

**Keynote Speaker Congressional Medal of Honor recipient, USA retired Captain Florent "Flo" Groberg; Chief of Staff, Boeing Airplanes**



**Veterans Entrepreneurs Panel:**

**Moderator-Troopster Military Care Packages-Honest Soul Yoga-Strategic Steps Consulting-Visionary Consulting Partners**



**Employer Panel:**

**Moderator-Eleven09-Booze Allen-Deloitte-Aetna & CVS-Comcast NBCUniversal-Microsoft**

# NASWA Veterans Conference

Impressions and takeaways

Grand Hyatt Hotel, Washington D.C.

August 7-9, 2019

by

WDC Staff Duke Olds

MVAC Bi-monthly meeting

Sept 18, 2019



What is NASWA?  
*National  
Association of  
State Workforce  
Agencies*

- A policy and advocacy organization whose mission is to **enhance the state workforce agencies' ability to accomplish their goals, statutory roles and responsibilities**. NASWA promotes the publicly-funded workforce system and drives the national agenda on workforce development as the voice of State Workforce Agencies (SWAs). SWAs in all 50 states, D.C. and U.S. territories deliver such services as employment, career, business, unemployment insurance, veterans reemployment, and labor market information.
- Eight (8) NASWA committees are instrumental in carrying out NASWA's mission; one is the Veteran Affairs Committee. All 50 states, Puerto Rico, Guam, and D.C. are on the committee.
- Committee's interest includes continuously improving the **DVOP** and **LVER** programs, assisting Governor's offices in promoting Veteran employment opportunities, and sharing Promising Practices with states on **DVOP** and **LVER** programs and services. <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/vets/programs/grants/state/jvsg>
- The NASWA Veterans Conference, **Serve Those Who Served** was held August 7-9, 2019, in Washington D.C.; included over 550 attendees, 23 workshops, and 4 keynote speakers. [Of the 34 topics covered in the 2 full-days, 17 were related to military spouses.](https://www.naswa.org/conferences/2019-veterans-conference) <https://www.naswa.org/conferences/2019-veterans-conference>

# Workshop topic highlights

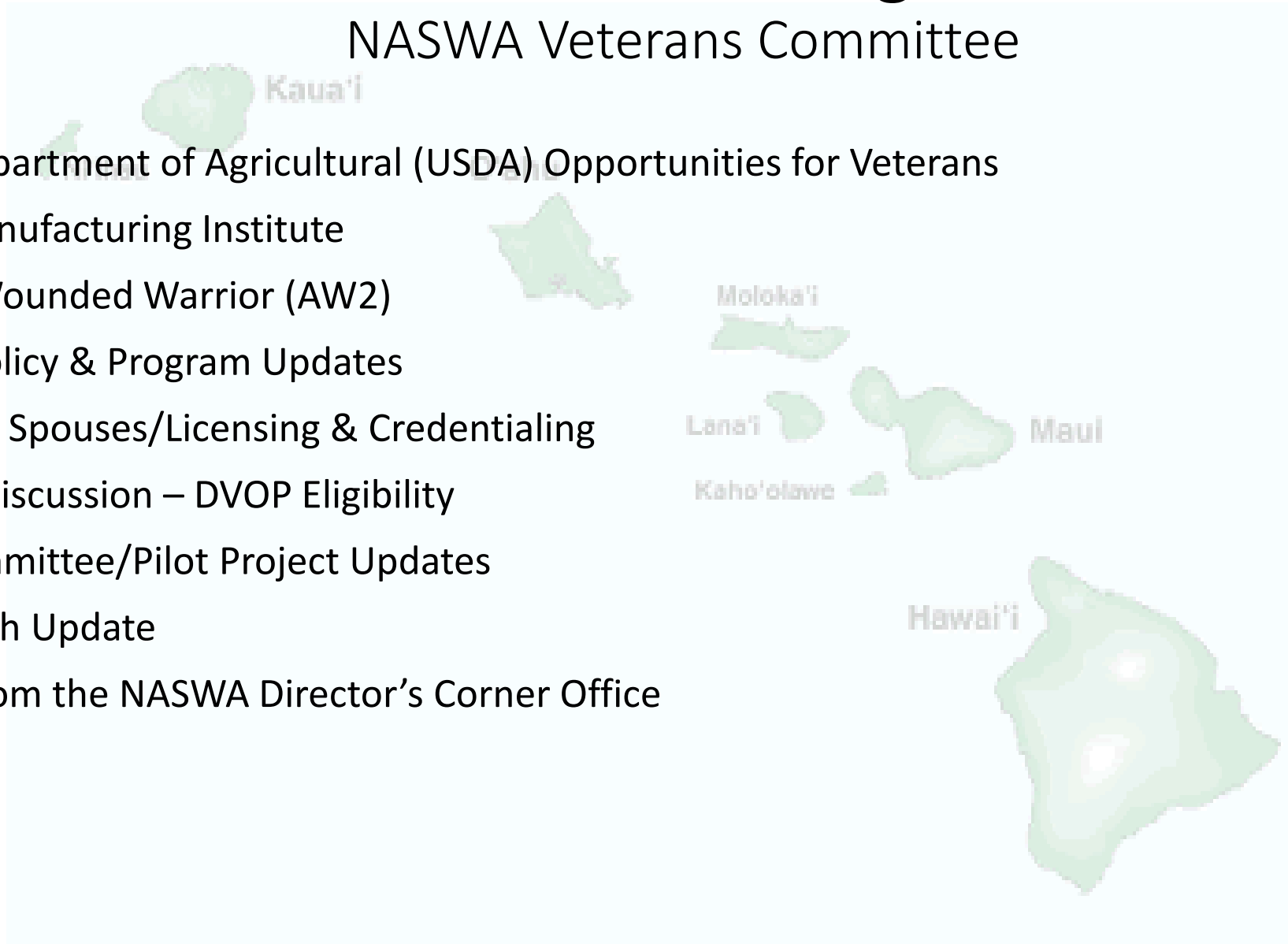


- Military Spouses as Assets in the Modern Workforce
- American Indian/Alaska Native Veterans: Addressing the Challenge
- Leveraging LinkedIn for Veterans, Military Spouses & Business Engagement
- Microsoft Software & Systems Academy
- Veterans Job Mission
- State Promising Practices: *What is Priority of Service?; Recognizing Those Who Hire Veteran; Collaborative Innovation in Veterans Services and Care; Network for Success; Boots to Heels: Facts About Military Women*
- What's New at National Veterans Training Institute
- Serving Military Caregivers
- Brain Drain...: Boasting Employment Options for Veterans and Military Spouses
- Disability Accessibility is Just an App Away
- How Virtual Engagement is Changing the Landscape of Veteran Recruitment
- Warm Handoffs: Connecting Transitioning Service Members with an American Job Center
- Accelerating Transition: Helping Military Veterans Identify and Launch Their Next Career

# Pre-Conference Agenda

## NASWA Veterans Committee

- U.S. Department of Agricultural (USDA) Opportunities for Veterans
- The Manufacturing Institute
- Army Wounded Warrior (AW2)
- VETS Policy & Program Updates
- Military Spouses/Licensing & Credentialing
- Policy Discussion – DVOP Eligibility
- Subcommittee/Pilot Project Updates
- Research Update
- View from the NASWA Director's Corner Office





Deputy Assistant Secretary of U.S. Dept of Labor,  
Veterans' Employment & Training Service (VETS)

**Sam Shellenberger** testified before a Congressional subcommittee about military spouse employment challenges.

*“Unfortunately, **military spouse unemployment is estimated to be at least two times higher than the national average**, and in a survey conducted in 2017, 50 percent of military and recent veteran spouse respondents who were working part time indicated a desire to work full time. Even with more than 7 million open jobs in the country right now, these reports suggest well-qualified and credentialed military spouses encounter challenges both with maintaining careers and transferring their industry-recognized credentials between states. The Administration, including the Department, are working to improve the employment prospects for these spouses.” (4/30/19)*

As of July 2019:

National unemployment rate: 3.6%

National Veterans unemployment rate: 3.4%

Hawaii's unemployment rate: 2.8%.

## Takeaway and proposed next step for the MVAC

Takeaway: nationwide, growing emphasis to ensure military spouses are part of our customer base (transitioning servicemembers, veterans, national guard and reserves)

Stand-up a subcommittee to explore in-depth the issues concerning Hawaii military spouse employment transition, brainstorm solutions that mitigate transition barriers, and report to the Committee, proposed recommendations.