

**WASHINGTON STATE
WORKFORCE TRAINING AND EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD
MEETING NO. 173
SEPTEMBER 26, 2013**

VETERANS' TRANSITIONS

Thousands of troops will be returning to Washington's military bases over the next two years, many choosing to remain in Washington once they separate from military service.

Washington's Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA), Employment Security Department, State Board for Community and Technical Colleges, Workforce Development Councils, and many other organizations are working together with the military commands to ensure smooth transitions to civilian life for these service members.

Mary Forbes, WDVA Assistant Director, leads this panel, which will share the core elements of the transition plan, and examples from the field.

Governor Inslee signed Executive Order 13-01, included in this tab, which requires all state agencies to participate in increasing the numbers of veterans in state employment, and establishes the Washington Military Transition Council, among other provisions. The Workforce Board is represented on the Transition Council by Executive Director Eleni Papadakis.

Board Action Requested: For discussion only.



STATE OF WASHINGTON
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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EXECUTIVE ORDER 13-01

VETERANS TRANSITION SUPPORT

PREAMBLE

Hundreds of military personnel separate from the service each month, and select Washington State as their home after serving our country with distinction. We honor their service and commitment by supporting their transition to civilian life. As part of our efforts to rebuild a robust economy and return to full employment, I have asked private and public leaders throughout our state to help veterans and their families in effectively navigating this transition, and increase our collective efforts to help them obtain living wage jobs. I expect state government to lead this effort, and serve as a model employer.

WHEREAS, many of our returning veterans and their families find it difficult transitioning to civilian life; and

WHEREAS, intensely competitive job markets, challenges translating military experience into civilian job skills, and lack of hiring managers' awareness regarding the breadth and quality of veterans' background all contribute to an unacceptably high post-9/11 veteran unemployment rate; and

WHEREAS, rising to this challenge will require both the efforts of individual departments and collaboration across agencies, jurisdictions, and sectors; and

WHEREAS, the VOW to Hire Heroes Act of 2011 promotes collaboration between the U.S. Department of Defense and other federal agencies with state, local, private, and non-profit partners to support transitioning service members;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jay Inslee, Governor of the state of Washington, by virtue of the power vested in me by the Constitution and statutes of the state of Washington do, effective immediately, hereby order and direct:

1. Agency Procurement from Veteran-Owned Businesses

Each executive cabinet agency shall set a target of awarding at least five percent of all procurement contracts to certified veteran-owned businesses. The Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA), in consultation with the Department of Enterprise Services (DES), will establish agency reporting standards and protocols.

2. Agency Veteran Employment Plans

Each executive cabinet agency shall develop annual veteran employment plans to increase the representation of veterans in their workforce. Agencies will report progress as prescribed by the Office of Financial Management, State Human Resources Division. At a minimum in 2013, plans will include utilization of veteran job seeker support services available through the Employment Security Department (ESD), and creation of bridge employment opportunities such as temporary, seasonal, internship, and job shadow assignments. When determining the qualifications of applicants for employment, agencies shall consider relevant equivalent experience obtained during military service. The Office of Financial Management, State Human Resources Division will collaborate with DES, ESD, DVA, and other public and private partners to identify and develop resources to assist agency human resource staff and hiring managers translate and credit military experience.

3. Veterans Employee Resource Group

The Office of Financial Management, State Human Resources Division will convene a cross-agency group of veterans in state service to provide advice and assistance on veteran recruitment, retention, and development strategies. Executive cabinet agencies shall provide assistance by providing volunteers and supporting approved initiatives.

4. Washington Military Transition Council

In addition to supporting transition assistance programs at Washington's military installations, executive cabinet agencies will participate in and provide leadership to the Washington State Military Transition Council. The Council will support collaboration between federal, state, and local agencies and private and non-profit organizations that share responsibility for providing transition assistance to service members and their families. The Director of DVA will serve as Chair of the Council, and provide staff support. The Commissioner of ESD, the Secretary of the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS), the Adjutant General of the Washington Military Department (WMD), the Executive Director of the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges, and the Executive Director of Washington State Student Achievement Council (or their designees) shall also serve on and support the council. My Executive Director of Legislative Affairs and Policy, or his/her designee, will serve as my designated representative to the Council. The Office of Financial Management, State Human Resources Division and DES will ensure that state government's employment practices support and model the Council's efforts.

5. Centralized Data Share and Warehouse Agreement

DVA will coordinate the creation and maintenance of a centralized data share and warehouse agreement among state agencies to both identify veterans and their families and ensure full access to USDVA health care, compensation/pension, and other benefits. The Office of Financial Management, DSHS, ESD, and other executive cabinet agencies designated by the DVA Director will fully participate in and support this effort.

All other elected officials, institutions of higher education, agencies, boards and commissions are invited to follow the provisions of this Executive Order. Transition assistance programs at all active military installations in Washington State are encouraged to participate in the military transition council.

This executive order shall take effect immediately.

Signed and sealed with the official seal of the state of Washington on this 10th day of May, 2013, at Olympia, Washington.

By:

/s/

Jay Inslee
Governor

BY THE GOVERNOR:

/s/

Secretary of State