

# Case Study

## Allegiant Battle for Veterans: The challenges of growing a statewide non-profit for the long term



Managers at any growing organization will say the same thing about paper files: Digitizing them as fast as possible is important for greater efficiency—and faster growth. That's especially true at organizations like Allegiant Battle for Veterans. The Roseville, California-based non-profit helps military veterans adjust to civilian life, with initiatives that include career-oriented mentorships and donations of equipment for disabled veterans. The organization relies heavily on volunteers and corporate sponsors, so it has minimal resources to manage volumes of paper such as business cards, reports, marketing materials, and valuable personal documents and photos from veterans.

## Business Needs

Chief Financial Office Michael Mathews says it became clear in the past year or two that the group’s growth would depend in part on how successfully it could manage the documents used for essential activities, such as fundraising events.

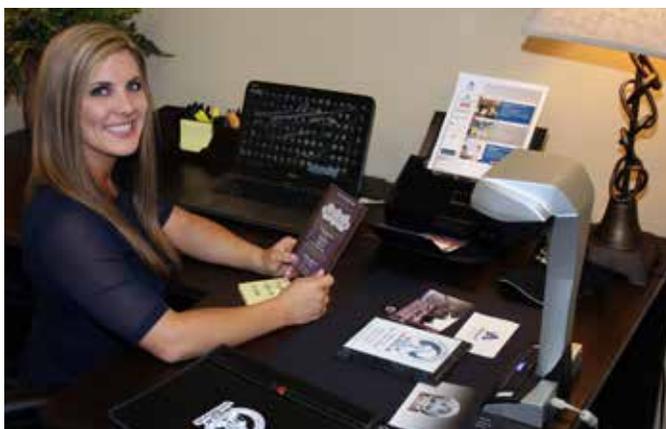
“Event management is an important part of what we do,” says Mathews. “For example, in 2012 Allegiant Battle for Veterans held events in both Northern California and Southern California, including a fundraising Battle of the Forces Golf Tournament, an Evening of Honor, and the School Honor Tour.

**As we grow and the activities across the state increase, the volume of paper that we’re generating and that we receive from outside sources has been piling up from these and other activities. It was becoming very labor intensive and all the paper files were becoming difficult to manage with our small volunteer staff.”**

## Solution: Fujitsu iX500 and SV600 scanners

Allegiant Battle for Veterans found the right combination for its needs with scanners from Fujitsu. These include the Fujitsu ScanSnap iX500, a compact sheet-feed scanner capable of processing up to 25 color pages a minute, and the new Fujitsu SV600 contactless scanner. The SV600 uses overhead-scanning technology for scanning materials such as newspapers, books, or magazines.

Both scanners deliver fast scans resulting in searchable Adobe PDF as well as JPEG image files. The scanners are used



*Ashley Garcia, a volunteer for Allegiant Battle for Veterans, with the Fujitsu iX500 and SV600 scanners.*

heavily, with the iX500 digitizing a broad range of documents received at events and in the mail. The SV600, meanwhile, serves an important role in scanning materials that will not fit through a standard sheet-feed device.

Additionally, both devices integrate with popular productivity and file-storage services, including Evernote, SugarSync, Google Docs, and Salesforce.com. After storing files on local hard drives, Battle for Veterans uses Evernote to make files easily accessible to organization officials and volunteers from their mobile devices when they are at events or meetings outside of the Roseville headquarters.

## Benefits: Practical daily uses—plus long-term storage and organization

The Fujitsu scanners are helping every aspect of the organization, from routine daily management tasks to fundraising and helping veterans.

**“In the past, we were collecting endless pages, binding them, and traveling around with boxes of spiral-bound documents. It was incredibly time consuming,” Mathews says. “Now, with the Fujitsu scanners, we’ve become much more efficient. We have nine directors on our board, and they can spend a lot more time on valuable outreach activities instead of dealing with paper files.”**

The easy remote access to files using Evernote is critical in many fund-raising scenarios. “For example, if we’re giving a presentation to executives at a large corporation, we might have 10 minutes to make our case,” Mathews says. “If there are any questions, we can instantly pull up a PDF on a laptop or iPad to show them instead of hunting through paper files. Plus, Evernote is intuitive, so there’s minimal time required to figure out how it works.”

The organization has found very practical uses for the new SV600. “We are helping veterans acquire Action Trackchairs, which are these amazing all-terrain wheelchairs,” Mathews says. “Using the SV600, we scanned the user’s manual so if any questions pop up about the device, we have instant access to answers. And recently we used it to scan some old, fragile, but personally valuable items belonging to a Vietnam War veteran.”

Digitizing files is also helping the organization with legal and financial matters. “As CFO, part of my job is to ensure that we have very good record keeping and are ready for audits,” Mathews says. “The Fujitsu scanners are an enormous help in storing and organizing important documentation so we have quick, easy access during reports and auditing periods. They are invaluable for the organization.”

**Allegiant Battle for Veterans benefit snapshot:**

- Scanners are helping organizations expand with small staff.
- Digital documents are easily accessed using mobile devices and Evernote.
- Scanning helps organize and store essential financial and legal documents required for audits.
- Practical daily uses include scanning manuals, photos, and odd-sized materials.



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