Hiring Veterans and Military Spouses



HIRING OUR HEROES

U.S. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FOUNDATIO:

Why Hiring Veterans is Important Business

More than 1 million service members are projected to leave the military between now and 2019

Veterans and spouses have intangible skillsets that are invaluable to the business world but are often lost in translation

Think about the size of your business and how it relates to your hiring strategies





Overview







PREPARE → RECRUIT → EMPOWER





PREPARE: Learn How Veterans Improve Your Business

Veterans and Spouses Add Tangible Value



Learn to Speak "Military"

Get to Know Veterans and Spouses





- A survey of over 800 executives showed that veterans were better than civilians in areas including teamwork and work ethic.
- Veterans receive technical training at a more accelerated rate than nonmilitary workers.
- Some qualities shared by veterans:
 - They live by a code of integrity
 - The are professional in their appearance and manner
 - They know how to adapt





- Veterans are valuable to small businesses because they thrive in environments that call for them to do more with less.
- S&P Companies led by CEOs with military experience had higher-than-average returns.
- Veterans are well-trained
 - Leadership
 - Risk management
 - Team building





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Categories of Military Ranks

There are three main categories of rank:

Enlisted Personnel: The rank and file

Warrant Officer: Highly specialized technical experts

Commissioned Officers: Well-trained leaders of people

and organizations





Sample Translation of Military Ranks

Junior Enlisted

E-1 to E-4

Entry-level employees who grow into technicians in their fields.

Noncommissioned Officer

E-5 to E-6

Managers of the service members who do the day-to-day work.

Senior Noncommissioned Officer

E-7 to E-9

Experienced people managers and technical experts. They manage leaders who manage teams.

Specialized E-9 Ranks

E-9

Strategic leaders—the leaders of the enlisted force, focusing on enterprise-level activities.

Warrant Officer

W-1 to W-5

Seasoned performers and technical leaders. (The Air Force does not have warrant officers.)

Company-Grade Officer

O-1 to O-3

They have 1–10 years of service. They start in entry-level college graduate positions and rise to manage people and programs. Could oversee 50–150 people.

Field-Grade Officer

O-4 to O-6

They have 12–30 years of service. Seasoned managers/ strategic leaders. Manage large organizations of thousands of people and millions/billions in assets and facilities.

Flag Officer

O-7 to O-10

They have 18–35 years of service. Strategic executive leaders who lead large, complex organizations across many geographic locations.





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Leverage those in your company, or if there are none, tap into your personal network, to find those who have military experience.

There are many ways to engage veterans and spouses:

- Coordinate an informal breakfast meeting
- Attend a military event in your community
- Reach out to other willing companies





RECRUIT: Find and Hire Veterans and Military Spouses

Create a Military-Friendly Website



Make Your Job Descriptions Attractive

Use Recruiting Resources from Hiring Our Heroes





Create a Military-Friendly Website







Simple Tips to Create a Military-Friendly Website

- 1.Don't put veterans in the diversity category
- 2. Highlight jobs already identified as good fits with veterans and spouses
- 3. Publish your mission statement and corporate values





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"The military has more than 7,000 jobs across more than 100 functional areas, the majority of which have a direct civilian job equivalent."

- Sherrill Curtis, Curtis Consulting Group, LLC

Follow these steps to write veteran-friendly job descriptions:

- Do your research
- Be inclusive
- Promote the needed skills





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Hiring Fairs

PS YOU FIND THEM

Sign up to recruit at one of our hiring fairs, held exclusively for veterans, transitioning service members, and military spouses.

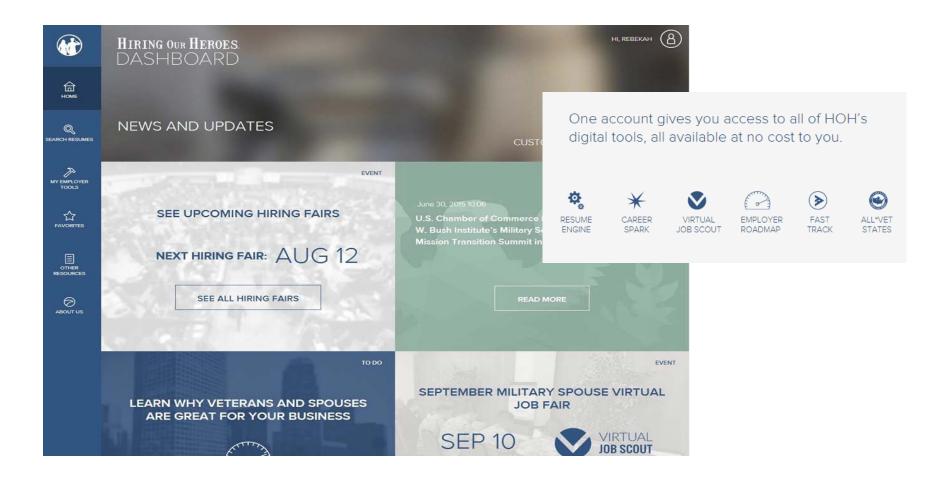






EMPLOYERS

HOH Dashboard







Digital Tools

Access a FREE
database
of thousands of veteran
and military spouse
resumes with the
Personal Branding
Resume Engine and
Career Spark.

Search by:

Location
Job-Level
Keyword









Turn Social Networking into an Edge

- USAA's Military Talent Management team attends meetings at the Fort Sam Houston, TX Warrior and Family Support Center to promote USAA's commitment to hiring veterans and military spouses. The team also increases outreach through engagement on military blogs and LinkedIn and Facebook.
- 94% of recruiters use or plan to use social media in their job search efforts. (Jobvite 2013 Social Recruiting Survey)





EMPOWER: Welcome and Support Your Veteran Employees

Help Your Staff Recognize Veterans



Explain Pathways to Advancement

Show Your Support and Celebrate Their Service





- Teach employees the military basics
- Utilize the veterans on your staff
- Take advantage of digital resources
- Dispel the myths
- Educate employees on disability issues and rights





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Explain How Veterans Can Advance

Veterans often are frustrated by a lack of written rules and clear paths for advancement in their companies.

Here are ways to help veterans advance in the workplace:

- Offer timetables for reviews
- Present specific criteria for raise and promotion eligibility
- Challenge and reward them





Safeway created an intensive, multi-month training program for junior military officers and noncommissioned officers (NCOs), placing them into an accelerated leadership program.

Safeway sees this effort as an opportunity to find proven leaders who have been educated and trained, and who have experience leading people under a variety of circumstances.





Onboarding Veteran Employees

Create an onboarding plan and follow up to assist the veteran through this transition:

- 1. Create a mentoring program
- 2. Establish employee resource or affinity groups
- 3. Outline the company structure
- 4. Keep the dialogue going
- 5. Follow up





Financial services company USAA strives to provide innovative programs aiding new hires' transition from the military to the corporate world and to create a sense of belonging. Formal programs including "Combat to Claims" and "Veterans for IT" bring in new classes of recently separated veteran employees, who are trained and onboarded as a group, providing a built-in support unit.





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Veterans who work at Starbucks wear the iconic green apron with the American flag.

La Quinta Inns and Suites recognizes its veteran, Guard, Reserve and military spouse employees with a special "thank you for your service" pin they wear on their uniforms.







USAA specifically designed an internal employee community, VetNet, over five years ago to assist veteran and spouse employees, with full support from the CEO and executive leadership team. Both a social and business support group, VetNet is leveraged to share information, post military-related events, seek/offer advice or mentoring on the job, list military-related websites, establish focus groups for specific business needs, etc.





Next Steps

- 1. Create your employer account on the HOH Dashboard at to access all of our free resources
- 2. Download the Employer Roadmap workbook at
- 3. Determine who in your organization is a veteran, transitioning service member or military spouse
- 4. Subscribe to the monthly employer newsletter at
- 5. Create your profile on EmployerRoadmap.com







Contact Us!

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