

GET THE JOB

Transitioning to a Civilian Job

Transitioning from military service to civilian life can be a challenging but rewarding journey.

Veterans bring a wealth of skills, leadership experience and discipline to the civilian job market, making them valuable assets to potential employers. However, navigating the job search process in the civilian world may require some adjustment.

This transition is a significant life change, but it's a journey filled with potential for success. By planning ahead, translating your military skills effectively, leveraging available resources, and networking strategically, you can navigate this transition successfully and find a fulfilling civilian career that builds on your valuable military experience.

Remember, your dedication and resilience are assets that will serve you well as you embark on this new chapter of your professional life.

GETTING STARTED

A successful transition begins with preparation. Start planning your transition well before your military service concludes. Research industries and roles that align with your skills and interests. Understand the civilian job



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market and the qualifications required for your desired career path.

One of the primary challenges veterans face is translating their military skills and experiences into language that civilian employers can understand. Use civilian terminology on your resume and during interviews to convey your qualifications effectively. Focus on transferable skills such as leadership, teamwork, prob-

lem-solving and adaptability.

Many resources are available to veterans during their job search. Organizations like the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and nonprofits like Hire Heroes USA and the Wounded Warrior Project offer employment assistance, resume writing workshops and career counseling services. Take advantage of these resources to gain a competitive edge.

ACTIVITIES

Craft a civilian resume that highlights your relevant skills and experiences. Emphasize achievements and accomplishments, focusing on results and outcomes. Tailor your resume for each job application to showcase how your qualifications match the specific job requirements.

Networking plays a crucial role in the civilian job market. Attend job fairs, industry conferences and veteran-specific networking events. Connect with fellow veterans, civilian professionals and mentors who can provide valuable insights and introductions to potential employers.

Many companies are committed to hiring veterans due to their strong work ethic and diverse skill sets. Research and target employers known for their veteran-friendly policies. Companies like Amazon, Boeing and Lockheed Martin actively recruit veterans and offer various programs to support their transition.

Interviewing for civilian positions may differ from military interviews. Practice your interview skills, emphasizing your ability to adapt, collaborate, and lead in a civilian work environment. Be prepared to discuss your military experiences in a way that demonstrates their relevance to the job.

Depending on your career

goals, consider pursuing additional education or certifications. Many veterans use the GI Bill to fund higher education or vocational training. Certifications in fields like IT, project management or health care can enhance your qualifications.

MENTAL PREPARATION

Flexibility is key during the transition process. Be open to exploring different career paths and industries that may align with your skills and interests. Your military experience has equipped you with valuable attributes that can be applied in various roles.

Connect with veterans who have successfully transitioned to civilian careers. They can provide valuable insights, share their experiences, and offer advice on overcoming challenges during the transition process.

In addition to technical skills, highlight your soft skills, such as leadership, communication and adaptability. These qualities are highly valued in the civilian workforce and can set you apart from other candidates.

Job searching can be a challenging and sometimes lengthy process. Stay positive, stay persistent and maintain confidence in your abilities. Every rejection brings you one step closer to finding the right opportunity.