

## Taking the Initiative

A decision has been made. You've turned in your separation paperwork, either for the end of military commitment or retirement. A huge congratulations on a job well done. The next big question is what's next. How are you going to navigate the maze of information, events, and advice which is now coming your way?

My first suggestion is to look inward. You need to determine your priorities. What do you want? Education? A new career? What are your family's requirements? These are just a few of the considerations. BUT ... this is a great place to start. You need to do what makes you happy and satisfies your needs.

You say that this will come with time? Not if you don't make it a priority. So many folks transition out without a defined path that includes their own personal mission and their values. Recognizing those crucial pieces of your identity and applying them to the overall strategic plan of your transition can lead to years of satisfaction that can manifest itself in so many ways. Not considering these can lead to job hopping and all sorts of other consequences. The axiom that successful execution comes from a strong strategic plan is true even in a career transition.

So, take the initiative. You are the driver. In the past week, I've come across two separate instances of the lack of initiative from job seekers. The first asked to discuss his resume. I provided some materials and suggested a time for a phone chat. He responded with the email that he wanted me to rewrite his resume. You've heard me state this before. YOU need to write your resume. You tell your story the best. If I wrote the resume, then I tell my story with your history. That won't sell to a recruiter.

The second occurred during a meeting this morning – Zoom of course. A member of the JBSA Alliance stated that she had a resume for a spouse nurse looking for part time work. The request was that anyone from the network who knew of nursing opportunities to check back with this contact. Another on the call replied that he had just checked with Indeed.com and that 15 pages of part time nurse opportunities in the San Antonio area were listed. Nurse opportunities abound in this pandemic world.

The point being - in each of these cases, the job seeker needs to take the initiative. Be aggressive in the job search. Know what you want for your future. Develop your strategy. Design the transition tools to reflect your brand and that strategy. Use all the resources available to enhance your efforts and network, network, network. Own the process.

It's your life. Take charge and create your dreams.

### ***Kitty***

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