

I have a story to tell. It began about four years ago. A small group of us sat around a table in Serafina de los Santos office. Serafina is the executive director of the 502nd Force Support Group for Joint Base San Antonio. Joining her were Jose Ontiveros of the Career Services Program, Chuck Bunch of the USO, Angenetta Lambert of Onward to Opportunity and me as the Transition Officer of Alamo MOAA. We met weekly to discuss transition opportunities for the folks leaving military service, either through retirement or separation.

Fast forward to this past Tuesday. We met at the Wounded Warrior Project offices. There were about 40 in the room. The group included a variety of government, military, employers, nonprofits and veteran organizations all with the same goal as the original five. How can we help those transitioning! Now the group itself has grown to over 80 on the email list. The focus is not on just the transitioning military but also on providing resources for veterans, military spouses and dependents.

The government folks included representatives of the City of San Antonio, Bexar County, the Texas Workforce Commission and the Texas Veterans Commission.

There were representatives of Congressmen Castro and Roy in attendance as well. All three Military and Family Resource Centers sent reps. Wells Fargo was there and Rackspace was on the phone. Scotty from UTSA was also on the phone. Liz Larson from Goodwill was there wearing two other hats as chair of the Military Spouse Employment Empowerment Zone and as a member of the Military Spouse Professional Network. This is just a snapshot of the collection of folks. The meeting gave Wounded Warrior Project the opportunity to showcase their mission and operations. A marvelous event. A previous field trip was to Bunker Labs, an incubator for veteran entrepreneurs.

Do you get the picture? San Antonio is recognized nationally for its success in creating an innovative support system for the transitioning military community – note the inclusive term of community.

Now it is your opportunity to reach out to these resources to assist you in developing your next career plans. San Antonio has such a variety of resources collectively working to assist you. These can be educational, volunteer or employment. Taking advantage of these is up to you. Connect with us. The opportunities await.

Kitty

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