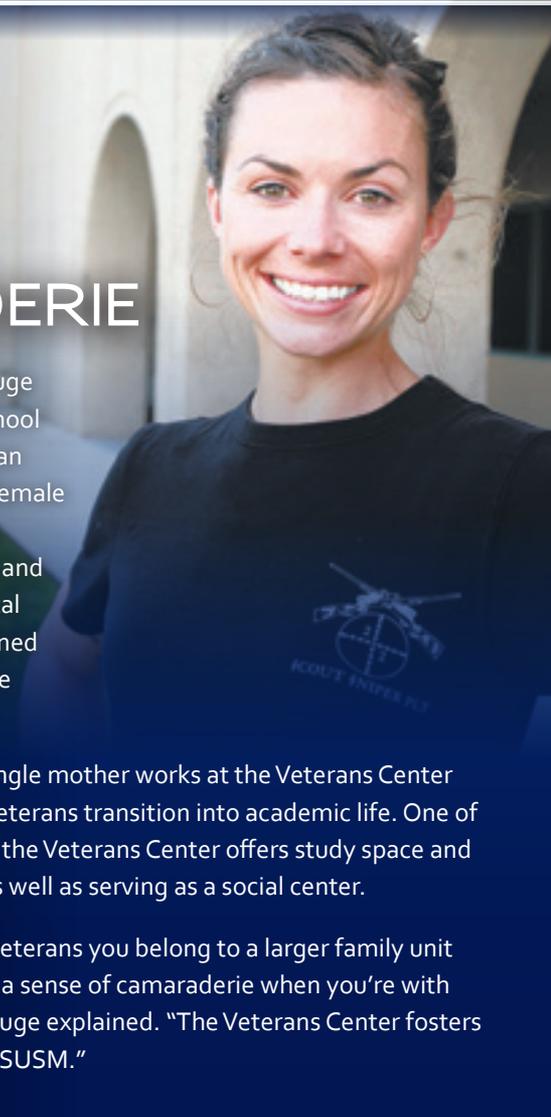


# SERVING OUR VETERANS

## BUILDING CAMARADERIE



Kinesiology major Amber Bouge joined the Navy after high school to become a hospital corpsman and one of only a handful of female search and rescue swimmers. She served two deployments and later worked at a naval hospital in Europe before being stationed at Camp Pendleton to lead the command's fitness program.

Now in her senior year, the single mother works at the Veterans Center at CSUSM, helping student-veterans transition into academic life. One of the first to open in California, the Veterans Center offers study space and academic support services, as well as serving as a social center.

"It's hard to describe, but as veterans you belong to a larger family unit where you automatically feel a sense of camaraderie when you're with former service members," Bouge explained. "The Veterans Center fosters that sense of community at CSUSM."

## THE VOICES OF VETERANS



While past historians have almost exclusively reported on the politics, battles and influential decision-makers surrounding war, a new digital history project at CSUSM seeks to share a different story: the voices of U.S. veterans who have served in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

Spearheaded by the University's history professors, the War at Home and Abroad (WAHA) digital archive explores the impact of war through the memories told by veterans, their families and the nation's home front community members. The multi-year project, which launched in November 2012, is anchored by an online library. The WAHA team plans to collect and record over 1,000 video interviews of veterans recounting experiences from deployments in Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as interview military families. Photographs, written letters, memoirs and other personal artifacts are also being featured in the collection.

*To learn more about the digital archive, visit [www.csusm.edu/waha](http://www.csusm.edu/waha)*



# 1 IN 10

students is a veteran, service member or dependent.

**CSUSM** is in the top tier of universities nationwide doing the most to educate veterans, according to *G.I. Jobs Magazine's* 2013 list of military friendly schools.