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Metro Bus Operator Recruitment Reaches Out to Veterans

By NED RACINE

(March 21, 2007) Continuing its campaign to recruit bus operators, Metro joins with Los Angeles Valley College to offer three prescreening recruiting events for military veterans on March 22, 28 and 29 at 1 p.m. at Los Angeles Valley College.

A variation of Metro's successful Bridge Program training designed to increase the retention rate of those applying to be Metro bus operators, the March prescreening events offer veterans free training that could result in a fast-track to supervisory positions in bus operations.

The prescreening events include an overview of Metro, math and reading tests, distribution of Metro's bus operator applications and an introduction to the support services offered by Work Source California, which is funded by the U.S. Department of Labor.

The March events grew from Metro's idea to tap into the skills that veterans acquire during military service.

"We felt if we included the veterans along with our normal recruitments, we wouldn't be able to adjust our course to their needs," said Lennie Ciufu, Director of Job Training for Valley College.

"Veterans return with a lot of skills [Metro] supervisors use," Ciufu said. The training program for veterans who advance beyond the prescreening, will include more skill training for supervisors than the usual Bridge Program training, which began in August 2006. The training takes two weeks or approximately 45 hours.

Veterans attending the three prescreening events should bring a California driver's license, documents proving their right-to-work, and a Department of Motor Vehicles H-6 printout – in essence a driver's record. Veterans are encouraged to arrive promptly.

Prescreening events will be held at the college's Professional Media Resource Center, 5800 Fulton Avenue in Valley Glen. For information, call 818-947-2941.

