



MARINES IN TRANSITION

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SPRING SOCIAL AT QUANTICO

Below are photos from the **MEA Quantico Social** held on May 14 at the Globe and Laurel restaurant.



Photos of job networking at the Quantico Spring Social.

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**INTERVIEW PREPARATION:
RESEARCH YOURSELF!**

Reprinted from Corporate Gray

You've probably been told how important it is to do company research before a job interview. That's true; you should go into an interview knowing all about the company culture, how its needs match your skills, and why you want to work there. But of equal or more importance is the research you do on yourself.

In an interview, recruiters will want to know about you. If you can talk confidently about yourself, you will make a good impression and give the recruiter a clear view of how you would fit in that company. You will also be more likely to pursue the right job for your skills and interests.

You have to know yourself in order to speak with confidence about yourself. What are your interests? What do you enjoy doing? What are your strengths, and what needs to be developed? Understand yourself and how you operate.

[That's easier said than done. In fact, examining yourself is often more difficult than researching a company. But it's integral to an effective job search. You must identify your credentials, skills and accomplishments, and work interests before you can communicate them to employers.



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INTERVIEW PREPARATION CONTINUED

KNOW YOUR CREDENTIALS

There are several resources to assist you in identifying civilian credentialing requirements:

Use the COOL (Credentialing Opportunities On-Line) websites to find information on certifications and licenses related to your Military Occupational Specialties (MOSs):

- 1 Army COOL <https://www.cool.army.mil>
- 2 Navy COOL <https://www.cool.navy.mil>

The CareerOneStop website has a Certification Finder to help you find current certifications for your occupation or industry.

<http://www.careeronestop.org/EducationTraining/Find/certification-finder.aspx>

KNOW YOUR INTERESTS

There are many sophisticated testing and assessment instruments used by career counselors to identify work interests. The Strong Interest Inventory and the Myers-Briggs Assessment are two of the tools for assessing career interests. Both of these are accessible through the DoD Transition Assistance Program (DoDTAP).

The O*Net Interest Profiler is another tool to help you explore your interests. It will help you find out what your interests are and how they relate to the workplace.

<http://www.mynextmove.org/explore/ip>

The more you know about yourself — your skills, interests, strengths, and accomplishments — the better positioned you are to find the right civilian job. Doing this research on yourself will help you communicate clearly and confidently to recruiters what you are about and why they want to hire you.

NORTHROP GRUMMAN OPERATION IMPACT

Operation IMPACT (Injured Military Pursuing Assisted Career Transition) is a unique recruitment program that provides personalized assistance to severely injured service members transitioning from military service in identifying potential career opportunities. Should a service member be unable to work due to the severity of his/her injuries, the same support will be extended to a member of his/her immediate family who may be seeking employment. Widows and widowers of service members who have paid the ultimate sacrifice during Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) and/or Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) are also eligible for support under Operation IMPACT. If support is provided to a family member and the service member becomes able to work, support will then be extended to him/her.

Personalized career transition support through Operation IMPACT is provided to the most severely wounded service members transitioning from military service to their next career opportunity. In order to receive career transition services through Operation IMPACT, candidate must meet all of the following criteria:

1. Be transitioning from military service;
2. Suffer from injuries or illnesses incurred while deployed in overseas contingency operations supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) and/or Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) since September 11, 2001;
and

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CAUTIONARY NOTES FOR PARTICIPATION IN VIRTUAL CAREER OR JOB FAIRS

All of you will want to participate in Career Fairs or Job Fairs and other similar "Networking" scenarios as you fish the civilian working market. You will need to do this in conjunction with familiarizing yourself with employment opportunities and salary rates in the field of your intended endeavor and trying to ascertain how much money you can expect to receive for you and your family.

The following is contrived through experience and the road of hard knocks, by myself and others, over the years. Please do not let this information scare you off, but some things you need to be aware of are:

Please **take care when providing information** to individuals "supposedly" a part of this venue, or any other such career or job event.

Not everyone has your best interests at stake here. Some may be "data mining" and will capture and sell your information to others in order to get access to employment opportunities for themselves or others, i.e., intend to get your resume in order to fulfill the requirements of the Request For Information (RFI) and support this with your name and resume as those qualified who they intend to fulfill the contract with, when awarded. Keep in mind that some are just looking for your resume for a "Solicitation." Big words, they may use your resume to help their company get a contract.

BUT, this does not mean that they will hire you to fill the position. You need to be provided a **Contingency Offer IN WRITING.**

You will have to request this letter, as some may not be willing to provide a letter.

- Even if a letter is forthcoming, keep looking until fully employed and sitting in an HR Office filling out employment forms, timecards, insurance forms, etc.
- Do not attach or send a copy of your DD-214 or any other Certificate Document with your Social Security number on it.
- These are to be presented during the interview and/or with the HR representatives when you provide proof of identification, fill out paperwork for employee identification, Time and Attendance forms, apply for insurance and attendant employment matters.
- If a potential employer wants your DD-214, confirm that this person is valid and then send only by fax, REMOVING all but last 4 of SSAN.
- Some companies want specific military skills for security work at overseas locations.
- Beware that someone may be trying to steal your information.

Use this same kind of logic when participating in phone conversations with potential employers who will reach out to you in attempting to fulfill their employment needs. Corporate Recruiters should present a more holistic approach, where Headhunters are trying to get as many candidates as possible in hopes that someone of the bunch they provide will fill the slot. Also the Corporate recruiters are salaried employees of the company, whereas the Headhunters are working on commission.

Good Luck in your employment search now and in the future. When you get yours, please reach back and help another Marine or Veteran over the wall.

NORTHROP GRUMMAN OPERATION IMPACT CONTINUED

3. Receive, or expect to receive, a physical disability rating of 30% or greater in at least one of the specific categories listed below that substantially affect a major life function, or receive, or expect to receive, a combined rating equal to or greater than 50% for any other combat or combat related condition:

Blindness/loss of vision
Deafness/hearing loss
Fatal/incurable disease
Loss of limb
Permanent disfigurement
Post traumatic stress
Severe burns
Spinal cord injury/paralysis
Traumatic brain injury

Any other condition requiring extensive hospitalizations or multiple surgeries

If you or a family member meets the above criteria, contact us at operationimpact@ngc.com or 1-800-395-2361 for information on next steps.

If you do not meet the above criteria, we encourage you to visit the Military Veteran page on Northrop Grumman's Careers website, <http://www.northropgrumman.com/careers/Pages/default.aspx>.

NEW VA CLAIMS SUBMISSION PROCEDURE COULD LEAVE THOUSANDS OF VETERANS WITHOUT BENEFITS

VFW Files Suit Against VA

The VA hopes to mandate the use of a standardized form that the VFW believes will make it harder for some veterans to file—and lead to denied claims and thousands of veterans left without benefits.

The change means the VA will no longer accept informal written claims that indicate a formal claim will be filed within the year. If approved, claims of this nature have traditionally been backdated to the day of the initial informal claim notification.

Read the press release:

<http://www.vfw.org/News-and-Events/Articles/2015-Articles/VFW-Files-Suit-Against-VA/>

Read more about the lawsuit:

http://www.vfw.org/uploadedFiles/VFWorg/News_and_Events/Articles/2015_Articles/VFWPetitionforReview2015.pdf

Read the article in Federal Times:

<http://www.federaltimes.com/story/government/management/compensation/2015/05/08/va-benefits/70956504/>

THINKING JOBS WITH ROBERT E. LEE

Reprinted from Corporate
Gray

Can General Lee help you make a career choice?

You've had an outside offer and are thinking about leaving the company. Your boss is prepared to make it worth your while to stay. In a matter of hours, you must decide.

As a working historian, my task is to glimpse the past — and to consider what it might mean to us. Several years spent examining the lives of key Civil War figures has left me with one vignette in particular that relates to making employment choices

Let's travel back to April 1861. We find Colonel Robert E. Lee, U.S. Army, considering two job offers.

A career military man, Lee knows something about Washington politics. As he stands between two immense columns on the portico of the Custis mansion, the house his wife inherited in Arlington, Virginia, he looks across the Potomac toward the unfinished U.S. Capitol. "That beautiful feature of our landscape has ceased to charm me as much as formerly," says Lee. "I fear the mischief that is brewing there." Indeed, war is at hand.

On the job front, he's been asked to stay the course, to keep working for the government housed in that building, with its new chief magistrate at the helm, namely Abraham Lincoln. A competing offer has been extended by the seceding Confederate States of America.

To go or to stay? That is the question.

What, you may ask, has this to do with me? For one thing, allegiances are a factor for anyone considering a job move. On the night he makes his decision, Lee's in his bedchamber, pacing and thinking. With roots that go back to the creation of the nation in 1776 — his father was Henry "Light Horse Harry" Lee, a trusted confidant of George Washington — can he walk away?

Lee regards Virginia as his "Homeland." He knows that fighting for the Union will almost certainly mean invading his state. Can he conscience that?

When you think over your own, less momentous choice, consider Lee's wife. Mary sits downstairs, listening to his footfalls, as he ponders what she will later call "the severest struggle of his life."

In mulling your decision:

Weigh your alliances. Consider whom you'll be working with and how that will affect your relationships. Lee does: his boss, Winfield Scott, is his old friend and mentor.

Ponder your principles. Even though he's a proud child of the South, Lee thinks secession is "folly, selfishness & shortsightedness." Are there ethical questions that you need to consider?

Try to see the future. Lee presciently foresees "a fearful calamity...a fiery ordeal." What can you anticipate about the business you're in and where the two companies fit?

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THINKING JOBS WITH ROBERT E. LEE CONTINUED

Think about personal principles, not just economics. Both of those are important. It's not only a matter of much you make but how you'll feel about it.

Anticipate downsides. Lee doesn't know that joining the Confederate ranks means the loss of his house, today's centerpiece at Arlington National Cemetery. He doesn't expect to return from the war a loser, his health broken. Probably he does understand he'll be admired for his devotion to the South and diminished by defending slavery. As for you, is there a greater risk of things ending badly if you stay or go?

Your stakes may not be as high as Lee's. But even small decisions can have, in the long term, unexpected and unintended consequences. Take the time to think forward – and perhaps even backward – in time

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<http://www.MarineEA.org/ads>

Download Advertising Rate Card:

<http://marineea.org/ads/2014/advertisingprogram.pdf>

VETERAN ENTREPRENEUR TRAINING (VET) PROGRAM

The NYU Polytechnic School of Engineering Veteran Entrepreneur Program is a pioneer program for Veterans who want to transition from Military Life into the Technology Industry.

Join the pioneer, competitive Veteran Entrepreneur Training (VET) Program for veterans who are targeting a transition into the technology industry. Learn from startups and industry leaders via hands-on experiential learning, mentorship, and capstone projects. Our curriculum combines business and tech to create a hybrid platform for professionals to team up with leaders from New York's entrepreneurial and technology ecosystem. Our 10-week summer curriculum is designed to leverage your goals into career opportunities and potential ventures. Upon successful completion, participants will earn a VET Certificate from the NYU Polytechnic School of Engineering Incubators.

View complete details on the NYU Polytechnic School of Engineering website:

<http://engineering.nyu.edu/business/incubators/veteran-entrepreneur-training>

DoD SkillBridge: Linking Transitioning Service Members with Civilian Training Opportunities

The DoD SkillBridge initiative promotes the civilian job training authority available for transitioning military Service members. Service members meeting certain qualifications can participate in civilian job and employment training, including apprenticeships and internships.

Such training can take place starting up to six months prior to a Service member's separation. Additionally, the training must offer a high probability of employment and be provided to the Service member at little or no cost.

Through DoD SkillBridge, tremendous potential exists for Service members, companies, trade unions, and others for leveraging this new DoD authority.

For complete details go to:
<http://www.dodskillbridge.com/>

How NOT to Introduce Yourself

Reprinted from Corporate
Gray

Networking is one of the most challenging skills you may have to learn in the world of business. It can be an awkward experience, having the attention of a group of strangers focused on you, and trying to make a good first impression.

It's an important moment. The person opposite you might be someone who could make or break your career. If you make a good impression, he or she might be able to refer your next big client, or have the influence to help you land that next big contract.

On the other hand, if you act like a doofus, you might alienate someone who might have been an otherwise important connection and relationship.

If you'd like to avoid looking like a jerk, avoid being this guy when introducing yourself:

Name dropper. This person introduces themselves by saying who they know, who they've worked with, etc. I might not remember their name, but I'll remember that they once got Tony Robbins a glass of water.

Continued on next page

HOW NOT TO INTRODUCE YOURSELF CONTINUED

Drive-by carder. A card is not an introduction. Just throwing your business card at a person, or worse, at as many people as possible at a networking event, is just about the worst kind of introduction you can make. If you hand one to me, I'm going to hand it to the nearest rubbish bin.

Double-carder. Handing someone two copies of your business card to encourage the other person to send you a referral. It's presumptuous unless they ask for an extra card.

Rambling man (or woman). As soon as you get to talk, you get over excited and start telling your life story. Or the story of how you got to the meeting. Or how you met your spouse. And forget to tell me, you know, who you are.

TMI. If I'm just meeting you, I don't need to know the entire history of your business or career, all of your degrees and accolades, and your dog's maiden name. Stick to the basics.

Limp fish. It may be old fashioned, but I think a weak handshake is a turn-off when introducing yourself. Practice a firm (but not crushing) handshake to convey confidence.

The Cannonball. Probably the opposite of the limp fish is the cannonball — the guy who is so overly confident that he'll barrel his way into any situation or conversation without being invited. If you want to join an ongoing conversation, wait to be acknowledged before you jump right in.

Digital Zombie. If you're going to a networking event, or a business function of some kind, don't be so absorbed in yourself and your cell phone that you're not paying attention.

How to introduce yourself in one simple step:

Instead of leading with what you *do*, lead with who you *help*. As in, "Hi, my name is Bernard, and I help companies identify and make the best use of their key performance indicators and big data."

Done. You know who I am, what I do, and more importantly, whether or not I can help you or someone you know.

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Upcoming Events



June 19, 2015

**MEA Networking Luncheon
Henderson Hall**

July 1, 2015

**MEA Networking Luncheon
Quantico**

To be Announced

**MEA Bethesda Breakfast
Walter Reed**

Camp Pendleton Chapter

The MEA Camp Pendleton Chapter meets the
3rd Wednesday of every month on
Camp Pendleton

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

SIX STATES THAT OFFER TUITION WAIVERS FOR STUDENT VETERANS

In the United States, there are currently six individual states that offer an additional education tuition waiver benefit for Veterans. This is not part of the VA System.

Each state has different eligibility requirements and not all Veterans may qualify. It is important to check with your state to make sure that you meet the full eligibility requirements.

Below are the following six states that offer additional education tuition waiver benefits for Veterans.

The Connecticut State Tuition Waiver For Qualified Veterans

<http://www.ct.gov/ctva/cwp/view.asp?A=2014&Q=290874>

The Illinois Veteran Grant Program

<http://www.isac.org/students/during-college/types-of-financial-aid/grants/illinois-veteran-grant-%28ivg%29-program.html>

Montana University System Tuition Waivers

https://www.mus.edu/Prepare/Pay/Tuition_and_Fee_Waivers.asp

The Texas Hazlewood Act

<http://www.tvc.texas.gov/Hazlewood-Act.aspx>

The Wisconsin G.I. Bill State Veteran Tuition Waiver

<http://county.milwaukee.gov/WisconsinGIBill>

Wyoming Free Tuition For War Veterans

<http://www.communitycolleges.wy.edu/veterans-tuition-benefit.aspx>