

## Networking Your Organizations

How are you networked into professional organizations that can help you in your transition? If you are marvelous! You have discovered the advantages of building connections with those who are successfully building careers in your scope of interest. If not, let's get you thinking in that direction...

Here's an example of a success story. Ernesto was interested in a career in Human Resources. We met and discussed the path to transition into an HR career using his military experience. One significant piece of the discussion was the difference between his USAF personnel work and those on the outside. It is radically different. It isn't just the admin part. HR in the civilian market can have many aspects that are not encountered on the military side. It is very generalist to include recruiting, benefits, employee relations, labor relations, and it goes on.

To help get a perspective from others, I referred Ernesto to the San Antonio SHRM chapter. SHRM is the Society for Human Resources Management. It meets monthly on the second Tuesday of the month. Besides gaining insight from a guest speaker, you have the opportunity to meet and chat with folks in the HR business. Some are even newbies like you where you have the opportunity to share the trials and tribulations of starting an HR career.

What an opportunity to meet and greet folks, to begin to build a network, to have the opportunity to connect for an informational interview. These are all things that are needed to gain perspective, and especially research, so that you are informed when it's time to make that career/employment decision.

So, you are not interested in HR. Then you need to check out other professional organizations. There are chapters across the country. Suggestions would be those in manufacturing, cyber/intel, logistics, banking. You name the industry, a little google search will connect you with the one you need. The wealth of information is at your fingertips.

The task is now yours. Don't be shy. As I've said countless times, this transition time is yours to explore. You will meet so many exciting people. You will be able to explore yourself to discover your passions. What are you really interested in and how do you want to devote your time and energy. It's a new world out there past the military gates.

Best of luck and best wishes for a marvelous 2024.

*Kitty*

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