

Wounded Warrior Hiring Summit to offer opportunities and resources

From Naval Sea Systems Command Public Affairs, March 15, 2018

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The Department of the Navy will host this year's Wounded Warrior Hiring Summit in Washington, D.C., May 8-9 at the Washington Navy Yard.

The summit's intent is to bring together government, military and industry employers who are committed to hiring and supporting veterans and Wounded Warriors in the workplace. These organizations can offer opportunities for successful reintegration of wounded warriors into the civilian workforce while understanding that today's fiscal environment continues to make this commitment challenging.

Day one of the two-day summit will focus on coaching wounded warriors in career transition and job search skills, with subject matter experts presenting information on effective resumes, interviewing techniques and other transition skills.

Day two will offer a career and hiring fair designed to match up job-seeking wounded warriors with employers. Job seekers will have the opportunity to talk with a range of employers, to include the Department of the Navy, other DoD and federal agencies and private sector companies, and if qualified, interview on-site for potential jobs.

Registration for the event opened this week at www.2018wwhs.com for both job seekers and for potential employers. Registration for job seekers includes the ability to submit a resume that will be disseminated to employers in advance for potential pre-scheduled, on-site interviews.

Space on site at the Navy Yard is limited, so employers are encouraged to register early.

The Wounded Warrior Hiring and Support Summit is sponsored by Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Manpower and Reserve Affairs and co-hosted by Naval Sea Systems Command, Naval Air Systems Command, and Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command.

This is the annual summit's eighth year, with previous summits conducted around the country in San Diego, California; Raleigh, North Carolina; San Antonio, Texas; Tampa, Florida; and Seattle, Washington. The Navy has hired more than 17,000 wounded warriors since fiscal year 2011 and continues to expand its number of wounded warrior employees, benefiting from the talents these veterans bring with them.

For registration and general information, please visit the summit's web site at www.2018wwhs.com.

-- 2017 --

Navy offers veterans career opportunities at Hiring Heroes Career Fair

By Naval Sea Systems Command Office of Corporate Communication | May 25, 2017

SEATTLE -- Nearly 70 organizations offered veterans and transitioning active-duty service members interviews and career information during the Hiring Heroes Career Fair at the 7th Annual Veteran and Wounded Warrior Hiring Summit.

Rear Adm. Christian Becker, commander, Space and Naval Warfare System Command (SPAWAR), opened the fair, welcoming employers with a message of encouragement.

"Why are you here?" Becker asked. "As employers, you know the quality of the talent pool that is here today. You know the value they will bring and how that will help grow your business. You know that it's a good and right thing to do: To honor the commitment that these Americans and their families have made to this nation."

Becker also offered insight from the viewpoint of attending job seekers.

"Why are they here? They're here to get a job. That's the easy answer," said Becker. "The real answer, I think, is not what are they going to do, but who will they be? They know they can learn and adapt to any situation. They know they are going to do whatever they can to make that team a winning team. Go out and find that today. Build your winning team."

SPAWAR joined two of the Navy's other system commands, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) and Naval Air Systems Command (NAVAIR), on the career fair, forming the largest block of Navy employers offering Department of the Navy civilian career opportunities.

The opening day of the two-day summit offered local Pacific Northwest employers information and resources on how to bring veterans and wounded warriors into their respective workforces, and yesterday's career fair offered face-to-face networking opportunities to put those concepts into action.

The fair was hosted and manned primarily by Navy organizations and local employers. The intent was to attract veterans from all of the armed services.

Human Resource Director for the Army's I Corps, Col. Michael McGregor, attended from Joint Base McChord. McGregor serves as the Soldier for Life - Transition Assistance program manager and gave much of the credit for local veteran support to the state of Washington.

"We have a flagship program for the Army here in Washington," said McGregor, "And the reason that it is the flagship program is that the state of Washington invests heavily

in our veterans, and that's why our program is such a success."

The career fair closed at 3 p.m., but NAVSEA's program manager for NAVSEA's Veteran and Wounded Warrior Office, Capt. Will Sullivan, encouraged veterans and wounded warriors unable to attend the summit to use the resources available at www.hireavet.navy.mil.

"The briefings offered during the summit will be posted to this site," said Sullivan. "Also, job-seekers can use the contact information there to ask questions as we continue to help support their career transition efforts."

According to Sullivan, NAVSEA alone will hire more than 800 new employees in the Pacific Northwest this year, and with 46 percent of new hires in 2016 going to veterans, the opportunities this year in many career fields are numerous.

For those interested in specific job opportunities at NAVSEA for veterans and wounded warriors, visit:

<http://www.navsea.navy.mil/Career-Opportunities/Veteran-and-Wounded-Warrior-Program-Office/>.

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Hiring veterans is good for business

By Corrie Poland, Army Warrior Care and Transition May 24, 2017

SEATTLE, Wash. - Did you know that many veterans find successful careers in STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) related fields due to their highly technical training in the military? Or, were you aware that the veteran unemployment rate is 3.7 percent as of April, a 10-year low? For employers who attended the first day of the 2017 Veteran and Wounded Warrior Hiring Summit, these tidbits of information were just the beginning of what they would learn about veteran hiring and success.

Approximately 150 employers from across all sectors gathered in Seattle, WA on May 23 to hear top business and military leaders speak about why hiring veterans is good for business and what it takes to recruit and retain veteran talent. "Veterans are trained to care deeply about the success and failure of the team," said Vice Admiral Paul A. Grosklags, Commander of Naval Air Systems. They bring innovation, a sense of urgency and the ability to triumph over adversity, he explained.

During panel discussions held throughout the day, senior representatives from Starbucks, BAE Systems, Microsoft, Amazon and more discussed some of the strategies their companies utilize to ensure veterans and wounded warriors thrive in the private sector. "Hire on attitude and aptitude," noted Chris Davidson, Veteran Recruiting and Warrior Integration Program Manager of Talent Solutions at BAE Systems, Inc.

"Give veterans leadership skills they can use in all areas of their lives," added Matt Kress, Senior Manager of Veterans and Military Affairs at Starbucks.

Actor Tom Skerritt, Co-Founder of The Red Badge Project, spoke about how storytelling can help wounded warriors rebuild their sense of purpose and identity. For those suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, anxiety or depression, sharing their inner struggles through a creative narrative can make all of the difference, he said. "You have so much more than you think you have. Each one of you is special."

Many private sector employers have developed veteran and wounded warrior recruitment and training programs to bring in military talent. Operation IMPACT, a partnership between more than 85 companies, provides personalized career transition support to severely wounded, ill and injured service members. Through a network of private sector employers, non-profits and federal agencies, veterans are matched to positions and provided job training, mentoring and workplace accommodations. "We can't do great things in a silo; it takes a village," said Karen Stang, Manager of Operation IMPACT at Northrop Grumman. By collaborating with federal, non-profit and private sector organizations, holding workshops and training employers, more than 85 percent of the program's veterans have been hired.

To learn more about hiring veterans and wounded warriors, visit:
<http://wct.army.mil/modules/employers/e1-hireOurSoldiers.html>

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Navy opens 2017 Veteran and Wounded Warrior Hiring Summit

By NAVSEA Office of Corporate Communication | May 23, 2017

SEATTLE -- Navy leaders opened the Department of the Navy's seventh annual Veteran and Wounded Warrior Hiring and Support Summit today in Seattle, Washington.

The two-day conference, being held for the first time in the Pacific Northwest May 23-24, has a two-fold purpose. Day one is designed to educate Washington-area employers about the importance and benefits of hiring and retaining military veterans. Day two features the Hiring Heroes Career Fair, resume and interview workshops, and more than 60 employer organizations who are offering information and conducting interviews.

Acting Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Manpower and Reserve Affairs, Robert Woods, addressed more than 150 representatives from Washington-based companies. He spoke on the responsibility of the military and local communities in helping veterans and wounded warriors find job opportunities and the benefits companies gain from hiring veterans.

"I can tell you with a fair amount of assurance that you are going to find the person who is going to be a force multiplier for your team," Woods told the representatives. "These are the folks who are committed, and once they get into your culture, they will become a part of that culture. In fact, they will enhance it."

Also featured at the summit's first-day morning session was Actor Tom Skerritt, an U.S. Air Force Korean War-era veteran. Co-founder of The Film School and the subsequent Red Badge Project, Skerritt's ongoing Wounded Warrior support program uses storytelling as a strategy to develop self-esteem and success in those combat veterans suffering from Post Traumatic Stress.

Skerritt said when he learned that an average of 22 veterans a day were taking their own lives and that an estimated 500 thousand vets suffered Post Traumatic Stress, he was inspired to offer his own creative project.

"Discipline of the military can be redirected into a discipline in creativity, and some kind of creative expression, whether writing or molding something with our hands brings out the best every one of us," said Skerritt.

He said creativity helps them express and discover themselves through storytelling and encouraged employers to take that step to hire veterans and bring this creative energy into their workplaces.

In addition to Navy leaders from Naval Sea Systems (NAVSEA), Naval Air Systems (NAVAIR) and Space and Naval Warfare Systems (SPAWAR), employers listened to taped messages of support from Rep. Adam Smith (D-WA) and Rep. Derek Kilmer (D-WA).

"There's a huge, untapped talent pool here, and we need to take advantage of it," said NAVAIR Commander, Vice Adm. Paul Grosklags, of the veteran population. "And anymore, folks are not just looking for a job. They're looking for a career. They are tough. They have grit, and they're exactly the folks I want in my workforce."

In 2016, the Navy hired 10,609 veterans, 3,433 of whom were disabled combat veterans. The 2016 summit, held in Tampa, Florida, resulted in nearly 200 job offers. This year, according to summit coordinator Capt. Will Sullivan, program manager for NAVSEA's Veteran and Wounded Warrior Program Office, the Navy aims to top that number.

NAVSEA's Veteran and Wounded Warrior program has hired more than 5,000 wounded warriors in various career fields since its inception in 2009, and has retained 93 percent of them within the organization.

NAVSEA, with the bulk of the Navy population in the area--nearly 20,000 employees at the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard and the Naval Undersea Warfare Center in Keyport--are on target to hire more 800 new employees this year.

Sullivan encourages veterans and wounded warriors to attend the summit, even if they're still in the planning stages of transition to civilian life. Attendees are welcome to come, network, ask questions, and attend the workshops. Family members and caregivers are also welcome.

For more information on the Veteran and Wounded Warrior Hiring Summit, visit hireavet.navy.mil.

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Hiring Summit to offer resources for Vets, Wounded Warriors

From Naval Sea Systems Command Public Affairs, 18 May 17

The Navy's 7th Annual Veteran and Wounded Warrior Hiring and Support Summit will offer workshops, career resources, and hiring opportunities Wednesday May 24 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Doubletree by Hilton Hotel Seattle Airport in Seattle.

The summit will provide active duty, veterans and Wounded Warriors with an opportunity to speak with more than 65 employers from the Navy, government, and commercial hiring managers, offering jobs and careers in the Pacific Northwest and around the country.

Area employers are also encouraged to attend the opening day of the conference that will focus on the challenges faced by veterans and Wounded Warriors transitioning to civilian career. It will feature presentations from Navy, DoD, and commercial organizations as well as veterans and Wounded Warriors and include actor Tom Skerritt, who will offer insight into his pro-veteran Red Badge Project. Interested employers may register here: www.HireAVet.navy.mil.

Day two of the conference is dedicated to the Hiring Heroes Career Fair with career workshops, job information, and on-site interviews available. Attendees are encouraged to bring resumes, but it is not a requirement. Whether looking for career improvement, transitioning from active duty, or just in the planning stage, the fair is open to all military, veterans, families and care-givers.

According to Caitlin Williams, deputy program manager for the Naval Sea Systems Command Veteran and Wounded Warrior Program Office, last year's summit in Tampa, Florida resulted in more than 200 job offers, and she hopes to exceed that this year.

The summit is provided at no cost to attendees and no registration is necessary. For a full list of attending employers and more information, visit www.HireAVet.navy.mil.

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Hiring Heroes Career Fair to offer hundreds of jobs to Vets, Wounded Warriors

From Naval Sea Systems Command Public Affairs, 10 May 17

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Wounded Warriors, Veterans and their spouses are invited to attend the Department of the Navy's 7th annual Veteran and Wounded Warrior Hiring and Support Summit Wednesday, May 24, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Doubletree by Hilton Hotel Seattle Airport in Seattle, Washington.

This portion of the summit, the Hiring Heroes Career Fair, will feature more than 65 government and civilian employers offering positions in the local area and around the country. Attendees are encouraged to bring their resumes, but it is not a requirement.

For active-duty service members transitioning to a civilian career, translating military skills into a salable resume is an important part of their job search. The Hiring Heroes Career Fair Lead, Vernita Anderson-Manning, recommends that service members take full advantage of the DoD Transition Assistance Program (TAP), a program that provides information, tools, resume writing skills and training to ensure Service members and their spouses are prepared for the next step in civilian life, whether pursuing additional education, finding a job in government, public or private sector, or starting their own business. For information about TAP, please visit: www.dodtap.mil. Additionally, she recommends www.goddefense.com as a great resource for job seekers.

"Writing that first resume can be a challenge," said Karen Hannah, DoD Hiring Heroes director, "but there are plenty of resources to help those who need it." Hannah, who also conducts seminars on understanding the federal employment process, says that presenting a resume with clear language that applies to and can be understood by potential civilian employers is a giant first step in the job search process. Hannah's team of career advisors is available to provide job search assistance Monday through Friday via a toll-free number: 1-888-363-4872 or by email at DoDHiringHeroes@mail.mil.

Caitlin Williams serves the deputy program manager for Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) Veteran and Wounded Warrior Program Office. Williams said last year's conference in Tampa, Florida, resulted in more than 200 job offers for post-military employment, and they're anticipating more this at this year's summit. NAVSEA, which includes both the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard and the Naval Undersea Warfare Center Keyport, plans to hire more than 800 new employees this year.

"The first step in getting information about these jobs is to create an online profile at USA jobs (www.USAjobs.gov), said Williams. "It takes a few minutes, but once you set up your profile, it's pretty easy to manage and get alerts on the available jobs."

For those veterans who don't plan to apply for federal jobs, Williams says this link is still a valuable place to start. The site includes an online resume builder that can serve as a template for civilian employers, too.

Other online resources for veterans include the United Service Organizations (USO), offering a full range of mentoring and transition services <https://www.uso.org/programs/uso-transition-services>.

"You don't need a resume to attend the summit," said Williams. "We'll have more than 65 federal and civilian employers on site, and we encourage both active-duty and veterans to come and visit and ask questions. Whether they're ready for a job today or they're just starting the transition process, we'll have great resources there who can help guide them."

The summit is open to all active-duty, veterans, spouses, families and caregivers. No registration is necessary. Visit www.HireAVet.navy.mil for more information.

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Veteran and Wounded Warrior Hiring Summit NAVSEA connects military to jobs in PNW

BY DEAN SIEMON

Northwest Guardian

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Courtesy of Naval Sea Systems Command/2014

Hiring managers representing a variety of companies, big and small, attend the 2014 Employer Summit part of the Department of the Navy's Veteran and Wounded Warrior Hiring Summit.

Naval Sea Systems Command will bring the seventh annual Veteran and Wounded Warrior Hiring and Support Summit May 23 and 24 to the Double Tree Hilton Hotel — Seattle-Tacoma Airport.

Employers and hiring managers will host a one-day summit May 23, and the hiring fair May 24 is free to attend. Walk-in interviews are available for wounded warriors, veterans, transitioning service members, family members and caregivers.

This is the first time the event is taking place in Sea-Tac. Considering the military connections with pipelines at installations like Joint Base Lewis-McChord, the Seattle area could be a perfect site.

“You have major tech industries and defense contractors and then it also helps that NAVSEA has a presence out there with the Naval Undersea Warfare Center at Keyport,” said Caitlin Williams, deputy program manager for NAVSEA’s Veteran and Wounded Warrior Program Office.

The first two events took place in Washington, D.C., before fairs in San Diego, Raleigh, N.C., San Antonio and Tampa, Fla.

Featured employers include a wide range of corporations and businesses. There are government positions with groups like NAVSEA, Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command and Transportation Security Administration.

James Slater, deputy director for NAVSEA’s office of corporate communications, said NAVSEA is looking to fill more than 800 positions for the shipyard and Naval Undersea Warfare Center in Keyport.

Then there are large corporations with Pacific Northwest ties attending, such as Alaska Airlines, Boeing and Microsoft. Additionally, smaller regional companies, like Wilcox Family Farms based in Roy, will be present.

While prospective employees from the military community get to learn about job opportunities, organizations attending also have a chance to learn about the talent pool. The first day’s Employer Summit is considered a platform for employer awareness.

Some organizations have already hired veterans and want to provide feedback on how those who served can benefit all companies.

“It’s a platform to share resources and best practices,” Williams said.

Job seekers are able to bring their resumes and speak with employers during the hiring fair, which starts May 24 at 9 a.m. Parking at the hotel will be validated at no cost. Lunch will also be provided.

For more information or to register before the event, visit hireavet.navy.mil.

Navy Vet/Wounded Warrior Career Summit offers opportunities, resources

By Naval Sea Systems Command Public Affairs | April 27, 2017

WASHINGTON -- Wounded Warriors and Veterans are invited to participate in the Department of the Navy's 7th Annual Veteran and Wounded Warrior Hiring and Support Summit Wednesday May 24 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Doubletree by Hilton Hotel Seattle Airport in Seattle.

The summit will provide wounded, ill, injured, transitioning service members, veterans, their spouses, family members and primary caregivers the opportunity to interview and explore career opportunities with numerous local and national employers.

Workshops will cover topics including connecting veterans and transitioning service members to available benefits, employment resources for military spouses and caregivers, and tutorials on how to use the federal government's job application tool, USAJOBS.gov.

Featured employers at this year's summit include:

- . Naval Sea Systems Command
- . Naval Air Systems Command
- . Space & Naval Warfare Systems Command
- . Department of the Treasury
- . Transportation Security Administration
- . Alaska Airlines
- . Amazon
- . Boeing
- . CarMax
- . City of Seattle
- . Microsoft
- . Northrop Grumman
- . Starbucks
- . Seattle University
- . Verizon
- . And many more!

Participants are encouraged to register at www.HireAVet.navy.mil, which will assist with matching up attendees with employers at the event. Walk-ins are welcome. While not required, participants are encouraged to bring a copy of their resume and any other employment support documentation, such as a DD-214, Statement of Service, Schedule A, Disability Rating, and/or transcripts.

The summit's hiring fair will be coordinated by the Department of Defense's Hiring Heroes. The employer efforts will focus on providing career opportunities and on-site interview opportunities for qualified wounded, ill, injured, transitioning service members, veterans, their spouses, family members and primary caregivers.

For more information, please visit www.HireAVet.navy.mil.

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