Department of Labor (DOL) Veterans' Employment and Training Service (VETS)

ILG NATIONAL CONFERENCE August 2, 2017

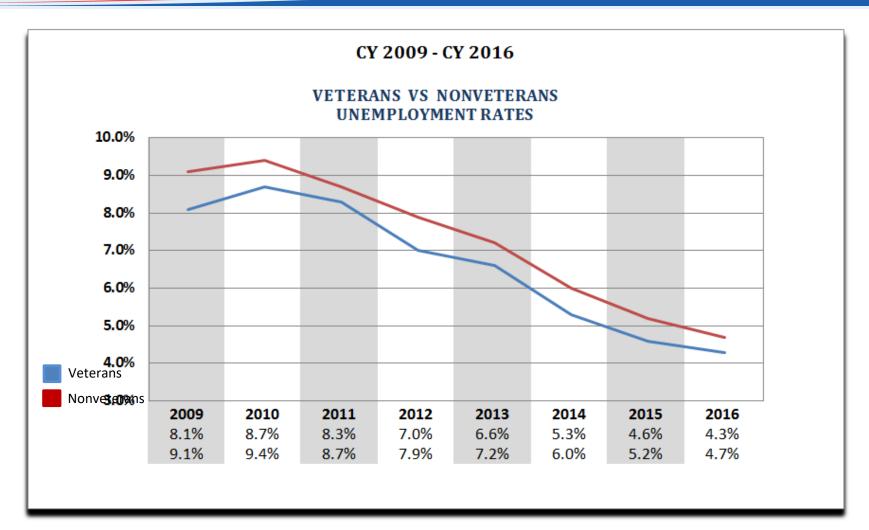
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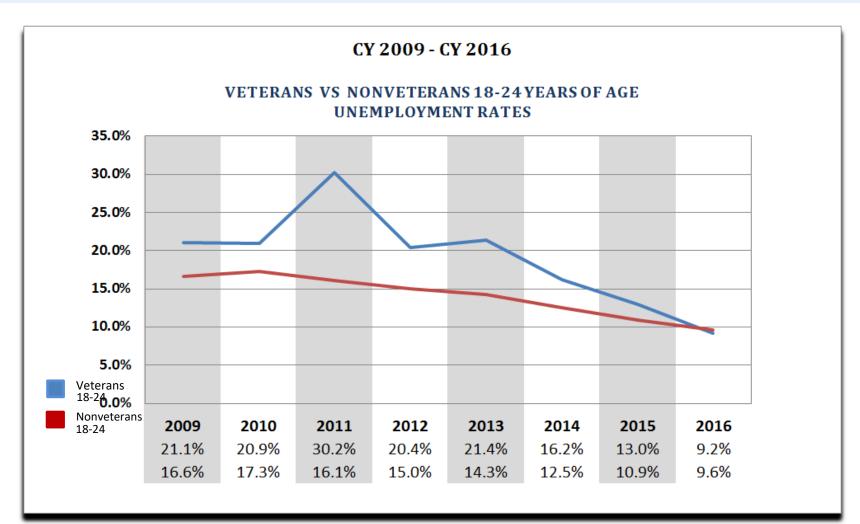
Veteran Demographics

- 20.5 M total veterans in the U.S.
 - √ 92.7% male
 - √ 7.3% female
 - ✓ Median age = 64
- Nearly 51% of all veterans are in the workforce (10.4M):
 - √ 409K unemployed veterans
 - √ 79% of veterans are 45 years or older
 - √ 56% of unemployed veterans are 45 years or older
 - √ 13K unemployed veterans are 18-24
- Declining unemployment rates- the lowest in last 10 years
 - ✓ Veteran unemployment rates continue to be lower than nonveterans
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Veteran Unemployment Rates



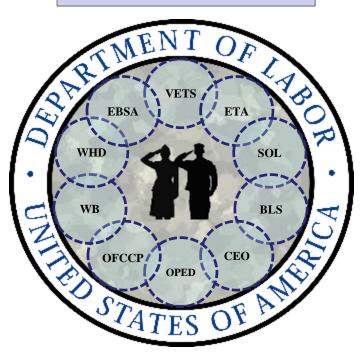
Veteran Unemployment Rates



Integrated Approach

- Veterans' Employment and Training Service (VETS)
 - o Coordinates Agency efforts
- Employment & Training Administration (ETA)
 - National Workforce System (AJCs)
 - o UCX, Office of Apprenticeship, WIOA, Grants
- Office of the Solicitor (SOL)
 - o Employment law expertise; enforcement in U.S. veteran discrimination cases.
- Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS)
 - o Continuously monitors and analyzes U.S. veteran employment statistics
- Chief Evaluation Officer (CEO)
 - o Evaluates effectiveness /efficiency of Veteran employment programs
- Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP)
 - o Focuses on disability-related policies that benefit veterans
- Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs (OFCCP)
 - o Affirmative action provisions of VEVRAA
- Woman's Bureau (WB)
 - Develops policies, advocates for equality and economic security and promotes quality work environments for working women/veterans
- Wage and Hour Division (WHD)
 - o Military Family Leave (FMLA)
- Employee Benefits Security Administration (EBSA)
 - o Financial literacy/military retirement structure

DOL's intense and extensive interoperability across all DOL agencies



Regional Locations: Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Dallas, Philadelphia, San Francisco

VETERANS.GOV: Your Virtual "One Stop"

For Job Seekers

- Connect with one-on-one assistance in the 2,414 American Job
 Centers located conveniently in communities around the country.
- Explore Veterans' Job Bank / National Labor Exchange online job listings.
- Search career paths by industry, by similarity to military careers, or by keyword.
- Locate approved local training programs, colleges and universities.
- Access resources from States and Federal partners to connect with industry career programs in sectors including agriculture, transportation, energy/utilities, homeland security, and employment in the Federal government.
- Learn how to start a business.

For Employers

- Connect with regional employer outreach specialists in DOL VETS to access local resources for meeting your unique hiring needs.
- Post position descriptions and openings in the Veterans' Job Bank /National Labor Exchange database.
- Access the free veteran hiring toolkit, "America's Heroes at Work," and other resources for employers.



Explore Resources In Your State:



DOL-VETS Mission

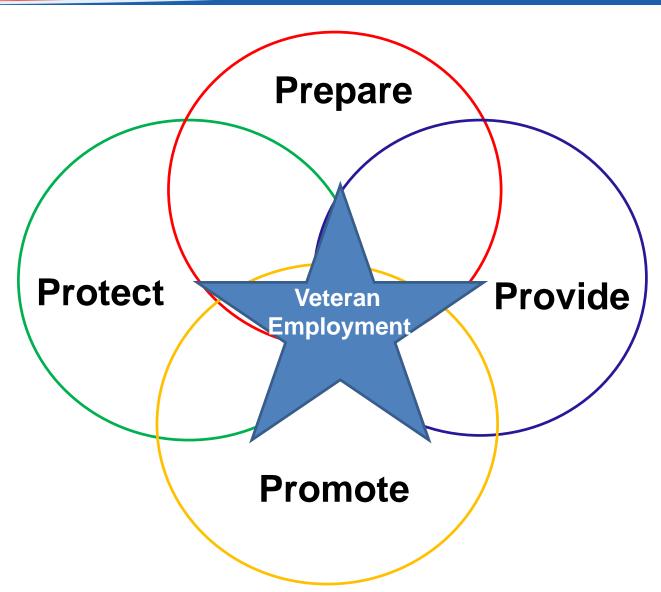
We <u>prepare</u> America's veterans, transitioning service members, and their spouses for meaningful careers;

We <u>provide</u> them with employment resources and expertise;

We <u>promote</u> their employment opportunities; and

We protect their employment rights

Mission Focus: Veterans' Employment



"Prepare"

Transition Assistance Program (TAP)

DOL Employment Workshop

Transition GPS/TAP

The services, training, tools and support a transitioning service member needs to meet Career Readiness Standards.

Pre-Separation Counseling (DoD)

- 12-18 months prior / - 24 months (retirement)

Core Curriculum:

- Resilient Transitions (DoD)
- MOC Crosswalk (DoD)
- Financial Planning (DoD)
- Employment Workshop (DOL)
- Benefits Briefing (VA)

Specialized Tracks

- Career Technical Training (VA)
- Assessing Higher Education (DoD)
- Entrepreneur (SBA)

Capstone

Key points:

- ☐ Teach mechanics of getting a job
- 3-days/class size: max 50
- ☐ Tangible products:
 - Individual Transition Plan
 - Skills assessment/Job search
 - Resume/Cover Letters
- ☐ FY 16
 - 6,450 workshops/ 206 locations
 - 180,793 participants/7,188 Guard and Reserve
- ☐ Curriculum on-line (NEW: eBook on Amazon.com)
- Annual curriculum review
- Spouses are eligible to participate in DOL's Employment Workshop on a space-available basis
- Available on-line/any-time at: http://www.dol.gov/vets



eBook on Amazon.com







US Department of Labor Employment Workshop Participant Guide: Civilian Workforce Kindle Edition

by United States Department of Labor (Author), Veterans' Employment and Training Service (Author)

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Kindle \$0.00

Read with Our Free App

This is the official participant guide used during the Department of Labor (DOL) Employment Workshop for transitioning service members. As part of the Transition Assistance Program (TAP), DOL conducts these workshops on military installations worldwide. The DOL Employment Workshop is a 3-day instructor-led class that covers the foundational mechanics of career transition and finding a good job. The workshop focuses on four core competences: 1. Developing and executing a job search plan; 2. Planning for success in a civilian work environment; 3. Creating resumes, cover letters, and other self-marketing materials; and 4. Engaging in successful interviews and networking conversations. This participant guide may be used during the workshop and later as a ready reference during your career transition. It contains a wealth of career transition information, available resources, and useful examples.

- ☐ FREE
- Read On Any Device



The Employment Assistance You Need... for Any Time or Transition!

Download the free DOL Employment Workshop eBook today to get started. For more information, visit VETERANS.GOV



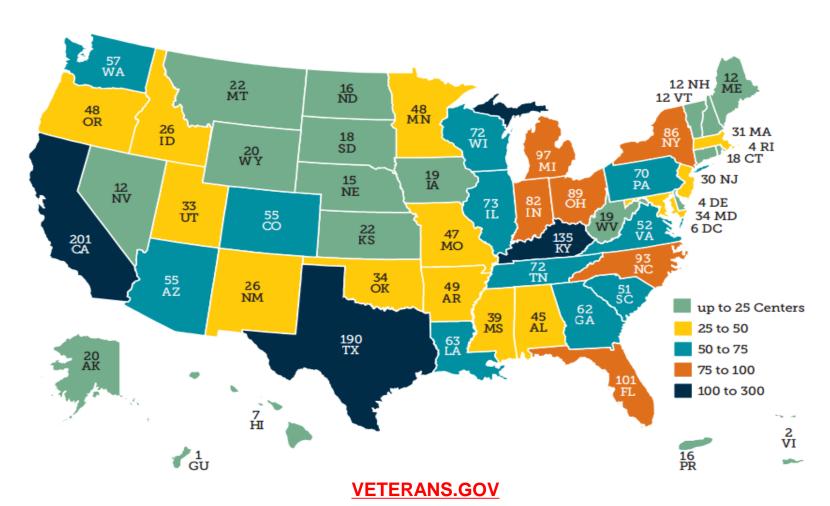


"Provide"

American Job Centers AJCs



2,414 American Job Centers Nationwide

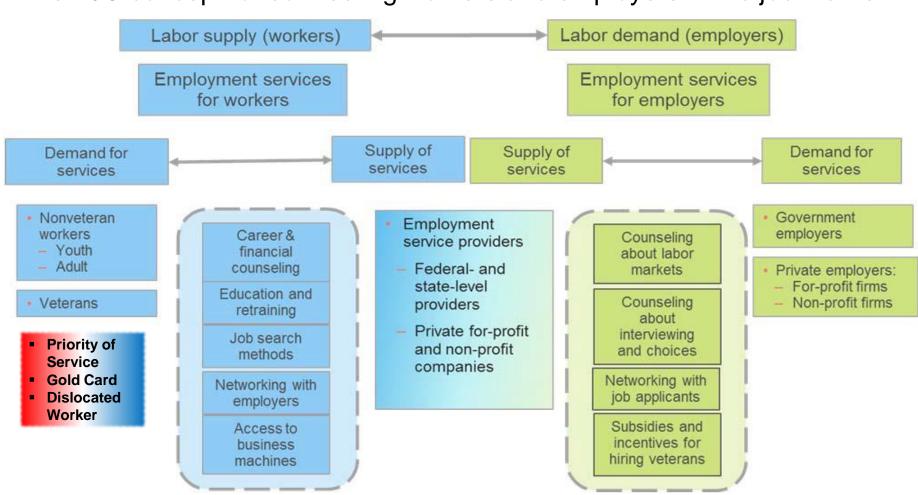


www.careeronestop.org

National Phone Helpline: 1-877-872-5627

The AJC Concept

The AJC concept for connecting workers and employers in the job market



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AJC Employer Services

Connect

- Locate the closest AJC to your facility
 - www.veterans.gov
 - www.careeronestop.org
- Contact a Local Veterans Employment Representative (LVER) or Business Services staff
 - Business Services: Works with employer to enter open positions into the state workforce system
 - LVER: Works with the employers, ensuring that the position is in the state's job bank & assists the employer with sourcing viable veteran candidates to fill those positions
- Let them know you want to hire veterans

Services

- Job description writing
- Posting of job openings
- Reviewing applicants' resumes
- Pre-screening of job applicants
- Assessment of applicants' skills
- Referral of job-ready candidates
- Workforce information
- Skill upgrading and career ladders
 - OJT
 - Internships
 - Apprenticeships
 - Short-term training
- Places to conduct interviews
- Organizing job fairs

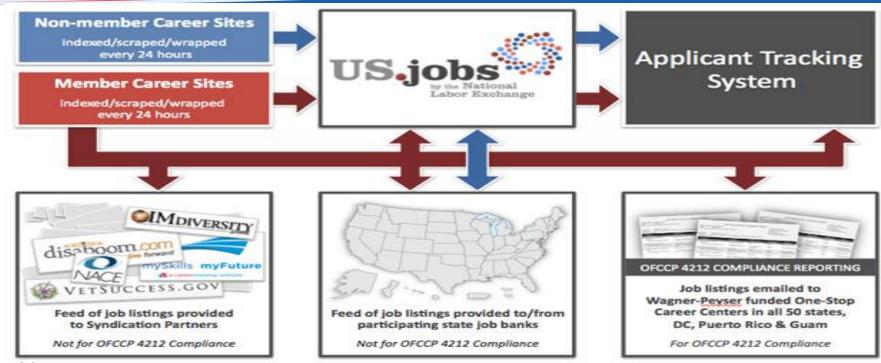
The NLx is a partnership between the National Association of State Workforce Agencies (NASWA) and Direct Employers Association, which is hosted on the www.us.jobs internet domain. The NLx is used by 300,000+ employers with an average of 2.1 million daily job listings.

The NLx is a popular tool for employers – it provides the easiest way to list jobs and simultaneously comply with DOL's regulations for veteran affirmative-action hiring.

Since March 2007, the NLx has listed 75 million unduplicated, available, and vetted jobs; NLx job listings are free for any employer; DirectEmployers members get additional benefits. The NLx powers multiple DOL-funded career advice and job search tools.

The NLx works by collecting and distributing jobs from corporate websites, state job banks, and USAJOBS.

National Labor Exchange



In addition:

- The NLx reviews all employer and state requests to list jobs to eliminate listing duplication
- The NLx (<u>www.us.jobs</u>) is optimized for mobile devices (Smartphones, tablets, etc)
- The NLx provides multiple free services to all 50 states and US territories, including
 - Downloads and uploads of all jobs
 - Job Bank hosting
 - Job seeker traffic analytics
 - State specific microsites (e.g. <u>www.workintexas.com</u>, <u>www.newyourk.jobs</u>)
- All jobs listed in NLx are coded with Occupational Information Network (O*Net) data.

Workforce Development Boards (WDBs)

- Supports and promotes the continued vitality of workforce and economic development efforts through the delivery of quality employment, education, and training services.
- Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) provides Boards with opportunity to develop employment and training systems tailored specifically to local area needs.
 - Local WIOA Plan is a collaborative process among Chief Elected Official (CEO), Workforce Board, One-Stop Career Centers (American Job Centers/AJCs) and local Partners. Creates a shared understanding of local area workforce development needs, a shared vision for how local workforce development system can be designed to meet those needs, and agreement on the key strategies to achieve this vision.

Local Board Functions

- Conduct workforce research and regional labor market analysis; Career pathways development; Meet the
 needs of employers and workers with disabilities; Develop strategies for using technology to maximize
 the accessibility and effectiveness of the local workforce system for employers, workers and jobseekers;
 Coordination with education providers.
- Local Board Membership (details in backup slides)
 - Business representation must be majority of board composition
 - Workforce representation 20% of board composition
 - Other representatives additional required representation and optional members

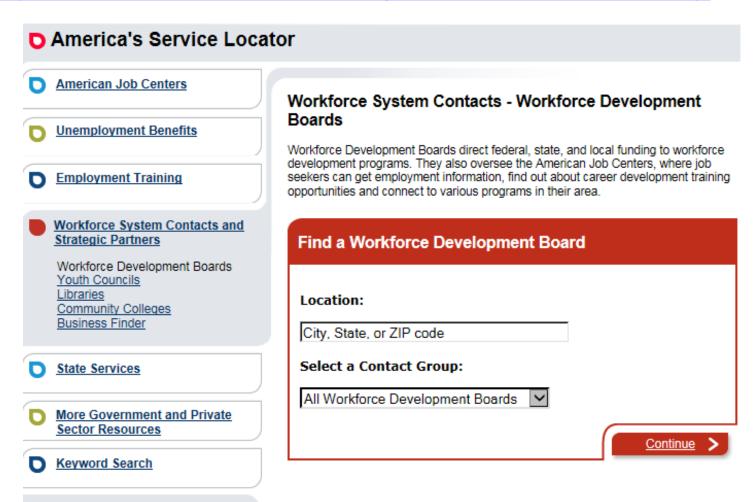
Employers should use the workforce system to develop an integrated strategy

- ✓ Be strategic with Workforce Development Boards (WDB)
 - The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) establishes requirements for WDBs
 - Set the priorities for use of DOL grant funds to develop career ladders
 - Partner with local Institutions of Higher Learning (IHL) & Eligible Training Providers (ETP) to generate the skills you need

Connect with your local Workforce Development Board

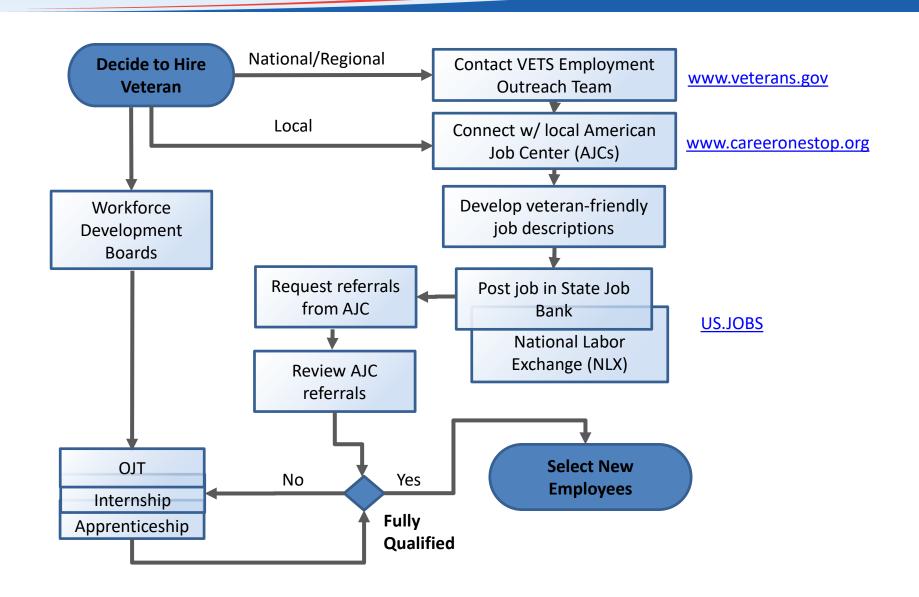
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https://www.servicelocator.org/workforcecontacts.asp



DOL.GOV/VETERANS

Using the public workforce system to hire veterans



"Promote"

DOL VETS Employer Outreach Team

DOL VETS Employer Outreach Program

- 1. Connect companies with federal, state and local resources to facilitate veterans' employment.
- 2. Leverage federal, state and local employment resources and programs to reduce employer costs.
- 3. Consult with companies on their needs, educate them on resources and assist them with developing apprenticeships to address skill gaps and to attract more veterans.
- 4. Coordinate employment resources and expertise across businesses, employer groups, veterans' organizations, state workforce partners and government agencies to promote veterans' employment opportunities.

Bottom Line: "Make it easier for employers to find and hire veterans"



Explore Resources In Your State:



"Connect companies with federal, state, local and other resources to facilitate veterans' employment."

- Federal Resources:
 - DoD (Service partners, Soldier for Life, Marine For Life, Skillbridge,
 ESGR/NGB), VA (GI Bill), Office of Apprenticeship, www.veterans.gov
- State/Local Resources:
 - State Workforce System, American Job Centers, WDBs
- Other Resources:
 - NASWA/ NLx, Hiring our Heroes, VSOs, MOAA

Note: One estimate indicated there are ~60K organizations in the veteran employment space which confuses employers and job seekers. *We focus on prepaid services funded by the American taxpayer.*

DOL VETS Employer Outreach Team



Presidential Executive Order: Expanding Apprenticeships in America

Presidential Executive Order: Expanding Apprenticeships in America

- Higher Education is becoming unaffordable
- Fail to graduate students with skills to secure high-paying jobs in today's workforce
- Matching America's workers with open jobs (350K manufacturing)
- Expanding apprenticeships and reforming ineffective education
- Government will provide more affordable pathways to secure high-paying jobs
- Establish industry-recognized apprenticeships ... (third party)
- DOL establish guidelines, expedite registration
- Focus on expanding access to and participation in apprenticeships among students at accredited secondary and post secondary educational institutions, including community colleges
- Funding???
- Promoting apprenticeships to ... service members and veterans
- Secretary of Education support the efforts of community colleges to incorporate apprenticeships into their courses of study
- Task Force on Apprenticeships



Department of Labor's Registered Apprenticeship Program

Benefits to Companies:

- Receive consulting services from DOL in the design, development, and structure of their Registered Apprenticeship program
- By partnering with DOL, it will bring a **level of credibility** to their training program by meeting approved standards
- Upon completion of the program, the apprentice will earn a nationally recognized credential. This credential be used as a recruiting tool to attract prospective applicants
- The company will attract veterans and those transitioning out of the service since they will be able to utilize GI Bill benefits (not take on educational debt)
- Career Skills Program/Skill Bridge (military pays transitioning service member's salary while in pre-apprenticeship training program)
- Increased employee retention / reduce turnover costs
- Creates a system where employers can track return on investment of training dollars invested

Apprenticeship Partnership







Oct 2016: RVEC speaks with Amazon representative at Hiring our Heroes Transition Summit at Joint Base Lewis McCord regarding possible apprenticeship program for veterans

Nov 2016: DOL VETS, Office of Apprenticeship meeting with Amazon leadership in November 2016.



Jan 2017: Registered DOL Apprenticeship for Amazon icloud support signed

Several national articles published leading to increased industry interest



The Act requires the Department to establish a HIRE Vets Medallion Program to recognize employer efforts to: (1) recruit, employ, and retain veterans; and (2) provide community and charitable services supporting the veteran community.

Under this Act, DOL will:

- Establish the program, by rule, no later than 2 years after enactment,
- Solicit, verify, and review voluntary award applications from employers,
- Notify award recipients, and
- Issue Medallion awards at a time coinciding with Veterans Day.

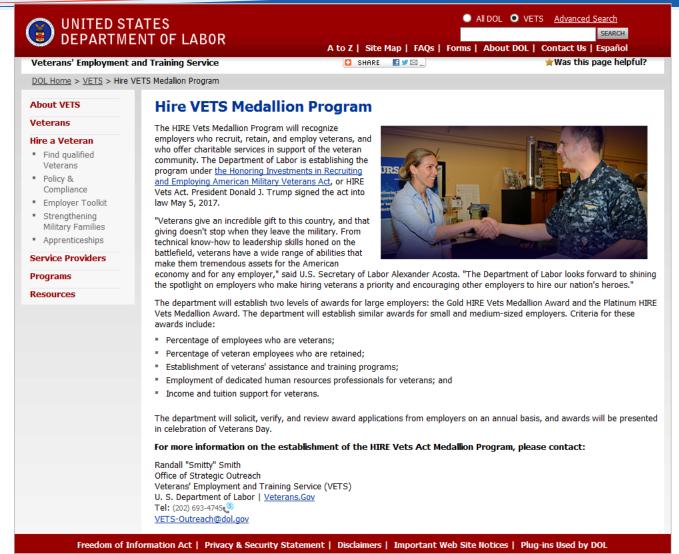
DOL will establish two levels of awards for employers of 500 or more employees, to be designated the Gold HIRE Vets Medallion Award and the Platinum HIRE Vets Medallion Award. Criteria include:

- the percentage of hired employees who are veterans,
- the percentage of veteran employees who are retained,
- the establishment of related veterans' assistance and training programs,
- the employment of dedicated human resources professionals for veterans, and
- income and tuition support for veterans.
- the Secretary may provide, by rule, additional criteria to determine qualification.

- DOL will establish similar awards for small employers (50 or fewer employees) and medium employers (50 to 499 employees).
- DOL will establish the design of each award certificate. The Act prohibits an employer from publicly displaying an award as a part of any advertisement or business activity in order to convey the false impression that the employer received such award for any year for which such employer did not receive it.
- The Act establishes the HIRE Vets Medallion Award Fund. DOL may assess a reasonable application fee to carry out the award program and shall deposit such fees into the fund.

Questions?

https://www.dol.gov/vets/hirevets/





"Protect"

Service Members' Rights





USERRA

Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA)

- VETS enforces U.S. veterans' re-employment rights to return to civilian employment once tour of duty concludes
- Functional integration between VETS, SOL, DOJ, and OSC that requires extensive employment law expertise
- VOW Act expands USERRA enforcement to include hostile work environment to U.S. Veterans

Veteran's Preference in Federal Employment

 VETS protects veterans' rights by investigating and attempting to resolve Veterans' Preference complaints

VETS 4212 Collaboration Between VETS & OFCCP

Requires contractors to submit annual data on U.S. Veteran hiring

For Veterans Claim or VETS-4212 Filing: www.dol.gov/vets/programs/userra/fileaclaim.htm
http://webapps.dol.gov/elaws/userra.htm



VETS 4212

- The Vietnam Era Veterans' Readjustment Assistance Act of 1974 (VEVRAA), as amended, 38 U.S.C. 4212(d)
 - VETS provides technical assistance to Federal contractors and subcontractors and is responsible for the collection and electronic storage of 4212 annual submissions by those who are obligated to file under VEVRAA
 - Regulations set forth under 41 C.F.R. Section 61-300
 - Contractors and subcontractors who contract or subcontract with the Federal government in excess of \$150,000 or more
 - Must file the VETS-4212 report annually between August 1st and September
 30th on the number of Protected Veterans within their workforce



VETS 4212 Reporting

Covered contractors and subcontractors must report:

- The total number of their employees who belong to the following categories of veterans protected under VEVRAA; and
- The total number of those protected veterans who were hired during the period covered by the report:
 - ✓ Disabled Veteran
 - ✓ Active Duty Wartime or Campaign Badge Veteran
 - ✓ Armed Forces Service Medal Veteran
 - Executive Order 12985
 - ✓ Recently Separated Veteran
 - Within the Previous 36 Months



VETS 4212 Electronic Filing System

- In FY2013, VETS developed a new electronic filing system for Federal contractors to file VETS-100/100A Reports
- In FY2015, VETS transitioned the electronic filing system from the VETS-100/100A to accept the new VETS-4212 Report.
- In FY2016, VETS enhanced the electronic filing system to meet 508 compliance, security, and stability requirements.



VETS 4212 Outcomes

As of June 22, 2017:

- 19,100 Contractors and subcontractors filed reports during the 2016 filing season.
- 345,920 VETS-4212 reports were filed during the 2016 filing season.
- 1,122,041 Total Protected Veterans were employed during the 2016 filing season
- 322,735 Protected Veterans were newly hired during the 2016 filing season



Veterans' Preference / VEOA

Veterans' Employment Opportunities Act of 1998 (VEOA):

- The Secretary, through the Veterans' Employment and Training Service (VETS), provides technical assistance to potential complainants, investigates alleged violations, and attempts to resolve meritorious complaints
- The Office of Personnel Management (OPM) is responsible for writing and interpreting the regulations regarding veterans' preference
- VETS conducts veterans' preference investigations of complaints received from individuals who believe their rights were violated in either initial hiring or in reductions-in-force (RIFs).

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Veterans' Preference / VEOA Outcomes

In FY 2016:

- VETS closed 474 unique Veterans Preference claims
 - -Investigations were completed in 79.5 % (377) of those cases
 - *4.8% (18) of the 377 completed investigations were meritorious

Claim Granted (8)

Claim Settled (0)

Merit-Not Resolved (10)

*95.2% (359) were found non-meritorious

untimely filing (46)

claimant ineligibility (26)

claim lacked merit (287)

-The remaining 20.5% (97) were closed administratively, withdrawn by the claimant, or merit was not determined



Veterans' Preference

Delegated Examining Announcements

Category Rating

Following being deemed eligible, preference eligibles are placed at the top of each quality category for which qualified, except that qualified, compensable disabled veterans float to the top of the highest quality category (except for professional or scientific positions, GS-9 and above).

Merit Promotion Announcements

VEOA Appointing Authority

Eligible veterans compete as a status employee for positions advertised by agencies that are accepting applications outside of their agency workforce under Merit Promotion procedures. Veterans' preference does not apply under Merit Promotion selection procedures.

Reduction in Force

 Competing employees shall be classified on a retention register in tenure groups on the basis of their tenure of employment, veteran preference, length of service, and performance in descending order as set forth under 5 C.F.R.§ 351.501(a) for competing employees in the competitive service

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- **Tom Carl**, IT Specialist 865.382.7264; carl.tom@dol.gov



Key Points

- Important to understand the veteran population and their employment situation
- DOL offers incredible, free resources to help Transitioning Service
 Members, veterans and their families secure meaningful employment
- Leaders in the community need to know about these resources and recommend them to the veterans, their families and employers
- DOL offers these free services regardless of characterization of discharge
- DOL is focused on increasing employer engagement, resulting in better overall employment outcomes
- DOL will be establishing the HIRE Vets Act program to recognize employers that recruit, employ and retain veterans

Visit your local American Job Center for a tour or connection to free resources for your organization/clients



Questions?

GET THE RESOURCES

ONLINE

www.veterans.gov dol.gov/vets/militaryspouses www.servicelocator.org www.mynextmove.org www.myskillsmyfuture.org

VETERANS.GOV

DOWNLOAD

TAP E-Book
Shareables
CareerOneStop App





VISIT

Get one-on-one assistance at your local AJC. Locate one nearest you at www.servicelocator.org





Backup Slides







VETS Investigation Process

- Individual complaint driven
- Investigated by qualified VETS' field staff
- No particular form is necessary, but claimants are encouraged to complete the VETS 1010 Form
- Claims must be submitted within 60 days of alleged violation (MSPB has determined that start date as date claimant became aware of non-selection)





VETS Investigation Process (cont'd)

- Case opened immediately on receipt of claim form in Atlanta URLC
- If merit is determined, investigator will work with the agency to obtain remedy
- If no violation is determined, the claimant may appeal to the MSPB within 15 days of receipt of VETS' claim closing letter
- VETS does not have enforcement authority and cannot force the agency to comply. If agency fails to comply, the case is closed as Merit, Not Resolved and the claimant must file an appeal with the MSPB to obtain redress.



VETS Investigation Process (cont'd)

- Any case determined to be meritorious, whether or not resolved, will have a copy of the case file forwarded to OSC for review to determine if a Prohibited Personnel Practice PPP) occurred.
 - If it is determined that a PPP occurred, OSC may seek disciplinary action against the party identified as in violation.

Partners and Stakeholders

- OSC (U.S. Office of Special Counsel)
- OPM (Office of Personnel Management)





Program Support

- National Office
 - 4 Staff Members (1 in Atlanta)
- On-line Veterans Preference Advisor (http://webapps.dol.gov/elaws/vetspref.htm)
 - allow veterans to examine the preferences for which they might be entitled with regard to Federal jobs
 - assists veterans in determining whether they appear to have valid complaints and provides the ability to electronically file veterans preference complaints
- OPM Staff
- VP Information Management System
- Electronic complaint form, e1010

