

1 **2019-C-05-SAAAPA** **Veterans – Recruitment and Support**

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2019-C-05 Resolved

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<sup>[1, 2]</sup>. Their extensive training and experience treating high-acuity patients in austere and combat environments provided the foundation for the PA profession<sup>[3]</sup>. Yet today, only 3.7 percent of matriculating PAs have military experience<sup>[4, 5, 6, 7]</sup>. 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<sup>[6, 7, 8]</sup>:

- 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<sup>[6, 7]</sup>. There are, however, numerous programs that have diligently worked to find solutions to equivalating military training and experience into standard academia<sup>[9, 10]</sup>. 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.

47 **References**

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69 **Signature**

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71 Chief Delegate, 2018-2019  
72 Student Academy Board of Directors

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