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Veterans Can Continue Public Service in Civilian Careers – Translating military experience to civilian career opportunities

(third in a series of articles on veterans pursuing civilian careers)

Men and women leaving military service offer a breadth of skills, experience and knowledge in civilian careers. “Many of the skills gained in their military service relates to civilian jobs so it is important to capture that information on their resumes for civilian careers,” says Jean Mercer, director of the DON’s Office of Civilian Human Resources, HR Systems and Business Transformation Department.

Learning how to translate military experiences and occupations will help hone the search for civilian jobs best suited for the veterans, according to Mercer. The Verification of Military Experience and Training (VMET) website (<https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/appj/vmet/index.jsp>) helps veterans identify job skills, experience, training and certifications gained while on active duty that may have application to employment in the civilian sector. VMET information may be used in building a civilian resume and includes various resource links. The Mil2Feds website (<http://mil2fedjobs.com/>) sponsored by the State of Maryland serves as a military-to-civilian job translator, providing information to both applicants and hiring managers.

Once veterans have identified the equivalent civilian occupations, they can begin to search for openings on USAJOBS. USAJOBS allows applicants to save up to 20 different job searches tailored to their interests and skills. Additionally, USAJOBS allows applicants to save up to five distinct resumes. The Department of the Navy (DON) webpage for veterans interested in pursuing civilian careers (www.public.navy.mil/donhr/employment/Vets/Pages/Default.aspx) not only contains information on the application process, but also provides tip sheets and links to additional resources.



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Veterans should first pursue the resources and support provided through their local Fleet and Family Service Centers (FFSC). Resources and information also are available through www.fedshirevets.gov/ or, for information on veterans hiring eligibilities and tip sheets to help with the application process, visit the DON Civilian Human Resources website: www.donhr.navy.mil or the Department of Labor Veterans Preference Advisory website at www.dol.gov/elaws/vetspref.htm.

The DON remains committed to improving the applicant's experience, reducing the time to fill vacancies and securing quality candidates for DON positions. Civilian careers in the Department of the Navy offer real world challenges with real life rewards – careers where purpose and patriotism unite. Additional questions on DON civilian employment and the application process may be directed to DON Employment Information Center at DONeic@navy.mil.

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