Employment Development Department
State of California

N E W S R E L E A S E

Contact: Valorie Dixon
661-635-2612

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"Honor a Hero, Hire a Vet" Job Fair Matches Veterans With Employers

Employers with jobs to fill and veterans searching for jobs, including men and women who have completed tours of duty in Iraq and Afghanistan, came together today at the "Honor a Hero, Hire a Vet" job and resource fair at the Bakersfield Marriott Hotel.

Participating in the fair, part of a statewide effort now in its fifth year, were more than 60 public and private employers and representatives from 24 state and local government agencies and private service organizations. The employers included Aera Energy, Bright House Networks, TIC – The Industrial Company, Murray Family Farms, Vons, Hall Ambulance, the Kern County Sheriff's Department, Robert Heely Construction, Halliburton, Clinica Sierra Vista, Smileland Dental and the U.S. Forest Service,

The "Honor a Hero, Hire a Vet" employment fairs provide a wide range of job services in one location for veterans and other job seekers. Over the past four years, the job and resource fairs have matched thousands of veterans with hundreds of employers throughout California. The fairs offer veterans a unique opportunity to meet with employers who have high-quality job openings and resource agencies that offer a wide range of employment services. Veterans can learn about career opportunities, education and training options, apprenticeships, and other services offered by public and private agencies.

This event, one of 11 being held throughout the state this year, is sponsored by California state agencies that offer veterans the help they need to transition from military life to civilian careers: the Labor and Workforce Development Agency, Employment Development Department, Department of Veterans Affairs, Department of Industrial Relations' Division of Apprenticeship Standards, and California Community Colleges.

California is home to nearly 2 million veterans, the most in the nation. Each year 30,000 men and women leave military service and return to civilian life in California. Military training provides them with technical skills and leadership experience and instills a commitment to teamwork, but many still struggle to find jobs once home. The "Honor a Hero, Hire a Vet" job and resource fairs help match veterans with employers who value their skills. This year's events build on the successes of the previous job and resource fairs which matched thousands of veterans with employers and service providers.

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