healthcare-related careers have difficulty translating their military medical experience and education to the civilian world as they face the following barriers\(^6,7,8\):

1. navigating complex veteran educational benefits,
2. translating military education and training to meet civilian academic requirements,
3. meeting credentialing requirements,
4. overcoming limited communication and knowledge about health care opportunities and,
5. developing academic preparedness.

PA programs have unique admission criteria that can only be handled individually\(^6,7\). There are, however, numerous programs that have diligently worked to find solutions to equating military training and experience into standard academia\(^9,10\). These resources are difficult to find for veterans aspiring to become PAs. The creation of a central resource will allow veterans to connect to programs actively recruiting military veterans and to navigate the intricacies of becoming a successful PA school applicant. This proposal would create a central clearing house website that is integrated into the AAPA website and will act as the gateway for veterans to start their PA journey.

**Related AAPA Policy**
HP 3200.6.2
AAPA supports efforts to help US military veterans become PAs.
[Adopted 2011, amended 2016]

**Possible Negative Implications**
No negative implications anticipated.

**Financial Impact**
Anticipated financial impact includes the ancillary costs associated with development and maintenance of this resource, such as staff time and related administrative costs.
References


Signature

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Chief Delegate, 2018-2019
Student Academy Board of Directors

Contacts for the Resolution

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