



WORKFORCEDEVELOPMENT
COUNCIL

**Conference Call
Military & Veteran Affairs Committee (MVAC)
Subcommittee on Military Spouse Transition
Monday, September 16, 2019
2 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.**

**Conference Call # 1-712-451-0669
Access Code # 272312**

AGENDA

- 1:55 PM Call-in to establish connectivity
- 2:00 PM Opening remarks and introductions, Roman Galiki, facilitator
- 2:10 PM Purpose and outcome of meeting
The intent of this first meeting is to start a conversation to learn from meeting participants their experience, knowledge and understanding of military spouses' employment transition. Outcome is to gain group consensus on whether the subcommittee should continue to meet to explore in-depth the concerns, issues surrounding military spouse transition and solutions and recommendations.
- 2:15 PM Open discussion.
Begin conversation on ***Military spouse employment transition.***
- 2:25 PM Wrap up
- 2:30 PM Meeting adjourned

Notes:

- 1) MVAC member, Roman Galiki, leads group conversation.
- 2) WDC staff, Duke Olds, facilitator and host, records the meeting minutes.
- 3) Contact Duke via voice or text at 808.554.2943, if unable to connect.

Subcommittee on Military Spouse Employment Transition conversation highlights.

1. Challenges, shared experiences, and trends

- a. Inbound military spouses to Vandenberg AFB would get priority of hiring preference with on-base jobs: AAFES, DECA, DOD contractor positions. Is it similar in Hawaii?
- b. Spouses would reconsider moving with Servicemembers (SM) to a new duty station like Hawaii given its high Cost of Living resulting in separation and financial hardship.
- c. Situations whereby the first 12-18 months at new duty station is to take care of newborn/infant child and 18 months left before PCS; extremely difficult to get hired.
- d. Community Outreach Programs do not identify the issue of Military Spouse employment as a point of emphasis as the focus is more on the Military SM and the Veteran.
- e. State of Hawaii DoD programs have a high turnaround regarding employment and partnerships with Private Industry and State Agencies in finding employment for National Guard and Reserve SM but there are limited opportunities and resources for the Families.
- f. TAP (Transition Assistance Programs) focuses on SM. It's not mandated or recommended to the Spouses due to seat availability and limitations per Policy and Procedures.
- g. Truth or misconception: active-duty spouses search for a new job 7-10 times over a SM's 20-year career; a recurring stressful predicament for the spouse.
- h. National attention on topic is growing. DOL VETS is tuned in to the high unemployment of spouses. See Deputy Assistant Secretary's comments to Congressional committee.
- i. Offering spouses job transfers at the next duty station, if applicable, gaining momentum.
- j. State resources and opportunities for professional development and growth would subsidize the current work done by Federal Agencies in order to support this growing issue of Military Spouse Employment. What would this look like and how do we execute with precision and emphasize on caring for resources?
- k. Partnerships with Private Industry led by this committee and others within the State would greatly increase the opportunities for funding, training and employment while sustaining limited resources at our current budgetary constraints.
- l. Community Outreach at the lowest levels of the State DoD is recommended to gather additional information to provide to the WDC of growing trends and concerns of our Families who support our National Guard and Reserve Soldiers as deployment rotations increase and local State emergency requirements for our people and their Families exist.

“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. The Administration, including the Department, are working to improve the employment prospects for these spouses.” Sam Shellenberger’s testimony on this topic to Congressional subcommittee on April 30, 2019. (Deputy Assistant Secretary, USDOL VETS)