

The Red White and You Hiring Fair is Coming

The State of Texas and the San Antonio Community will hold its ninth hiring fair on Thursday, November 5. It's the major opportunity to connect transitioning military, veterans, retirees, spouses, and dependents to hiring employers and resources.

Last year's event was spectacular. Over 2000 job seekers connected with over 150 employers and 60 resources at the Freeman Expo Hall. Then came the pandemic and our ability to connect in person changed. Now we are creating a virtual hiring fair.

This virtual fair will be an experience for everyone. Some have already participated in this type of hiring fair. Others are new to the game. There are plenty of opportunities out there for you to learn techniques that will help you navigate the virtual hiring fair process and transitioning. Here are a few. Listed are the agency or organization and their websites. Check them out.

- The Texas Workforce Commission's local board, Workforce Solutions Alamo (WSA), have scheduled a variety of webinars and resources. Connect with the WSA at www.workforcesolutionsalamo.org or visit one of their local offices.
- The Texas Veterans Commission has a wealth of resources. Laurie Pimentel-Johnson has facilitated some spectacular webinars on resumes for applicant tracking systems which almost all major employers and many small ones use. These have quirks that work only on these systems, and each one is unique. They also have a variety of resources for women veterans. Check out www.tvc.texas.gov/employment/veterans.
- The relatively new kid on the block is the Bexar County Military and Veterans Resource Center located just off the New Braunfels gate of Ft. Sam on Grayson. The website is www.bexar.org/509/military-and-veterans-service-center.
- The JBSA Transition Center and the JBSA Military and Family Resource Centers at each of the local bases has a wealth of opportunities and counselors to assist.
- Joint Base San Antonio also has a connector to these various resources as well as a number of others. This JBSA Alliance meets weekly to network, share, and connect transition opportunities and initiatives. Notes from this are in David's blast (next paragraph). I attend these weekly sessions. Wonderful folks.

Your Alamo Chapter along with MOAA are super resources. David Patrick, MOAA Transition for Texas, produces a weekly blast of resources and opportunities to an email list. He and I provide individual counseling to assist in transitioning. We are also heavily involved in the production of the Ninth Annual Red, White and You Hiring Fair, coordinating the Veterans Resource Village (VRV) for the event. The VRV will have representatives of non-profits, education, entrepreneur, and government agencies. You can connect for assistance there. David and I are also part of the MOAA Transition Network that meets bi-monthly to coordinate efforts across MOAA. Connect with us at www.moaa-ac.org. MOAA'S transition resources are available at www.moaa.org.