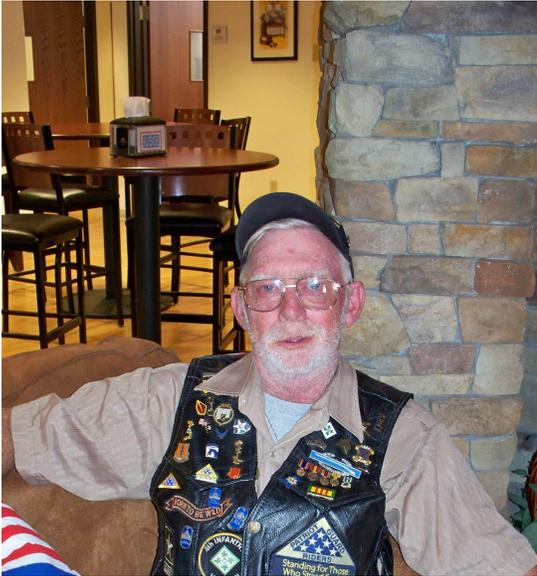


Sustainable Fort Carson Launches 'Give A Buddy A Ride' Rideshare Program

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His name is Robert Tallerdy but everyone calls him "Sergeant Bob". He was stationed at Fort Carson from 1970–1971 and now volunteers at the United Service Organization three days a week.

But that's not all he does. In addition to being a passionate Patriot Guard rider, Tallerdy loves to volunteer his time giving Soldiers he meets a ride. Sometimes he picks up a Soldier who needs to get from the post exchange to the barracks. Other times he drives by the bus station or airport looking for those who would otherwise have to wait hours to complete the final leg of their journey home.

"I'm all for the Soldiers and I want them to know it," he said. "I feel good when I give a Soldier a ride. I don't want money, not even for gas. I give my cell phone to Soldiers who I meet so they can call me anytime. They know that they can count on me to help with their transportation needs and whatever else I can do to make their lives easier."

Tallerdy has been continuing a long tradition whereby Soldiers, private citizens and military retirees help Soldiers in need of a ride to get to their destinations. Specialist Anthony Neil of Alpha Company 1-12 remembers when he was PFC with no car. "It was a cold snowy day and I had a long walk to the PX to get my taxes done. A fellow Soldier pulled up next to me and offered to take me where I needed to go. It turned out that we were in the same company." Specialist Neil returns the favor whenever he sees a Soldier walking in inclement weather or far from main post areas. "People are very grateful for the ride. I feel good to help someone out, save them time and money. There's a feeling of camaraderie, and that is what the Army is all about."



By introducing the "Give a Buddy a Ride" program, Sustainable Fort Carson continues this Army tradition, but with a more formal and modern twist. Soldiers, civilians, family members or whomever needs a ride indicate so by standing at one of the designated stops marked by signage provided by the Directorate of Public Works. In this way, drivers in the area who are willing and able to give a buddy a ride to their desired destination can make arrangements on the spot. Specialist Neil said "I was excited to see the "Give a Buddy a Ride" program unveiled – it makes rideshare easier which means more people will benefit."

The "Give a Buddy a Ride" program is entirely voluntary. When stopping to give an individual a ride at one of the pickup sites, use caution to avoid impeding traffic.

Like Tallerdy and Specialist Neil, individuals can continue this tradition of giving a Soldier a ride.