Top Five Things to Know About our Veteran Students

1. Counseling Services
   Two COM counselors are available for appointments with vets (both KTD and IVC); Karen Robinson and Brett Sklove.

2. Respect Privacy and Be Mindful of Political Discussions
   Most veterans will not self-identify themselves as veterans and may not want to discuss their experiences with faculty/students. Since many people have varying opinions about the Iraq/Afghanistan wars, the military, and veterans, please protect the student’s confidentiality if they self-disclose. Our veterans have served our country to protect the freedoms we often take for granted. If we know someone is a veteran, we may ask which branch of the military they served. We may ask how long they served. Then we should sincerely thank them for their service. We should not ask other questions. It is up to the individual if they want to disclose more. Be mindful of topics/discussions in and outside of the classroom about the military and the conflicts in Iraq/Afghanistan. Most veterans do not want to get into a political discussion.

3. Transitioning to Student Life
   Some of our students were recently discharged from the military and may still be transitioning to civilian life. Others are still serving as part of the National Guard. Some veterans may be called back to active duty and may need to withdraw from your course on short notice. Some veterans have been injured and/or may have learning disabilities. Some may have PTSD, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. COM’s Disabled Students Program and Services may offer some support services. Hopefully, the veteran is also receiving medical and mental health care from the Veterans Affairs Office, if needed. Some do not seek out help while others may not need it. It’s a very individual thing. Please be patient and kind with all our veterans.

4. Priority Registration
   Veteran’s get priority (first day!) registration – take advantage of it! Plus COM has an active Veteran’s Club/organization that you may want to let the veteran know about if appropriate.

5. COM Veterans and Dependents
   There are many veterans and dependents of vets @ COM taking classes (and successfully completing them).