JWV Membership Committee
Where to Find the Current Generation of Jewish Veterans

“To increase our JWV Membership base, we have to introduce ourselves to a lot of Jewish Veterans. The good news is, there are a lot of new Jewish Veterans we can meet.”
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ALEPH INSTITUTE

Why Aleph Institute? The Aleph Institute is a recognized U.S. Department of Defense Ecclesiastical Endorsing Agency. Two major components of the Aleph Military Jewish Chaplain and Lay Leader Training Program are worship and experiential learning. Aleph Institute’s focus is on spiritual growth and renewal amid an atmosphere of trust and peer sharing between selected faculty, military and VA rabbis and Jewish lay leaders. (1)

Update
Special thanks to the efforts of JWV FL Department Commander Larry Jasper, who attended a Department of Defense Symposium conducted by the Aleph Institute for Military Chaplains and Lay Leaders. This is a great opportunity for a partnership for Jewish with War Veterans of the USA, The Jewish Welfare Board and Aleph Institute. Look for Commander Jasper’s article in next edition of “The Jewish Veteran.”


February 23, 2020

Created by Membership Committee Chair, Feb. 2020
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CHABAD


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HADASSAH

Why Hadassah? Hadassah has the largest Jewish women’s membership in America. Hadassah is 300,000 members strong. Hadassah has members from every congressional district in the nation. (1) ...across all generations.

Women Veterans

In the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) article “Women Veterans Make History” the following statistical data is provided: World War II - 140,000 women served in the U.S Army and Women’s Army Corps. (Note: article did not include data for the Korean War.) During Vietnam War 7,000 women served in Southeast Asia. During the 1991 Persian Gulf War 41,000 women were deployed to the combat zone. Today, over 700,000 women have served post 9/11 including Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. (2) Here are two facts about Women Veterans: Fact - You may know that one in every ten veterans is a woman. Fact - But did you know that one in every 63 women is a veteran? (3)

(1) https://www.hadassah.org
(2) https://www.womenshealth.va.gov/outreachmaterials/womenveteransmakehistory/campaigns_makehistory.asp
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HILLEL

Why Hillel? When Jewish Veterans leave the military and want to cash-in on the G.I. Bill, they normally attend an Institution of Higher Education.

“A student’s involvement with Hillel is one of the strongest predictors of future Jewish leadership – stronger than Jewish day school enrollment, Jewish camp experiences, or membership in a Jewish youth group. As the leading authority on Jewish campus life, Hillel reaches, engages, and equips tomorrow’s leaders today. -Avi Chai Foundation Study, 2010” (1)

Former Hillel President creates Military Web Site, “Jews In Green” provides innumerable resources for Jewish soldiers in the US military.(2)

(1) https://hillel.org/about/what-is-a-hillel

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JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER (JCC)

Why JCC? When a Jewish Veteran leaves the military, they want to maintain their good physical shape. One of the best places to do this is your local JCC.

“Our focus is on the people who make your JCC shine: your staff. Whether face-to-face in learning cohorts or online communities, we meet the needs of your staff through intensive professional development opportunities. JCC professionals shape Jewish lives. JCC Association builds strong Jewish communal professionals.” (1)

(1) https://jcca.org/about-us/leading-the-movement/
MILITARY BASES

Why Military Bases? For the continued growth of our organization, we need to focus on its future. Our future will be determined by how effective we are at recruiting new members. One of the most crucial places to find new members are active military bases. There are many affiliated groups on any Military base to choose from. Active Component, Active Duty Military Families/Dependents, National Guard, U.S. Reserve, Military Retirees, Federal Employees, State Employees, Government Contractors, Civilian Contract Employees, etc......

Not located Near a Military Base

Consider a Reserve Component Center: Joint Forces Headquarters, National Guard Armories, U. S. Reserve Training Centers etc..... A Reserve Component can be found in most congressional districts in the nation. Reserve Component Centers are also, a local community-based partner just like most of our JWV Posts.
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YELLOW RIBBON REINTEGRATION PROGRAM

The National Defense Authorization Act of 2008 established the Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program (YRRP). It is a Department of Defense-wide effort to promote the well-being of National Guard and Reserve members, their families and communities, by connecting them with resources before, during, and after deployments. YRRP addresses the unique challenges facing the Guard and Reserve community, including geographic dispersion away from military support networks and fewer deployment resources than the Active Component.

- While the Service Member is deployed, invite their family over for Shabbat.
- Invite the family to your place of worship for Jewish Holidays.
- Send the Service Member a care package during their deployment.
- Welcome the Service Member Home with a “Welcome Home Shabbat Meal.”

For a list of YRRP in your area: https://www.yellowribbon.mil (click on events)