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Subject: Veterans Task Force Sub-groups
Date: Tuesday, June 08, 2010 10:00:21 AM
Importance: High

MEMBERS

As discussed in our May 25th meeting, a JUMP START sub-group was formed and held its first meeting yesterday! Additionally, we have established three (3) other sub-groups that will focus on specific aspects of our identified veteran issues. These sub-groups will meet twice over the next two months, via conference call, from 10:00 am–noon, they are:

- 1 Transition to Employment and Retention - meeting June 14 & July 12**
 - Limited job search skills
 - Lack of personal/professional networks for finding jobs
 - Lack of active employer recruitment programs
 - Lack of awareness of tax credits and other incentives
 - Employer understanding of key skills veterans bring because of their training and experience
 - Negative stereotypes of veterans among some employers
 - Need for accommodations (e.g., technology)
 - Enforcement of rehiring requirements for returning veterans
 - Lack of intermediaries to help translate skills and make connections to employers

- 2 Access and Success in Education and Training -meeting June 21 & July 19**
 - Translating military training and experience to critical workplace skills needed by employers (e.g., in resumes and job interviews)
 - Transferring military training skills/experience into credentials (e.g., licenses, certifications, degrees) for future employment.
 - Transferring military/other education toward credits or advanced placement in education and training programs
 - Transferring and correcting prior educational credits and credentials
 - Lack of basic academic skills (needing remediation) blocking access to education

and training and employment

- Lack of job readiness skills (e.g., mentors/coaches/sponsors, soft skills training, transition to civilian work environments)
- Lack of education and training required for good jobs
- Lack of defined career and education plans for accessing local, regional and state employment opportunities in high-demand sectors
- Setting realistic expectations for college and careers
- Lack of opportunities for business entrepreneurship training
- Lack of early intervention in education and career coaching and planning before enlistment, during deployment, and then again before discharge

3 Access and Utilization of Benefits and Support Services -meeting June 28 & July 26

- Service-related disabilities
- Other disabilities and health-related barriers including substance abuse
- Family obligations including required income support and family benefits and services
- Transitional and permanent affordable housing
- Transportation
- Criminal history
- Awareness and understanding of veteran's benefits and related education, employment, and support services
- Lack of skills and support systems for fully utilizing and coordinating veterans benefits and services along with other related federal, state and local programs
- Lack of access (including distance) to on-going supportive services such as mental health and substance abuse counseling.
- No clear system in place to track veterans who are returning as they transition into civilian life.

You are encouraged to join at least one sub-group to share your expertise but may certainly participate in as many as you wish. All sub-groups will join their meetings via the following access:

Call in # 888-278-0296

Access # 2820916

At your convenience, please let me know your sub-group selection. Don't hesitate to contact me with any questions/concerns. Thanks! Ray

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Semper Fidelis

