

N E W S R E L E A S E

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EDD's "Honor a Hero, Hire a Vet" job and resource fair in Santa Maria connects more than 75 veterans, job seekers with employers

SACRAMENTO – The California Employment Development Department's (EDD) "Honor a Hero, Hire a Vet" job and resource fair today connected more than 95 veterans and other job seekers looking for employment opportunities with 30 employers and resource agencies at the Santa Maria America's Job Center of California. For more than 10 years, the job fairs have linked a total of more than 37,000 veterans and job seekers with more than 13,800 employers and resource agencies, highlighting the unique skills, training, and experiences veterans bring to the civilian workforce.

"The EDD is committed to helping the men and women who served in the military find high-quality civilian jobs," said EDD Director Patrick W. Henning. "The Honor a Hero, Hire a Vet job and resource fairs allow veterans to meet one-on-one with employers and job service representatives to showcase the skills, training, and experience they bring to the workforce."

The job fairs are held at various locations throughout the state each year as part of Governor Brown's multi-agency initiative to help veterans in their transition back to civilian life.

"CalVet proudly supports EDD's Honor a Hero, Hire a Vet events throughout California," said CalVet Secretary Dr. Vito Imbasciani. "Job fairs are an important tool veterans can use to showcase the skills and experience they acquired during military service."

Highlights of veteran employment in California and the specialized skills veterans offer include:

- Employment prospects for veterans across all age groups increased in 2017 as the state added 366,000 jobs. The unemployment rate for veterans 18 years and older declined from 5.4 percent in December 2016 to 4.5 percent in December 2017. The unemployment rate for veterans between 18 and 34 years of age declined from 9.1 percent in December 2016 to 7.1 percent in December 2017.

(more)

- Veterans held more than 100,000 jobs in management occupations, such as computer information systems managers and human resources managers, and 70,000 jobs in protective service occupations, including police officers, fire inspectors and transportation security screeners.
- According to the U.S. Census Bureau, nearly 37 percent of California's veterans had a bachelor's degree in 2017.
- Military training and experience provides many job skills valued by employers, including teamwork, discipline, leadership, the ability to meet deadlines, strategic planning and problem solving. In addition, many veterans have training in advanced electronics, logistics and information technology.

The Governor's multi-agency veteran's initiative includes EDD, CalVet, California Labor and Workforce Development Agency, California Department of Industrial Relations' Division of Apprenticeship Standards, and California Community Colleges.

In addition to the Honor a Hero, Hire a Vet job fairs, EDD representatives in local [AJCC](#) offices throughout the state help veterans maximize their employment and training opportunities.

The EDD encourages veterans to visit their local AJCC office to determine what employment services are available to assist them in their efforts to obtain employment. For additional information on EDD's veterans employment services, office locations, and upcoming job fairs, visit the EDD's website at: www.edd.ca.gov/Jobs_and_Training/Services_for_Veterans.htm

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