

THE AMERICAN VETERAN
JANUARY 2007 EDITION

SEGMENT TITLE: HIRE VETS FIRST JOB FAIR

JENNIFER BRADEN, HOST: FINDING A JOB IS NO EASY TASK. AND MAKING THE TRANSITION FROM THE ARMED FORCES TO THE CIVILIAN WORKFORCE MAY SEEM LIKE AN EVEN BIGGER CHALLENGE. BUT SOME VETERANS ARE DISCOVERING THEY MAY ACTUALLY HAVE AN EDGE IN THIS COMPETITIVE JOB MARKET. REBA HOLLINGSWORTH TAKES US TO ONE JOB FAIR WHERE EMPLOYERS ARE LOOKING FOR A FEW GOOD MEN AND WOMEN TO HIRE.

REBA HOLLINGSWORTH, REPORTER: IT ONLY TAKES A QUICK SNIP. AND IT JUST MAY OPEN THESE VETS UP TO A WHOLE NEW WORLD.

CHARLES CICCOLELLA, US DEPARTMENT OF LABOR: THIS IS A VERY GOOD SIZED JOB FAIR. AND AS YOU CAN SEE THERE ARE A LOT OF VETERANS. THEY HAVE GREAT RESUMES. THEY HAVE GREAT SKILLS. AND YOU SEE A LOT OF EMPLOYERS WHO ARE VERY INTERESTED IN THEM.

HOLLINGSWORTH: THE U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR HOSTS THIS "HIRE VETS FIRST" JOB FAIR IN NORFOLK, VIRGINIA. IT'S A CHANCE TO HELP VETERANS AND SOON TO BE VETS TRANSITION INTO THE CIVILIAN JOB WORLD. AND TO MEET POTENTIAL EMPLOYERS FACE-TO-FACE.

JOB RECRUITERS: WHAT YOU'LL WANT TO DO IS APPLY ONLINE, SO WE CAN DO A SEARCH. FILL OUT AS MUCH WORK HISTORY AS POSSIBLE THAT'S ALWAYS BENEFICIAL TO YOU.

HOLLINGSWORTH: ABOUT TWO THOUSAND OF THESE VETERANS ARE LOOKING FOR THEIR NEXT JOB. AND MOST OF THE COMPANIES HERE REPRESENT THE HOTTEST FIELDS -- LIKE HEALTH CARE, FINANCIAL SERVICES, SECURITY AND CONSTRUCTION.

CICCOLELLA: EMPLOYERS WANT EMPLOYEES WHO BRING THE SKILLS THAT THEY NEED: THE HARD SKILLS, THE TECHNICAL SKILLS, COMMUNICATION, THOSE THINGS. BUT WE'RE THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, WE DEAL WITH EMPLOYERS ALL THE TIME AND YOU KNOW WHAT THEY WANT MOST? THEY WANT WHAT WE CALL "THE SOFT SKILLS." THEY WANT THAT DRIVE AND THAT INITIATIVE, THE COLLABORATION, THE ABILITY TO WORK IN TEAMS.

CHIEF PETTY OFFICER EARNEST ELLIS, US NAVY: WE'LL I'M LOOKING AT THEM (EMPLOYERS). I SAW THEM ON THE LIST.

HOLLINGSWORTH: EARNEST ELLIS WILL RETIRE FROM THE NAVY IN JUNE AFTER SERVING 22 YEARS. HE'S AN X-RAY TECHNICIAN WHO'S LOOKING TO USE HIS HOSPITAL SKILLS IN THE CIVILIAN WORLD.

ELLIS: WHEN YOU HAVE THAT MANY YEARS, THEY PRETTY MUCH KNOW THAT YOU'RE GOING TO GET UP AND COME TO WORK. THAT YOU'RE GOING TO DO IT EVERY DAY, AND THAT YOU'RE DEPENDABLE. HOPEFULLY, WITH THE YEARS I PUT IN AND MY RECORD, IT WILL SHOW THAT I'M A DEPENDABLE PERSON.

HOLLINGSWORTH: DAN HAJEK AND MICHELLE LYONS ARE IN THE SAME BOAT. BOTH LEFT THE NAVY, AND NOW THEY'RE NOT JUST LOOKING FOR A JOB, BUT A CAREER. BOTH BELIEVE THEIR MILITARY EXPERIENCE WILL WORK IN THEIR FAVOR.

MICHELLE LYONS, NAVY VETERAN: I MAINTAINED THE 43 PERSONNEL RECORDS, AND I KEPT UP WITH ALL OF THEIR TRAINING AND EVERYTHING. SO, THAT'S REALLY HELPED OUT A LOT. THAT'S WHAT A LOT OF EMPLOYERS LIKE ABOUT ME IS THAT I HAD THAT TRAINING.

DAN HAJEK, NAVY VETERAN: IT ABSOLUTELY HELPS BECAUSE YOU'RE USE TO DEALING WITH PEOPLE, ESPECIALLY IN THE ROLE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT. YOU'RE A LITTLE BIT MORE CONFIDENT JUST DUE TO THE EXPERIENCES THAT YOU MAY HAVE HAD.

HOLLINGSWORTH: VICTOR DAKIYAI GOT OUT OF THE ARMY SIX YEARS AGO. AFTER THE MILITARY, HE'S WORKED FOR THE NORFOLK POLICE DEPARTMENT, DID CONTRACT WORK IN IRAQ, TEACHES PART-TIME AND HE'S WORKING ON A MASTER'S DEGREE IN CRIMINOLOGY. DESPITE HIS IMPRESSIVE RESUME, VICTOR SAYS IT'S NOT ENOUGH.

VICTOR DAKIYAI, ARMY VETERAN: THEY'RE NOT JUST GOING TO HIRE YOU BECAUSE YOU CAME FROM THE MILITARY. THEY'RE GOING TO SAY, "WHAT DID YOU BRING FROM THE MILITARY?"

CICCOLELLA: THE BIGGEST PROBLEM THEY HAVE IS TRANSLATING THEIR EXPERIENCE, THE SKILLS THEY'VE LEARNED, IN THE MILITARY, ONTO RESUMES, SO THAT EMPLOYERS CAN UNDERSTAND THAT.

HOLLINGSWORTH: JAIME JACKSON IS FEELING THE PRESSURE. SHE'LL LEAVE HER NAVY JOB IN NORFOLK EARLY NEXT YEAR. SHE COMES HERE TO GET HELP WITH HER RESUME.

KIMBERLY STALEY, MANAGER, WORKFORCE SERVICES OPPORTUNITY, INC: WE GET THEIR NAME, ADDRESS, BASIC JOB TITLES AND THE

PORTAL ONCE YOU SUBMIT THE INFORMATION IT DESIGNS A RESUME. SO SHE'S ABLE TO PRINT SOMETHING OUT, GO AND SPEAK WITH THE EMPLOYERS AND HAVE SOMETHING IN HAND TO GIVE THEM.

LIEUTENANT JAIME JACKSON, US NAVY: IT'S STARTING TO BE HELPFUL. IT JUST OPENS MY MIND UP TO OTHER THINGS THAT ARE OUT THERE.

HOLLINGSWORTH: BACK INSIDE THE JOB FAIR, DEFENSE CONTRACTING COMPANIES STAY BUSY.

PAUL BENNETT, LOCKHEED MARTIN: LOCKHEED MARTIN IS A MAJOR DEFENSE CONTRACTOR. SO, OBVIOUSLY, THAT PUTS US IN THIS JOB MARKET

HOLLINGSWORTH: A BIG PART OF ITS WORK FORCE COMES FROM THE MILITARY.

BENNETT: IT'S LIKE WE'RE RECYCLING IT. THE GOVERNMENT HAS SPENT A LOT OF YEARS INVESTING THEIR RESOURCES IN TRAINING THESE PEOPLE. WE LIKE TO PROVIDE THESE PEOPLE SERVICES BACK TO THE GOVERNMENT TO DO VARIOUS JOBS.

TONY STEILLINGS, STARBUCKS TRAINING MANAGER, NAVY VETERAN: WE'RE STARTING TO REALIZE THE TALENT POOL THAT THE MILITARY HAS.

HOLLINGSWORTH: SO, COFFEE GIANT STARBUCKS IS GETTING INVOLVED TOO, AGRESSIVELY TARGETING VETS LIKE TONY STEILLINGS.

STEILLINGS: THE SKILLS THAT I LEARNED AT THE ACADEMY IN DOING THE TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT FOR THEM TRANSLATED INTO TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT FOR STARBUCKS. THOSE ARE ALL THINGS YOU HOPE AN EMPLOYEE COMES TO THE TABLE WITH, BUT YOU KNOW THAT A MILITARY PERSON HAS IT.

CICCOLELLA: WE OWE OUR VETERANS JUST AN ENORMOUS DEBT OF GRATITUDE. THEY DON'T ASK FOR A LOT. WHAT THEY ASK FOR IS OPPORTUNITY.

BRADEN: THE U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND OTHER STATE PARTNERS ARE WORKING ON ANOTHER JOB FAIR SCHEDULED FOR LATER IN THE YEAR. OTHER ORGANIZATIONS WILL BE SPONSORING SEVERAL VETERANS ONLY JOB FAIRS. TO SEE THE LIST AND THE DATES GO TO HIREVETSFIRST.GOV AND CLICK ON UPCOMING EVENTS.

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