

Resources For Spouses

Active-duty folks transition only once when the military career is finished. However, y'all, think about the spouse. She or he transitions with every move. Picking up stakes, relocating to a new location and establishing all sorts of new relationships. These may be friendships, churches, a whole plethora of things. Probably the hardest though, is the career.

Every working spouse has struggled through the maze of finding a new job when that move is made. A friend of mine is lucky. She is the spouse of a medical officer who never left BAMC. How unique is that. She was able to create her own marketing business and has successfully developed her business through the years.

Most are not that lucky. Every two to four years requires leaving employment and then attempting to pick up in the new location. Some are lucky in finding a new position that values the skills and experiences learned. Many though find positions that are not equivalent to the previous. Others are forced into a gap in employment since nothing is available. And then others must change careers just to keep things going. Such a waste!

Good news is here. There are resources for the asking to assist in these transitions. First let me praise the work of the US Chamber of Commerce's Hiring Our Heroes (HoH) and our own MOAA for the marvelous bounty of resources available. These websites www.hiringourheroes.org and www.moaa.org are both packed with programs, events, and resources. The HOH fellowship program offers networking and training through experiences with civilian companies. Among MOAA's resources is a mentorship program with American Corporate Partners. What wonderful opportunities to grow a career potential!

DoD has the Spouse Education and Career Opportunities (SECO) program. This was featured in the March 2022 edition of Military Officer (p. 30). The website <https://myseco.militaryonesource.mil> has a wealth of information and resources to assist the spouse.

Last, but not least, is the HoH's Military Spouse Professional Network (MSPN). To link with them checkout Facebook – Joint Base San Antonio – HOH Military Spouse Professional Network. This is a private FB group with over 2100 members and link with the resources available. Networking and educational events are posted. P.S. Job opportunities are also posted there. What a gold mine!

Help pass the word. Don't let the talent of spouses be wasted or sidelined. This talent must be valued. Start today.

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Previously published Transition Tips can be found on the Alamo Chapter website under the Transition Services tab at www.almomoaa.org