



MARINES IN TRANSITION

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WHEN SHOULD I START LOOKING FOR A JOB?

By Maxie C. (Max) Wix, MEA Vice President

A transitioning Marine recently asked me when he should get serious about his job search, as he would be released in 30 days. I tried to tell him that he was well behind the curve to be successful. This Marine was moving to his home of record area and did not think that he would have any difficulty being employed.

I asked what he had been doing during his four years and what skills he had developed that an employer is seeking. He had served as an Infantryman and was a Corporal team leader. The discussion revealed:

- He had not searched the area where he was going to live,
- Had not identified any nearby employers,
- Had not developed his job skills,
- Nor what kind of company he wanted to be a part of.

We discussed the traits that a Marine brings to the employer, and the need to plan his transition. We sat and laid out a schedule of tasks that he should have performed and are shown in the attached schedule. Check out the calendar and see where you are on your transition plan.

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View the complete listing of MEA officers and committee members on MarineEA.org.

MEA CHAPTER UPDATE

Camp LeJeune Chapter

The chapter continues to develop at a snail's pace because the market is saturated with several 'experts' who actively sponsor and resource their programs. Most transitioning service members cycle through the gambit of Base services. For example, TAMP delivers several 101-level periods of instruction to exiting junior officers, junior NCOs, and NCOs and below. Senior officers and NCOs can attend eTAP or SLETS generally hosted at Quantico, but some local efforts have been made. The Wounded Warrior Battalion - East hosts the DTAMP and has several military, local, and national efforts supporting their endeavors. The Marine for Life Program continues to develop its network and services through reserve and recruiting stations. Various Volunteer Service Organizations (VSOs) and non-profits conduct presentations or host career events--NCOA, MOAA, etc.

Local, state, and national programs in the area include: the NC Employment Security Commission, Jobs Now, NC Job Link Center, Eastern Carolina Workforce Development Board, Teach for NC, NC Military Business Center ('I Hire Military' Program), and several others. It's a saturated market all competing for the same customer base, so MEA must continue distinguishing itself by producing tangible and measurable results.

Our results in the past four months include assisting twenty plus service members transitioning locally or within the geographic region - VA, NC, SC - and those wishing to go overseas - Afghanistan, Iraq, Kuwait. MEA-Camp LeJeune has provided each individual varying degrees of assistance from resume review, to networking, to interview preparation, mentorship, and other services. The chapter has been tracking case load data and discovered the MEA is beginning to gain traction, but lacks sufficient resource for sustained competition. On a positive note, our brand name is gaining traction. An SNCO from 1/3 who now works at MARSOC tells his Marines, "Ruben is the President of MEA Camp LeJeune and the Go-To Guy if you're thinking about getting out."

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CHAPTER UPDATE *CONTINUED*

Another SNCO in Albany, GA refers his Marines transferring to Camp LeJeune to me, "Because Ruben will give it to you straight. He has great connections through MEA, so go see him." You can't buy that level of confidence or endorsement you have to earn it by "walking what you're talking" with each and every case on a personal basis. We should continue to grooming strategic alliances, but not forget we are working with individuals who have great expectations of us, the market, and their quality of life. Think of it this way, when you're buying lawn fertilizer do you want the best advertised product or the one that does the best job? Over simplistic, I know, but transition services should be personalized whenever or wherever possible. I applaud everyone's contribution, and appreciate efforts to create MEA presence and awareness here at Camp LeJeune and throughout the Corps. MEA is a good team with great aspirations and honorable intentions! I'm glad to be a small part!

One team one fight...

Ruben Castillo, Chapter President
LeJeuneChapter@MarineEA.org

Max,

Thanks for all the job notices over the last few months.

Fortunately I received a job offer yesterday so I don't need to be on the distribution list any longer!

Mike Phillips

HELP NEEDED TO SEND "HOT JOBS" EMAILS



MEA Vice President, Max Wix, has been our long-time sender of emails to those who have signed up to receive his employment opportunities announcements and to pass Marines and Corpsmen's résumés to potential employers and those who can influence the hiring process. This is in addition to those being posted on the MEA web site. Max has been doing this for the MEA since he joined the MEA in 2000.

At the present time, Max sends emails to over 1,100 email addresses (approximately 400 employers, VPs, PMs, etc.; 600 Marines and Corpsmen; 100 HR staff or recruiters and a few other categories). These Marines send these same emails on to their own distribution list, et al.

Max also sends detailed information to those seeking or needing assistance such as a "general résumé format" that has worked for thousands and other job seeking and interview stuff. Most of this is located on the MEA web site under Tips and Techniques.

Max is looking for another MEA member willing to take over these responsibilities. If you are interested please contact Max at vp@marineea.org.

WHEN SHOULD I START LOOKING FOR A JOB? *CONTINUED*

Twelve Month Transition Timeline



MEA Success Story

JSI Telecom, Sterling, VA has hired Haran Levenberg. We found his résumé through the emails sent by Max Wix. Haran is our new FSO and comes onboard with great experience and ready to work.

Awesome find.

Thank you very much and this process does work.

Mike Elliott, JSI Telecom



Transition Checklist

**By Maxie C. (Max) Wix, MEA
Vice President**

2 Years (Retirees Only)

- Attend a Retirement TAP/ACAP class to get an early look at what you need to do.

12-24 Months (Retirees Only)

- Submit request for retirement through HQMC.

12 Months

- Subscribe to post-military career publications that will help you prepare for a job after the Marine Corps.
- Set a goal of doing one transition-related activity each week (research, speak with a recruiter/headhunter, attend a class, read a book, go to a job fair, etc).
- Assess your job skills and interests. Take an interest inventory.
- Contact your base's education or transition office for resources.
- Begin researching the job market. Develop a career plan, including a list of possible employers in your career field.
- Research Reserve programs to continue to receive part-time benefits, earn a future retirement, and to continue to grow and train in your field.
- Start attending job fairs to network and research.
- If you need additional education, vocational training, or certifications to compete in the job market, explore your options for adult education.
- Working with your local transition office, start developing a résumé.

6 Months

- You're six months from starting your new job. It's time to start responding to job ads (Call employment numbers, fax résumés, submit online résumés). From this point on, you need to be as proactive as possible to find a job! Develop your Individual Transition Plan - obtain assistance with it from transition office or career counselor.
- Start posting your résumé to company websites to obtain feedback.
- Make contact with employers that you will interview with at a date closer to your separation.
- Attend job fairs.
- Attend TAP or ACAP class and actively participate.

3 Months

- Again ... if you haven't already started contacting potential employers from G.I. Jobs, it's not too late! Pick-up the phone and call, fax your résumé, or post your résumé to G.I. Jobs advertisers.
- Receive your Verification of Military Experience and Training (DD Form 2586) document.
- If you are considering federal employment, use your transition office services to write a federal résumé.
- Explore special federal programs and hiring opportunities for veterans.
- Continue networking.
- If you decide to go back to school after separation, take
• an academic entry exam, college admission test, or challenge exam.
- Explore your options with the Reserve or National Guard.

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TRANSITION CHECKLIST *CONTINUED*

- Start actively interviewing.
- Make follow-up phone calls to check if your résumé arrived and to determine the company's timeline for reviewing résumés, interviewing people, and making their decisions.
- Continue to contact employers.
- Check with your Local Employment Veterans' Representative for job opportunities.
- Start assembling a wardrobe for interviewing.

2 Months

- Continue to send out your résumé to G.I. Jobs advertisers.
- Include in your cover letter the date you plan to move to the area.
- Verify your DD 214 with your separation office prior to starting terminal leave.

30 Days

- Visit the area to which you plan to move.
- Attend job interviews and fairs there.
- Several government agencies offer special loans and programs for veterans. Check with both the federal VA office and the state VA office where you will live.
- If you are unemployed, you may qualify for unemployment compensation once you are a civilian.
- See your local state employment office for eligibility and how to apply.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP BOOTCAMP FOR VETERANS WITH DISABILITIES (EBV)



The EBV offers cutting edge, experiential training in entrepreneurship and small business management to post 9/11 servicemen / women disabled as a result of their service to our country.

The program consists of a four-week online self-study course, a nine-day residency session at FSU, and a 12-month mentor program following graduation. **The program is entirely FREE (including travel, lodging and meals)** to the veteran through generous support of the EBV universities and private donors.

Veterans may visit www.Whitman.syr.edu/ebv or www.cob.fsu.edu/ebv for specific application requirements and to apply.

Unique DoD ID Replaces SSN

By Steve Muck

Published, January 21, 2011

A memo from the Under Secretary of Defense issued Nov. 23, 2010, (DTM 13798-10, "Social Security Numbers (SSN) Exposed on Public Facing and Open Government Websites"), addresses concerns about the potential for adverse consequences if the Social Security number (SSN) is truncated or removed as previously planned.

Primary concerns are the potential impacts to existing business practices associated with the identification of Defense Department personnel overseas, especially in theater, as well as the administration of TRICARE benefits for DoD beneficiaries. Both of these mission critical business practices rely heavily on the presence of a visual, numeric identifier on ID cards.

The updated plan includes the use of two alternative identifiers, the DoD identification number and the DoD benefits number, which will help support the broadest array of business practices while still reducing the department's reliance on the SSN. When the new plan is fully implemented, all individuals with a direct relationship to DoD will use a new identifier called the Electronic Data Interchange-Person Identifier (EDI-PI), hereafter referred to as the DoD identification (ID) number, to be printed on all DoD ID cards. All individuals eligible to receive DoD benefits, such as commissary; exchange; and morale, welfare and recreation; or TRICARE purchased care, will receive a DoD benefits number in addition to the DoD ID number.

Plan Timeline to Remove SSNs From DoD ID Cards:

- **2008 – 2012**
Removal of printed family member SSNs from all family member ID cards.
- **2010**
Begin replacing the SSN with the DoD Identifier and DoD Benefits Number.
- **2012**
Begin removal of the SSN from barcodes.

WE'RE LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS



The MEA's need for volunteers is ongoing. If you can help Marines in transition by volunteering to assist in a Marine in Transition support area, please contact Tim Murphy, Executive Director, at execdir@marineea.org or at 703-980-3878.

Job Assistance – Workforce Investment Act of 1998

Workforce Investment Act of 1998 Public Law 105-220 Subtitle D

SEC. 168. VETERANS' WORKFORCE INVESTMENT PROGRAMS.

(a) AUTHORIZATION.—

(1) **IN GENERAL.** The Secretary shall conduct, directly or through grants or contracts, programs to meet the needs for workforce investment activities of veterans with service-connected disabilities, veterans who have significant barriers to employment, veterans who served on active duty in the armed forces during a war or in a campaign or expedition for which a campaign badge has been authorized, and recently separated veterans.

(2) **CONDUCT OF PROGRAMS.** Programs supported under this section may be conducted through grants and contracts with public agencies and private nonprofit organizations, including recipients of Federal assistance under other provisions of this title, that the Secretary determines have an understanding of the unemployment problems of veterans described in paragraph (1), familiarity with the area to be served, and the capability to administer effectively a program of workforce investment activities for such veterans.

For the Federal Department of Labor (DOL) page with links to all state one-stop pages go to:

[Regions & States, Employment & Training Administration \(ETA\) - U.S. Department of Labor](#)

3) **REQUIRED ACTIVITIES.** Programs supported under this section shall include:

(A) activities to enhance services provided to veterans by other providers of workforce investment activities funded by Federal, State, or local government;

(B) activities to provide workforce investment activities to such veterans that are not adequately provided by other public providers of workforce investment activities; and

(C) outreach and public information activities to develop and promote maximum job and job training opportunities for such veterans and to inform such veterans about employment, job training, on-the-job training and educational opportunities under this title, under title 38, United States Code, and under other provisions of law, which activities shall be coordinated with activities provided through the one-stop centers described in section 134(c).

Virginia Workforce Network

Virginia Workforce Network (VWN) is the brand name for Virginia's system of one-stop career centers known as Virginia Workforce Centers, and other activities related to the Workforce Investment Act.

Checkout the Virginia
[One-Stop Career Centers](#)

Upcoming Events



May 26, 2011

**NNMC Bethesda Networking
Breakfast**

June 10, 2011

MCB Quantico Luncheon

June 30, 2011

**NNMC Bethesda Networking
Breakfast**

July 15, 2011

Henderson Hall Luncheon

August 12, 2011

MCB Quantico Luncheon

**View a listing of events on
the MEA Calendar**

www.calendar.marineea.org

Upcoming Job Fairs

May 17 Job Fair - Ft. Bragg, NC

May 19 Job Fair - Raleigh, NC

May 20 Job Zone - Fort Belvoir, VA

May 24 Job Fair - Peterson AFB, CO

June 7 Job Fair – Houston, TX

June 9 Job Fair – San Antonio, TX

July 13 Job Zone – Fredericksburg, VA

July 21 Job Fair – Sierra Vista, AZ

**Go to the MEA calendar for a
complete list of job fairs**

AT&T National Golf Tournament ▪ Jun 27 – July 3, 2011

Aronimink Country Club, Newtown Square, PA

The Tiger Woods Foundation -- in cooperation with the OSD/JS Welfare and Recreation Association -- will once again be distributing free tickets to military personnel this year for the AT&T National.

Tickets will be available at designated ITT/ITR offices within a 150-mile radius of Philadelphia. Tickets will be available on a first-come, first-serve basis starting June 8, 2011. Please [click here](#) for locations.

Note: These tickets are for all DoD employees, active duty military to include Coast Guard, National Guard, Reserve, retirees and dependents.