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## “VETS IN TECH” PROGRAM TO LAUNCH IN SAN FRANCISCO

Groundbreaking Initiative is the First to Connect Veterans With Technology Careers

San Francisco, CA, July 31, 2012 - The VetsinTech program is being announced and will officially launch on July 31<sup>st</sup>. Aiming to connect returning veterans with the technology community and provide support for Education, Entrepreneurship and Employment, VetsinTech is the first initiative of its kind.

The VetsinTech organization is committed to giving back by bringing together a tech specific network, resources, and programs for our veterans interested in pursuing technology careers.

“VetsinTech is a much needed veteran entrepreneurship initiative here in the ‘Innovation Capital of the World,’ combining three of my priorities: jobs, vets, and technology,” said San Francisco Mayor Ed Lee. “Returning men and woman who have served our country deserve a chance to get the good jobs in our new innovation economy.”

“We are also very pleased to announce the addition of Craig Mullaney to our advisory board” said Katherine Webster, founder of VetsinTech. Mr.Mullaney will give the keynote address at the ViT launch event on July 31st. "Today's conflicts have produced veterans uniquely poised to lead teams under pressure and to find innovative solutions in complex, ambiguous environments" said Mullaney who serves as VP Operations and Strategy at Ustream.TV in San Francisco.

<http://craigmullaney.com/content/index.asp>

The latest Bureau of Labor Statistics survey <<http://www.bls.gov/news.release/vet.nr0.htm>> is a cold reminder of the difficulties faced by many of our returning soldiers. Jobless rates for the veterans of the Afghanistan and Iraq era are much higher than rates for the rest of the population--frighteningly so for our younger veterans (vets younger than 25 are registering at 30% unemployment).

Nearly 1 million of our veterans are currently unemployed, “but the tech industry is hiring like crazy right now,” said Katherine Webster, founder of VetsinTech and TechCentralSF. “There are eight thousand tech jobs open in San Francisco alone, and some tech companies are hiring in the thousands. Our mission is to bring these vets together with the tech community, fill some of those open jobs and start building relationships.”

Webster says that vets and technology are a perfect fit. “The current generation of veterans has had more exposure to technology than any other. They have amazing leadership, problem solving skills and

discipline, but they also have a great understanding of social media, mobile technologies and more. Many are poised to take on careers in the technology industry and we need to support them.”

VetsinTech itself is poised to provide veterans with opportunities and avenues of support, to help them address skills gaps and transition into tech careers--whether they choose to enter an existing tech company or follow a more entrepreneurial path and create their own start-up.

Earlier this year, TechCentralSF and Co-Host Craig Newmark (founder of craigslist and craigconnects ) held a Startup Veterans “Hackathon” exclusively for veterans and members of the tech ecosystem . Mr. Newmark sits on the board of the IAVA and has done much to support military veterans. “I figure if an American is willing to go over there and risk taking a bullet protecting me, the least I could do is help in real ways, both local and small, and national with greater scope. VetsInTech is a great next step, and I'm already looking forward to more”.

“I reached out to some of the best minds in our tech network, and some from beyond it,” said Webster. “I asked them to come speak, mentor and advise ... we received an overwhelming amount of support.”

The event was a success; the discipline and problem-solving skills that veterans brought to the table proved to be a marvelous match for the fast-paced forum of exchanging ideas and developing plans.

<huffington post article: [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/05/28/veterans-in-technology\\_n\\_1544310.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/05/28/veterans-in-technology_n_1544310.html)>

Inspired by the success of the Startup Veterans hackathon,” Webster partnered with a few of the veterans to create a more permanent, farther-reaching solution.....the VetsinTech initiative with the help of its founding sponsors Intuit, Cisco, HP, Salesforce.com plus national partners Startup America, the Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America and others, and local partners such SFCiti, TechCentralSF and the Veterans Success Center in SF, ViT expect to grow this initiative substantially.

Craig Newmark (craigslist, craigconnects), Mayor Ed Lee (invited) , Supervisor and President of the SF Board of Supervisors, David Chiu, will attend the launch event at Adobe’s landmark San Francisco office, in the heart of SOMA’s “Multimedia Gulch.”

Register for tickets to the launch here: <<http://www.eventbrite.com/event/3852274256>>

#### ABOUT VETSinTECH

VetsinTech supports our current and returning veterans with re-integration services, and by connecting them to the Bay Area technology ecosystem. ViT is committed to bringing together a tech-specific network, resources, and programs for our veterans interested in Education, Entrepreneurship, and Employment – the 3E’s!

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