

EXSUM - MILITARY TRANSITION COUNCIL

July 21, 2015 – 10:00 – 12:00
University of Washington Tacoma, Tacoma, WA

Focus - Statewide Military Downsizing, Track Workgroup Goals, and the JBLM September Transition Summit.

In addition to WSMTC topics, representatives from University of Washington Tacoma discussed programs and initiatives that focus on veterans.

Agenda, presentation slides, and EXSUM can be found on the WDVA Website under the Military Transition Council-Documents:

Two ASKS were presented by the Employment Track Workgroup related to better development of the WDVA WSMTC website to help facilitate the coordination of all Track Workgroups. The second ask was for the executive committee to help promote the best value employment events in the state such as job fairs and programs to the community.

Attendance – 35 people signed the register in Tacoma, and 10 participated via GoToMeeting Webinar and a number of people called into the conference call.

Briefing Summaries:

Opening Comments – Alfie Alvarado- Ramos, Director, Washington Department of Veteran Affairs. Director Ramos spoke about the State of Washington Response Plan and how WA State is the only state being proactive in the response to the DOD announced military downsizing in WA. She also gave a brief overview of the efforts of Governor Inslee's Subcabinet for Military Downsizing and the plan related to the states preparation for military cuts in WA.

Joint Base Lewis McChord Update – COL Chuck Hodges JBLM Garrison Commander gave an update on the progress of the partnership between JBLM and the WSMTC's efforts to support transitioning service members. He focused on the successes they have made over the last year and how he envisions the partnership moving forward in the future. He also welcomed CPT Bullis the Navy Region NW Chief of Staff and conveyed the importance of keeping a clear line of communication open to better support our service members. He thanked everyone for their hard work and expects great things from the team here in WA. He briefly went over some of the changes for this years' Service Member for Life Transition Summit and how JBLM has taken steps to improve from last year's event based on comments provided by service members and facilitators. He expects this year's event will have an even bigger impact at supporting our transitioning service members across the state.

Navy Region Northwest Update – CPT William Bullis Chief of Staff Navy Region Northwest introduced himself to the group as the new Chief of Staff Navy Region Northwest. He gave a brief summary on how 60% of naval forces will start to shift from an Atlantic-centric mission to a Pacific-centric mission over the next 10 years. He also stated that Navy Region Northwest has not been affected by the DOD downsizing, on average the naval community has about 3-4k Navy service members transitioning out each year in the area. He also announced that Bremerton Shipyard is currently hiring and has positions that will provide a great opportunity for transitioning service members in the area.

Fairchild Air Force Base Transition Program Update – Angela O'Connell via call in gave a brief summary of the Fairchild Air Force Base transition program statistics and their trends from 2013-present. She pointed out that 2015 was projected to exceed last year's numbers of transitioning service members. She also wanted to emphasize the importance of the need for a WADVA presence in the Spokane area to help provide services to veterans. Angela also discussed new additions to Fairchild AFB such as, ESD representatives on the installation, Department of Veterans

Camo2Commerce – Sean Murphy gave an operation update on the successes on the Camo2Commerce programs. He updated the group on the program and gave a breakdown of the 87% placement rate for veterans in various programs. He also touched on the success of the Heroes Corporate Fellowship Academy and gave examples of some success stories from that program. He talked about future programs such as Roofing Academy, Utility Pathway Academy and Law Enforcement Prep Courses that are currently in the works.

Washington State/ JBLM Transition Summit Planning – Robin Baker, JBLM Education Services Officer, informed the council that the Summit will be 22-24 September on JBLM.

Due to the incredible success of the 2014 JBLM Summit, and the National Chamber of Commerce dubbing the event as the “National Model”, JBLM is expecting the event to be bigger this year. All military personnel and family members from across the state and other states are invited to the event.

Day 1 – National/Regional Senior Leader Focus American Lake Conference Center

Day 2 – Panel discussions revolving around the 7 industry sectors of Washington State: Maritime, Aerospace, Life Science & Global Health, Clean Technology, Information Communication Technology, Military and agriculture. In the afternoon, there are initial planning for a “hands-on” apprenticeship fair.

Day 3 –Transition Fair Hangars 9&10- McChord.

Robin also spoke about the WSMTC breakout session the afternoon of day 1, this is intended to for local leaders and members of the WSMTC Track’s to brainstorm and develop goals for FY16. This will be held on 22 September from 1:00-4:00 at the Hawk Transition Center on JBLM.

Individuals and companies interested in being involved in planning the event, need to connect with Dan Verbeke, JBLM Transition Services Supervisor, at JBLM.

ESD Monster.com Update – Kelly Lindseth from Employment Security Division (ESD) gave a brief overview of the progress of the monster.com initiative and the projected rollout at the end of the year. She updated the group on the advantages of the system and how it will improve job-matching capabilities for employers and provide a robust job search and resume solution for job seekers.

Legislative Session Results – Heidi Audette Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) gave a brief overview of some of laws passed during the 2015 legislative session. She highlighted several new laws that will have a positive impact on the veteran community here in WA, these new laws can be found here, http://www.dva.wa.gov/sites/default/files/2015%20Legislative%20Session%20End%20Report_1.pdf.

She paid particular attention to explaining SHB 1052 Military spouse/higher education benefits, SHB 5633 Helmets to hardhats program, and HB 1277 Military member lodging. More detail can be found by accessing the link provided in the above paragraph.

Employment Track Workgroup Update – Shellie Willis and Rich Garmong gave a brief overview of their current initiatives that included a pilot King County training program for retaining veterans. This program was developed by King County to help educate employers on the challenges of retaining veterans and how to meet those challenges. They also went over the results of their survey with public and private employers to help gauge the successful veterans’ programs that are working to help identify best practices to help retain veterans.

Higher Education Track Workgroup – David Millet gave a brief overview on how the higher education track is working towards achieving their goals of providing information to the service members and their families. Some of the challenges they are working through is getting information to the service members. They were proactive with the JBLM Brown Bag lunch opportunity, and will continue to promote that time within the education sector. David talked about the things they are doing to help sell the higher education story to service members, and is continually working at ensuring that all programs that are available to service members are promoted to service members to help support their educational needs.

Career and Technical Track Workgroup Update – Mable Edmonds gave a brief update on the progress of the goals set by the workgroup. She also updated the group on the movement forward from last WSMTC quarterly meeting and what they are doing to achieve their goals from the following:

- 1) 3 Pillars sub-group Goals/Actions:
 - Integrating Higher education with the following 3 pillars at all installations, across the state:
 - o Induction –
 - o Service –
 - o Transition -
- 2) Resources & Website sub-group Goals/Actions:
 - Collection and sharing of best practices across state – One good technique is to refer to the Post 9/11 GI Bill as a scholarship when interacting with educators.
 - Input and resources needed for resources page on WDVA site
 - Identify key participants for higher education working group
- 3) Education to Careers sub-group Goals/Actions:
 - Help Employment group expand NW Edge program across the state
 - Work to integrate ESD (new Monster system) with each WA based schools, career & veteran centers
 - Work with SB/Entrepreneur track to produce cross sharing opportunities with each WA based schools, career & veteran centers
 - Work to create winning partnerships between education institutions in WA and key members of other WSMTC Track Workgroups.

Small Business Entrepreneurship Workgroup Update – Cheryl Fambles briefed the council on how the workgroup is promoting awareness of the Small Business Entrepreneurship Track to veterans. She spoke about the challenges they are identifying and how they plan on moving forward to meet those challenges. She understands that veterans looking to start their own business has a smaller audience but has continued to grow the ability of the workgroup to help connect them with the tools that they need to start their own business.

Next WSMTC meetings – Looking for volunteers to host the quarterly council meeting.

November 17, 2015 – Navy Region Northwest – Bremerton (T)

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