



MARINES IN TRANSITION

A Bi-Monthly Publication of the Marine Executive Association

March / April 2013

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

John Beiswanger, MEA President

The MEA, Now More Than Ever!

The Marine Executive Association has been providing a valuable service of assisting transitioning Marines for many years now. Whether that means moving from Active Duty to reserve/retired status, completing your obligated service or moving from one civilian job to another, it doesn't matter. Through the MEA and our networks, we assist transitioning Marines toward their future. **Marines helping Marines**, that's what we do.

As all of us are painfully aware however, this is not a good time to be looking for a job. Here are a few supporting fires from [The Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statics \(USDL-13-0389 Friday, March 8, 2013\)](#)

THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION —FEBRUARY 2013

- The unemployment rate edged down to 7.7 percent in February but has shown little movement, on net, since September 2012. The number of unemployed persons, at 12.0 million, also edged lower in February.
- In February, the number of long-term unemployed (those jobless for 27 weeks or more) was about unchanged at 4.8 million. These individuals accounted for 40.2 percent of the unemployed.
- The employment-population ratio held at 58.6 percent in February. The civilian labor force participation rate, at 63.5 percent, changed little.

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

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT CONTINUED

- The number of persons employed part time for economic reasons, at 8.0 million, was essentially unchanged in February. These individuals were working part time because their hours had been cut back or because they were unable to find a full-time job.
- In February, 2.6 million persons were marginally attached to the labor force, the same as a year earlier. (The data are not seasonally adjusted.) These individuals were not in the labor force, wanted and were available for work, and had looked for a job sometime in the prior 12 months. They were not counted as unemployed because they had not searched for work in the 4 weeks preceding the survey.
- Among the marginally attached, there were 885,000 discouraged workers in February, down slightly from a year earlier. (These data are not seasonally adjusted.) Discouraged workers are persons not currently looking for work because they believe no jobs are available for them. The remaining 1.7 million persons marginally attached to the labor force in February had not searched for work in the 4 weeks preceding the survey for reasons such as school attendance or family responsibilities.

All of this makes our role that much more important, arguably the most important in all of our years of existence. If you are a member, stay engaged and even step it up a notch. If you aren't a member, join and help. If you are transitioning, take advantage of all of our services and then reach back and help someone else out.

Let's get a Marine hired today!

Semper Fi
John

THE ANATOMY OF A WINNING RÉSUMÉ

DOES YOUR RÉSUMÉ GET HIT ON ALL THE TIME?

Tired of your job? Ready for a career change? Looking to switch agencies? Maybe get into/out of government? Whatever it is you're looking to do, one thing is true: You need a good looking resume.

Why does your resume need to stand out? Because competition is high: According to an infographic created by NowSourcing, an Internet-marketing firm, 25 percent of human resource managers receive 50 resume per job posting. One in 10 of those HR managers receive 100 resumes for each listing. A top notch resume is essential to getting noticed.

The below infographic gives you some tips and pointers for making sure your resume is in good shape. A few highlights:

- 77 percent of HR managers are looking for relevant experience, 48 percent say specific accomplishments and 41 percent say they're looking to see whether the resume was tailored to the specific opening.
- Some keywords HR managers say they're looking for: Problem solving, leadership, oral/written communication, team building, performance and productivity improvement

Did they miss anything? What do you think are the essentials of a good resume? Share in the comments.

Read the complete article by Mark Micheli:
<http://www.govexec.com/excellence/promising-practices/2013/02/anatomy-winning-resume/61371/>

WOMEN VETERANS

Women have served in the military from the American Revolution to the present, and by 2010, roughly 15 percent of all veterans will be women. Unfortunately, women have been historically underrepresented in utilizing the benefits provided for them, and have often been more reticent in claiming their veteran status. The Department of Veterans Affairs is committed to ensuring that benefits and services for women veterans are made as accessible as possible, and has created a number of outreach programs and revised guidelines toward this end.

Women veterans are entitled to the same VA benefits as male veterans. Gender-specific services and benefits -- including breast and pelvic examinations -- and preventive care such as contraceptive services, menopause management, Pap smears, reproductive counseling, and mammography are available. VA health care professionals are trained to provide counseling and treatment to women suffering the effects of personal and sexual assault/harassment during military service. Care is available for any injury, illness or psychological illness resulting from such trauma.

To ensure the privacy of women veterans, the VA medical centers have introduced a variety of structural changes. Women Veterans' Coordinators are available at all VA facilities to assist women veterans in seeking treatment and benefits. More information is available at the VA Center for Women Veterans.

For more on women who have served in the military, see the [Women's History Month Special](#).

WHERE ARE THE JOBS?

Source: The Bureau of Labor Statistics

The latest unemployment report for December 2012 provides changes in sectors as well as employed and unemployed numbers. Looking for a job, consider the sectors. Most growing sectors reported similar but lower growth in previous months. Remember to match sectors to jobs where you will locate. Because of US Debt reduction, I expect the Government and Government sectors to continue to shrink.

Sector	Change	Comment
Goods Producing	+59,000	
Construction Building	+13,000	
Construction Houses	+12,000	
Manufacturing	+25,000	
Health Care	+45,000	
Food Services	+38,000	
Retail Sales	-11,000	Christmas part timers
Transportation & Warehousing	Flat	Christmas goods
Computer Systems Design	+19,000	
Management & Tech Services	+5,800	
Education	+10,000	
Health – Social Assistance	+55,000	
Home Health Care	+5,400	
Government	-13,000	

Veterans Resource 3rd Edition

Created by Talia Wesley for Operation Makeover Events & Family Readiness
www.operationmakeover.com.

This document is another resource provided for veterans. It's updated with new information every six months.

Veteran State/Territory Benefits

To view the benefits available to you by each U.S. state or territory, click on the link below and select from the drop down menu. State benefits include tax benefits, education benefits, employment benefits, health insurance benefits, and more. Each fact sheet contains details of the benefits available and eligibility to Soldiers and family members.

http://myarmybenefits.us.army.mil/Home/Benefit_Library/State_Territory_Benefits.html



LinkedIn offer a one-year free "Job Seeker" account to transitioning veterans

If you already have a premium account, you can cancel the remainder and give a prorated refund, when you swap to the veterans account.

COLA INCREASE APPROVED FOR DISABLED VETERANS

On Tuesday, Nov. 27 President Obama signed into law a bill that gives veterans and survivors a 1.7 percent hike for the cost-of-living adjustment (COLA). Effective Dec. 1, the increase will appear on January paychecks—directly deposited on Dec. 31, 2012—and affect about 4 million veterans, military retirees and survivors.

The average increase in income for the year is \$500. Dollar amounts will vary on an individual basis depending on disability rating.

A few weeks ago, the Senate passed the cost of living adjustment (COLA) bill for the 1.7 percent increase for military retirees and veterans' survivors. Those affected by the increase will see the increase in monthly benefit payments in 2013. The House version of the bill that passed unanimously in June also called for a 1.7 percent increase.

The Senate acted swiftly when it returned from the election recess to guarantee January payments reflect the increase.

The COLA will increase pay for Social Security recipients and military retirees who receive disability compensation and pension, as well as veterans' survivors who receive dependency and indemnity compensation.

For more information:

<http://www.veteransunited.com/money/house-approves-cola-increase-for-disabled-veterans/>

VETERAN UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION

If you are a servicemember separating from active duty you may qualify for unemployment compensation if you are unable to find a new job. The **Unemployment Compensation for Ex-service members (UCX)** program provides benefits for eligible ex-military personnel. The program is administered by the States as agents of the Federal government. You are eligible if:

You were on active duty with a branch of the U.S. military, you may be entitled to benefits based on that service.

You must have been separated under honorable conditions.

There is no payroll deduction from your wages for unemployment insurance protection. Benefits are paid for by the various branches of the military.

Receiving separation pay may also influence your receipt of unemployment compensation. (Retirees will almost certainly receive a lesser amount [or no amount] since the weekly amount of retirement pay is usually "offset" against the amount of unemployment compensation.)

Your [state employment office](#) handles unemployment compensation. To receive unemployment compensation, you must apply. The best time to do that is when you visit the Local Veterans Employment Representative (LVER) at the state employment services office for assistance in finding a new job.

VETERANS' EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING SERVICE

If you are a veteran looking for assistance in transitioning into civilian life, finding a job or getting the training needed to get a job, then you need to learn more about the **Veterans' Employment and Training Service (VETS)** program. The following is a summary of what you need to know about this program:

[Overview](#)

[Disabled Veterans' Outreach Program \(DVOP\)](#)

[Local Veterans Employment Program \(LVER\)](#)

Other VETS Related Programs

[Training Assistance](#)

[Transition Assistance Program \(TAP\)](#)

[Guard and Reserves: Right to Return to Civilian Work](#)

[Preference in Hiring](#)

[Veterans' Affirmative Action](#)

[Getting Information](#)

The MEA Has a List of Scholarships for Service Members, Spouses and Dependents



<http://www.marineea.org/index.php/for-marines-menu/grants-a-scholarships-for-marines>

Veterans' Employment and Training Service

VETS is an independent agency within the Department of Labor create specifically to assist veterans in making the transition from military to civilian life, train for and find good jobs, and to protect the employment and reemployment rights of veterans, Reservists and National Guard Members.

In partnership with other federal agencies, state and local governments, veterans service organizations, business and community groups, and professional associations, VETS provides services to both employers and veterans. VETS is committed to providing every veteran with the opportunity to participate fully in the 21st Century's expanding economy and to grow with the nation.

VETS offers employment and training services through cooperative working arrangements and provides funds to the states under specific grant agreements to maintain staffing grants to support two national programs the **Disabled Veterans' Outreach Program (DVOP)** and the **Local Veterans Employment Representatives (LVER)** Program.

SPECIALLY ADAPTED HOUSING PROGRAM

Veterans or service members who have specific service-connected disabilities may be entitled to a grant from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) for the purpose of constructing an adapted home or modifying an existing home to meet their adaptive needs. The goal of the Specially Adapted Housing (SAH) Grant Program is to provide a barrier-free living environment that affords the veterans or service members a level of independent living he or she may not normally enjoy.

Grants provided under the SAH program may also be used outside the United States. However, it must be reasonably practicable for VA to provide assistance in acquiring specially adapted housing for the designated country or political subdivision outside the United States. [More information in the SAH program.](#)

There are two types of grants administered by VA, which are available to assist severely disabled veterans or service members in adapting housing to their special needs.

To apply for a Specially Adapted Housing Grant, please take the following steps:

1. Download VA Form [26-4555](#), Veteran's Application in Acquiring Specially Adapted Housing or Special Home Adaptation Grant.
2. Complete the form and submit it to your nearest [VA Regional Loan Center](#).

If you need more information and would like to talk with a Specially Adapted Housing agent, [click here](#) to locate one in your area.

Implementation of Public Law 109-233, Section 101 - Specially Adapted Housing Fact sheet on program details

[VA Manual M26-12](#) Specially Adapted Housing Grant Processing Procedure, Loan Guaranty Operations for Regional Office Manual

[VA Pamphlet 26-13](#) Handbook for Design: Specially Adapted Housing

[Builder Registration Information](#)

For more information on use of such grants, please contact Brian N. Bixler, Chief, Specially Adapted Housing, on (202) 461-9546 or via Email at: brian.bixler@va.gov.



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, MEA Executive Director, execdir@marineea.org or 703-980-3878.

CA VETERANS ORGANIZATIONS FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

This is an informal document developed by the California Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet) to share grant funding opportunities with the various veteran organizations throughout California. CalVet does not endorse or sponsor any of the following opportunities. This document is intended for informational purposes only in hopes of ultimately providing California's veterans and their families with additional services and benefits.

The possible funding opportunities are divided into the following categories for veterans:

- Education Funding Opportunities
- Employment Funding Opportunities
- Housing Funding Opportunities
- Healthcare/Mental Health Funding Opportunities

Each section contains a link to opportunities available to organizations in CA from the Federal government and/or private/foundation grants with an emphasis on serving military/veterans. The eligibility, project/program requirements, and deadlines vary greatly. It is the sole responsibility of each organization who is interested in applying for a grant to fully research the requirements, determine if they are eligible to apply, submit the grant application package, and follow through with any grant management requirements, if funding is awarded.

NOTE: Some of the grant opportunities may apply to more than one category, so may appear in more than one section.

Education Funding Opportunities

[Private/Foundation Education Opportunities](#)

Employment Funding Opportunities

Private/Foundation Grant Opportunities

[CA Veterans Private/Foundation Employment Opportunities](#)

[All Employment Funding Opportunities \(not specific to CA veterans\)](#)

Housing Funding Opportunities

[Private/Foundation Housing Opportunities](#)

Healthcare/Mental Health Funding Opportunities

[Private/Foundation Healthcare Opportunities](#)

Download the complete article:

<http://www.marineea.org/index.php/for-marines-menu/tips-and-techniques/25-veterans-affairs-resources/168-veterans-retraining-assistance-program>

Vendors Who Offer Military Discounts

<http://www.giftcardgranny.com/blog/military-discounts/>

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Upcoming Events



March 14, 2013

**MEA Networking Luncheon
Henderson Hall**

April 14, 2013

**MEA Networking Luncheon
Quantico**

May 9, 2013

**MEA Networking Luncheon
Henderson Hall**

2013 Spring Socials & Networking Events

**Camp Pendleton
Wednesday April 17, 2013**

**Quantico, VA
Friday, May 10, 2013**

**Arlington, VA
Friday May 3, 2013**

The MEA Camp Pendleton Chapter meets the 3rd Wednesday of every month, 1800, Pacific Views (formerly the South Mesa SNCO Club) on Camp Pendleton

**View a listing of events on the
MEA Calendar
www.marineea.org**

Upcoming Job Fairs

Mar 15 Lucas Group Military Hiring Conference - San Diego, CA

Mar 21 Lucas Group Military Hiring Conference - Atlanta, GA

Mar 27 Military Mojo - Austin, TX

Apr 18 Military Hiring Event, Liberty Station Conference Center, San Diego, CA

Apr 24 JOB ZONE JOB FAIR - Andrews AFB Top III, The Club At the Base, Andrews AFB MD

May 16 JOB ZONE JOB FAIR - ResD.C. National Guard Armory, Washington, D.C.

May 30 CivilianJobs.com Job Fair / Ft. Benning, GA

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