

# MARINES IN TRANSITION

**Connecting Marine Talent with Job Opportunities Since 1982** 

## April/May 2017

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## 5 STEPS TO NETWORKING FOR MARINES WHO AREN'T INTO NETWORKING

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Everywhere you look you read about the <u>importance of networking</u> in finding a job, and in case you have not figured this out yet—it is the truth.

1. While some people are lucky enough to find jobs without networking, that will not be the case for many of us. The hard part is that many of us have our reservations when it comes to networking. Fortunately, we live in an age of technology where networking in person is no longer the only way to establish those relationships that will land us jobs. If you are an introvert or are not comfortable with pounding the pavement and shaking hands all day, you can be as good at networking as the next veteran.

Continued on next page

### **Checkout Our Upcoming Events**

**MEA Networking Luncheon, Henderson Hall - May 10** Tim Kibben, HendersonHall\_Luncheon@MarineEA.org

**MEA Networking Luncheon, Quantico - June 16** Lester Niblock, Quantico\_Luncheon@MarineEA.org

**MEA Camp Pendleton Chapter - May 17** Steve Fisher, PendletonChapter@MarineEA.org



### 5 STEPS TO NETWORKING Continued

2. Build up your credibility through classes, internships, or freelance jobs. The first step does not work so well if you have nothing to boast about. If you are trying to get into cyber security but have never touched a computer, your chances are not particularly high. So take some online classes, and while you are building your resume, start a dialogue with your colleagues. Most online classes are either done via Skype or have a discussion section, so it should be easy to find someone in the class with similar interests. You may even consider full online or low-residency degree programs, though you should make sure to do your research first. Make connections with your classmates and ensure you keep in touch. Follow your new connections on Twitter and find a reason to engage with them. The same can be applied to remote internships or side jobs, where you can find other opportunities to gain experience remotely and network at the same time.

3. Reach out to professionals in your desired field. With Twitter, Google+, Facebook, and the many other social networks out there, it is very easy to find people who are currently working in the field that you want to pursue. Connect with them, and find a reason to strike up a virtual discussion. If she or he served in the military, you already have an in. Maybe she or he went to that same University online program you are considering? Reach out and ask what she or he thought about the program or what advice they can offer for the application process. If you are feeling a little more social, ask if she or he would be willing to get a coffee to share their thoughts on their industry. If you are not ready for this, that is fine -- try a phone call or simply stick to emails. The point is to establish that you are passionate about the industry and are not there to ask them to help you, but to establish a rapport.

4. Follow up. Imagine a hypothetical where a job just opened up at the company of your dreams. Do you remember that person you connected with a couple of months ago, and she or he had just landed a cool job at that same company? Reach out and see if she or he can tell you their thoughts on the position. Convey that you are applying for the job and that any advice she or he may have to offer would be appreciated. The worst that could happen is that your contact does not care and ignores your email, but on the other side of that coin is a situation where your contact offers to look at your resume or even pass it on to the hiring manager who may be his or her friend. Do not ask for this, but follow up and hope that it will help you eventually. No one who has followed these steps has lost a job because of doing so, but a lot of us have found jobs through this style of networking.

5. Pay it forward. This step is just as important as the rest. You may be thinking that you already have the job, so who cares? Future-you cares, that is who. One reason to help others along the way is because it is the nice thing to do. If that is not enough, remember that these people you are giving advice to may one day be in a position to pass your resume to his or her friends, or even be the one to hire you. You can pay it forward simply by responding to emails and social media requests, or you might want to start a podcast, volunteer to coordinate a Meetup.com event, or start a relevant Facebook group. However you choose to pay it forward, your kindness will be noticed and likely rewarded.

Remember, networking should not be a scary word. You do not have to go to the bar and do keg stands to meet people (in fact, it is probably best to avoid that strategy). Take the professional approach, where you can target who you are connecting with instead of playing the random numbers game. And good luck!

## 7 TOOLS EVERY JOB SEEKER NEEDS

Boost your job search with brand new apps, oldfashioned tactics and everything in between. Smartphone apps can boost your LinkedIn presence, target employers, give you daily motivation and more.

If you are considering a job hunt or revamping your current search, these are the tools and apps you need to succeed in finding <u>your next</u> <u>opportunity</u>:

**1. Email signature**. Your email signature is possibly one of the most important branding tools you're not taking advantage of. It's your chance to let everyone know what your expertise is, how to contact you and where to learn more about you online. Employees are often required to add the company logo, tag line and contact information to email signatures. As job seekers, an email signature is a subtle way to remind people what you do.

*Quick tips*: The most important information to include is your name, phone number, email address, desired occupation and link to your LinkedIn profile. An easy solution is to use an app like WiseStamp to create and insert your signature.

2. Active and robust LinkedIn presence. LinkedIn has become the go-to source for companies of all sizes seeking talent. While your profile will be similar to your résumé, it is not exactly the same. LinkedIn is a social network where people share information. Besides having a profile rich in content and media, you should also share newsworthy articles to help build your online reputation and stay connected with your network. *Quick tips*: The most important information to include is your name, phone number, email address, desired occupation and link to your LinkedIn profile. An easy solution is to use an app like WiseStamp to create and insert your signature.

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*Quick tips*: You must have a headshot, a headline that describes what you do, and a summary where you tell your story. But don't stop there. Embed a presentation that summarizes your experience or includes testimonials. Have you downloaded the SlideShare app for LinkedIn? What about the LinkedIn Connected or Pulse apps? These tools give you a better mobile LinkedIn experience.

**3.** An easily accessible, on-the-go résumé. There will be occasions when someone wants you to send your résumé ASAP or when you arrive at an interview and your résumé is MIA. Save your résumés so you can easily access them and share them from your mobile device.

### 7 TOOLS EVERY JOB SEEKER NEEDS CONTINUED

*Quick tip*: Being able to access important documents from anywhere is critical not only in your job search, but at work, too. Learn how to save and share documents using Dropbox or Google Drive, which provide free storage and are easily accessible from any device.

**4. Business cards.** This may seem old-fashioned, but <u>business cards make life easier</u>. When you meet someone new or reconnect with an old friend, just hand him or her your card at the end of the conversation.

*Quick tip*: Your business card need only include the information you want to share: your name, occupation (or desired occupation), phone number, email address and links to any social media profiles, like your LinkedIn URL. If you want to use something more high-tech, try one of the apps that allows you to share your card from your phone, like CardDrop. Or pick up a business card with FullContact's Card Reader.

**5. Your perfected pitch**. You only have one chance to make a great first impression. Don't blow it. You'll need it when you meet people and they <u>ask what you do</u>. You'll also need one customized for every interview you take. Your pitch conveys what problem you can solve for an employer. Use words and language to ensure your unique style and personality come through. And avoid résumé-speak or jargon that isn't universally understood.

*Quick tip*: Keep your pitch under a minute, and practice so it sounds natural. If you need some guidance, check out the myPitch app created by Karalyn Brown of InterviewIQ.

**6. Target list of potential employers**. Rather than searching job boards all day, looking for the perfect job and getting lost in the black hole of applications, why not approach people inside companies you would like to work for? This route is more work up front, but it will help you stand out and rise to the top of the referral pile if you make the cut.

*Quick tip*: There are tons of apps for finding posted jobs, but what you really need is <u>additional help networking</u>. Don't miss Alison Doyle's new app called Career Tool Belt. It's loaded with job hunting tips, including the 30 Days to your Dream Job series to guide you day by day.

**7. A dose of motivation**. Job searching tends to lead to frustration. Rejection is an unfortunate part of the process. Invest time doing things that rejuvenate your energy and keep you feeling hopeful, such as exercising, volunteering or learning a new skill. Keep moving forward and create to-do lists and follow-up actions every day.

*Quick tip*: Whether you use a calendar system or an organizational app like Any.do, mapping out your weekly activities helps maintain momentum and puts you in the driver's seat.

## THE POWER OF THE VETERAN BRAND WHEN JOB SEARCHING

Aspects of military life, such as discipline and trainability, fit the needs of civilian employment.

Like any affinity group, veterans can fall into the trap of thinking that job searching is <u>harder</u> for them than anyone else. These days, nearly all elements of American society seem to be competing in a race to declare how many more challenges each of them face in the talent marketplace. Nonprofit advocacy groups and government programs unwittingly support this notion by focusing attention on the "veteran unemployment problem." It is no wonder that some veterans begin the posttransition career process with trepidation and negativity.

In truth, however, veterans as a group are a highly prized component of our nation's talent pool. The veteran job seeker starts the process with certain brand attributes that will give him or her an advantage in communicating value to a potential employer. Each veteran should consider these brand benefits and be ready to communicate facts and personal stories that support these presupposed notions on behalf of hiring managers and recruiters. Those who learn to communicate their value as employees in concordance with these attributes will find great success in their career search. Employers are already inclined to think this way about veterans, you just need to connect the dots for them.

**1. Teamwork.** Everyone knows that military operations necessitate teamwork on every level. Whether a veteran served in the combat arms, naval operations or in a supply depot, team above self is taught and reinforced every day. Sadly, this is not so in the civilian world, and yet demand for people who can work effectively with others is skyrocketing.

**2. Leadership.** From the first day of recruit or officer training, military personnel learn that leadership is about mission accomplishment and care for one's people. These same principles apply in the civilian world and employers are grateful to land the talents of veterans who can practice small and large team leadership.

**3. Personal Responsibility and Discipline.** One of the primary challenges for employers, believe it or not, is <u>employee reliability</u>. Getting personnel to show up ready for work and on time without influence of drugs or alcohol is shockingly more rare than one might think. Military veterans take for granted that to be on time means to be early and that personal responsibility and discipline are everyday requirements.

**4. Toughness.** Our media are replete with stories of "millennial snowflakes" who were raised on participation trophies by self-esteem obsessed helicopter parents. Few who have military experience conform to that generation stereotype. The veteran job seeker need only gently <u>remind an employer</u> that after sleeping on the ground or surviving boot camp, whatever challenges presented by the civilian workplace will pale by comparison.

### THE POWER OF THE VETERAN BRAND CONTINUED

**4. Trainability.** Considering the military can so routinely take an 18-year-old recruit and transform him into a jet mechanic, technician or foreign linguist, many veterans do not understand just how extraordinary such accomplishments are. Military-experienced personnel are used to being thrown into unfamiliar situations and adapting to the organization's needs. In the fast-paced economy of today, this ability to "train up" quickly and effectively is highly valued.

**5. Mission Orientation.** Most veterans were attracted to military service because they believed in something larger than themselves. This spirit of service is sorely needed in civilian organizations where poor morale can sap organizational effectiveness. Veterans will do what it takes to ethically and efficiently accomplish the task at hand. All civilian organizations need employees like that.

Civilian employers need quality employees and high-quality veterans generally make great employees. It is one of the reasons why veteran unemployment is <u>lower than national</u> <u>unemployment</u>. It is up to the individual job seeker, though, to <u>remind employers</u> of the strengths they offer. Learn your story, and tell it in a way that resonates with these veteran brand attributes, and you can expect success with your search.

## 5 THINGS TO CONSIDER WHEN YOU ARE PREPARING FOR A JOB INTERVIEW

Understand the employer's needs and how you fill them. Anticipate the sort of questions this specific employer is likely to ask you and practice reciting answers before your interview.

How do you see the job for which you are applying? Does it represent a needed paycheck, or a valued opportunity to utilize your knowledge, skills and abilities to make a difference? Is it a steppingstone to something else, or is it your ultimate dream job?

In order to land your ideal position, you need to go beyond the minimal investment of time and effort and instead reach for new levels of personal insight and interview preparedness. Here are five things to consider when preparing yourself for job interview success:

Take time to think about what it would mean if you were to land the job. How does this job meld with the overall arc of your career? Be sure you understand in your own head why this job makes sense for you, and why it makes sense for the employer to want to hire you. This means delving a lot deeper than just "It's a really cool company," or "I really need a job now and this one will give me the paycheck I need to pay the rent."

### 5 THINGS TO CONSIDER WHEN YOU ARE PREPARING FOR A JOB INTERVIEW CONTINUED

What is the <u>story of your career</u> to date? What common threads are there among your current and former jobs, and how does this opportunity fit with the rest? This is the story that your interviewer needs to understand.

**1. Use the employer's products or services.** Be prepared to talk about how your potential employer makes life easier, boosts productivity, helps the earth or whatever it is they do. You can then be certain to say something like, "I've used your company's products and was really impressed with them because ..." or "I'd love to be involved with your company because you have such positive business values."

2. Anticipate questions and practice your answers out loud. Standard interview books will prep you for the "Tell me about yourself," and "What are your greatest strengths and weaknesses?" questions. But that's just the beginning.

**3.** Be prepared to expand on any <u>bullet</u> <u>point on your resume</u> into a concise but descriptive story.

**If you aren't accustomed to interviewing,** it's not enough to know that these questions will be posed. Have a spouse, partner or friend toss you one question after another. And if you don't have someone to work with you, practice your answers standing in front of a mirror looking yourself in the eye. 4. Mind your body language and posture. Interviewers are trained to gain insights about your emotions and attitude by carefully examining your body language. If you slouch in your seat, don't look your interviewer in the eye, have your arms crossed in front of you, continually look down or stare at the beautiful view out the window, he or she will likely conclude that you aren't interested, are too relaxed, too defensive, too nervous or are simply not present in the moment. Even if you have the right set of skills and achievements, you'll likely be passed over.

5. Take a moment to think about the answers before you give them. One of the biggest errors job seekers make is to speak without forethought. It is fine to take a breath or two before you answer any question. Remember to speak clearly, neither whispering nor demonstrating your angst. If you are over-prepared, you are likely to blurt out rehearsed answers to questions that aren't asked, rather than keying in on what your interviewer is really interested in hearing from you.

It is fine to ask for clarification if you aren't 100 percent certain what a question is asking. And, rather than go on with a long answer to a question, stop after a few sentences and ask if this is the direction the interviewer is intending that you take. If not, make a mid-course correction to prevent interviewer boredom.

Of course, there are many other fine points for interview preparation. But if you make certain to walk in with a broad <u>understanding of</u> <u>yourself</u> and how you represent a strong solution to an employer's needs, you'll likely be starting your new job soon.

## 6 WAYS TO MAKE THE MOST OUT OF YOUR ONLINE NETWORK

How to make sure you are effectively leveraging one of your greatest professional assets, check in from time to time with your LinkedIn connections to strengthen professional relationships.

While giving the commencement speech at the University of Massachusetts Lowell in 2014, award-winning science educator Bill Nye said, "Everyone you will ever meet knows something that you don't."

Keep this quote in mind when you are networking, even in your online network. It's true! You can learn something new from everyone you interact with in your network, virtually or otherwise. So keep an open mind when you're communicating with your network and realize that everyone you connect with could have something to teach you, whether you are searching for a job or not. Your network is a critical piece to your career success, no matter what stage you are in <u>career-wise</u> and regardless of whether you are in transition or not.

Let's focus here on your <u>online network</u>. Take a look at how many people you are connected with on LinkedIn. Now imagine how many new things you would know if each one of them gave you one piece of advice. You would probably feel a lot more equipped to face some of the issues you deal with at work or in the arc of your career. If you don't feel that you are learning anything from your network currently, that means it's stagnant and it's time to jump-start your networking efforts. How can you be sure that you are getting the most out of what your online network has to offer?

1. Join groups. If you're not in any professional online groups, find some to join. It doesn't have to be 10 of them, because you want to ensure you have time to participate in each of them. Try them out for a few months to see if they are helpful and effective. If they're not, drop out and find other ones. If you currently belong to a few groups, great. But are you truly interested in what the groups have to say? That is a mistake that many make. When we first join a social network, we tend to sign up for everything without considering if it's something that we could really contribute to. Groups are an effective way to learn new information. But to make the most out of a professional group, it has to be an active group and the topic should be something you really want to learn about, or that you care about. And remember that belonging to a group on LinkedIn is a two-way street. Your group will value your input as much as you value theirs, so participate frequently. Respond to others and create your own posts.

**2. Respond to prompts.** LinkedIn makes it easy to stay in touch with your networking contacts. It alerts you when someone reaches a career milestone, when they have taken a new job and more. Take a few moments to write your congratulations to your connections. This is a very simple way to stay in touch with your connections and keep the door open for more conversation.

### 6 WAYS TO MAKE THE MOST OUT OF YOUR ONLINE NETWORK CONTINUED

**3. Connect with co-workers.** Yes, your conversations with your co-workers don't have to stop at the end of the workday. It can be helpful to stay connected with the people you work with and make your relationships more meaningful. For example, if one of your co-workers writes a regular blog, you may feel a new appreciation for her and value her work more. This can not only help you have a more positive viewpoint of your co-workers and work more effectively together, you may learn something new about them and an expertise they have that you can leverage.

4. Connect with new people. Set the goal of connecting with at least one new person every month. However, don't connect with someone simply because other people in your network know them. Pick someone you would honestly like to connect with and try to learn something from. It could be a business professional you admire because they have achieved their career goals at a young age, a successful entrepreneur or someone in a management position you would like to have someday. Don't connect with people just to increase the number of your connections. Make your connections matter. And, of course, when someone asks to connect with you, write them a personalized message thanking them and let them know you'd like to keep in touch from time to time.

**5. Keep in touch.** It's easy to make a connection, but it's another story to stay in touch with your connections on a regular basis. Schedule some time each week to keep up with your network, aside from the time you use to participate in groups.

If you have a larger number of connections, this can feel overwhelming, so break your network up into groups. One week, check in on your network connections in group A, the following week check in on your connections in group B, etc. This will allow you to stay connected and forge a stronger bond with your professional network.

**Share what you know.** While you can learn a lot from your networking connections, share the wealth, as well! Share articles and posts that matter to you, adding your opinion on what you have shared. Consider writing articles from time to time about your work experience and how to successfully deal with common challenges.

## Advertise with The MEA

To find out more, or to see how costeffective our advertising program can be for your firm, simply download our advertising rate card.

View more details: http://www.MarineEA.org/ads

Download Advertising Rate Card: http://marineea.org/ads/2014 advertisingprogram.pdf

## BLENDING IN TO CIVILIAN LIFE AFTER LEAVING THE MILITARY

Transitioning from active duty to civilian life can be a difficult journey. One minute you are focused on searching for a job, the next you are worrying about finding your new home. Sometimes you feel like everything is going great and sometimes you feel like you've been put inside a blender and poured out into a frosty mug. And to top it all off, there is the realization that you are transitioning from a world where people understand what you are going through to a world where very few will understand your struggle.

#### Where Everybody Knows Your Name

Sometimes you want to be where everybody knows your name. It's tough not to think of the TV show Cheers when I say that, but the song rings true. Most people enjoy being in places where they feel accepted, a place where they feel like they belong. After 12 years on active duty, I felt like I belonged. My problems were not much different than anyone else's and most people have been through whatever you're going through. This became obvious to me when I would talk to friends who had been through the transition process. They'd ask me how things were going and what I was up to these days. I'd say, "Working my way through transition," and immediately they understand what that means. They understand the turmoil that you are probably going through. They understand the difficulty. And they understand how mentally challenging it can be just to fit into your new life.

I can remember speaking with a civilian one day and I mentioned that I recently transitioned from active duty. I can recall the deer in the headlights look as they struggled to understand why that bit of information mattered to them. "Oh ... congratulations," he replied quietly. For the first time in over 12 years, I felt like I was in a place where NO ONE knew my name.

#### **Blending in Means Adjusting**

There's no doubt that life is different outside of the military. For me, blending into my new civilian life meant adjusting to the differences and learning how I would fit into this new life. Learning to speak civilian was important because terms like PCS, PMCS, PT, and COB don't normally translate to how people speak outside of the military. Another thing that I needed to pay attention to, was how I dressed. While I was on active duty, my selection of civilian clothing was limited. After all, I wore the same outfit Monday through Friday and generally wore things to relax in on the weekends. Now I find myself staring into my closet trying to figure out what to wear. I've gone from choosing two or three outfits a week to trying to fill seven whole days with a different outfit.

Another area that I realized I would need to blend in to is the workplace. This is one of the toughest areas because it seems like everything I do sticks out like a sore thumb. In my new career, I actually have to take a lunch and remember that work ends at a specific time, not when the mission is complete. I am outside of all the inside jokes, and few of my relate to normal workplace stories conversations. Taking the time to think about the ways that I feel like I am not guite fitting in can be overwhelming, so I definitely need to find a way to blend into this new life.

### BLENDING IN TO CIVILIAN LIFE AFTER LEAVING THE MILITARY CONTINUED

#### **Blending in Means Finding the Balance**

Adjusting to civilian life and blending in means that we must find a balance between who we were in the military and who we want to be outside of the military. One thing that I realized is that I am very different from many people in the civilian world, but that isn't a bad thing. Less than 1 percent of Americans choose to take the path that veterans take, so naturally veterans will have different stories, different experiences and therefore may blend in differently. Transitioning from active duty to civilian life requires finding balance as you navigate the difficulties of blending into this new life. One of the best qualities that many of us have learned from being in the military is being able to adapt to new environments. I realized that I didn't need to be a different person, I just needed to adapt to a new situation. Besides, there are always enough veterans around who are always glad you came.

## LIFE AFTER THE MARINE CORPS

It is important that you clearly understand that what your life is like after you have served in the Marine Corps is not always dictated by what you did in the Corps. Just because you served does not mean your civilian life will now be easier or that jobs will come looking for you. It also doesn't mean that you will be vaulted onto Wall St., or that you will end up homeless. You are most likely going to succeed or fail in this life regardless of your service in the USMC, or not.

Basically when you leave the Marines it will be very similar as to when you graduated high school or college in the sense that you will, or may, feel lost, unable to fit in, hesitant, or you may just want to take a year off or so and relax. The amount of time you serve also plays a huge role in how smoothly you can transition back to civilian life. Obviously the less time you serve, the easier it will be to adapt. Don't buy into the baloney that after serving just one enlistment you will be so drastically changed that you won't be able to adjust to society and this applies to any Marine Corps job, including infantry. How quickly you adapt back to the civilian world will depend on your character/person, length of service, what job you had, and whether you experienced something that may of traumatized you. We are all different, so how quickly we adapt is going to vary from person to person.

### LIFE AFTER THE MARINE CORPS CONTINUED

#### "What kind of job can I get after leaving the

**Marines"** is a very common question many of us ask. It all comes down to you. No job is going to hire you just because you were a Marine. Any job you apply for you still must pass their hiring process regardless of what you did in the Corps. And just because you did a job in the Marines that you think translates to a civilian job, this isn't going to get you a free pass into that civilian job. I cannot stress this point enough: *At the end of the day you are the one who must sell yourself to any prospective employer in order to get hired and serving in the USMC isn't a free pass into any job you may want.* 

You also need to remember that the Corps is not in the business of giving you future job skills, but they are getting better at it since it helps with recruiting. If this happens while you serve, then great. If it doesn't then remember, it is a Marine Corps and not a job corps program. The cold hard truth about why many Marine veterans struggle once they leave the Corps is simply because this is who they are and regardless if they served or not, they were bound to have trouble finding work no matter what.

Any job you do in the Marines will help you once you get out, and very few jobs translate directly into civilian jobs. Contrary to popular belief, if you wanted to be in law enforcement one you get out, you do not have to be an MP while in the Marines. It is not necessary and the two jobs are very different. What matters most is that you served honorably. If you suck at doing job interviews, then you may have a hard time landing any job. *If a person with no military experience and you apply for the same job, then the one who best sells himself will be the one who gets the job.*  Once again, just being in the Marines doesn't mean you just get any job you want. You still have to get out there and apply just like everyone else, and you must be able to present/sell yourself. Law enforcement jobs and federal jobs have a tough interview process and this is where most people fail. Not all of us can be interviewed and present ourselves, so be aware of your strengths and weaknesses. If you have a specific career field you want to go into once you get out, then yes, doing that job in the Marines will really help. Keep in mind that at the ages of 17-21 most of us do not know what we want to do later on in life. So when you pick a job in the Corps that you can use later on in life, you are assuming you will enjoy this job as a career, and we all know how most young adults love to change their minds often.

AND LETS BE VERY HONEST: Many Marines when they get out will not be able to find work do to a wide range of reasons. Many of us struggle to find work regardless if we served or not. My proof is this: Take a look at how many 18-25 year olds who have not served are out of work or cannot find work. So why would you think that by serving you are now better than them and that jobs will be begging you to come work for them? Just keep in mind we are all different and not all of us are made to have a cool fancy successful job. That is just how life works and this is the cold hard truth. Many people who get out of any branch end up working at McDonalds or Walmart.

### Marines in Transition

### LIFE AFTER THE MARINE CORPS CONTINUED

Most Marines get out, and become very successful. In many cases the reason is simple. Many most likely would have been a success regardless if they served or not. Service makes them much stronger in the civilian job. Once again, we are not all the same; so do not expect to have the success that others have. Life doesn't work like that. Not all of us come from the same backgrounds or social status. So for many of us, once we get out we have nothing to come home to, while others have a family business to come home to or a very stable environment or have many more options.

To wrap up this topic: If a Marine or anyone else tells you to pick a job that will teach you a trade which can be used in the civilian world. this is not wrong advice. If a Marine or anyone else tells you to not worry about future job skills and to just pick a job you want to do, this advice is also not wrong. We all join for our own reasons and each of you needs to decide why you want to enlist and what you hope to gain from enlisting. Society often judges military veterans incorrectly. If a veteran is not successful as a civilian, many will blame his military service. If a veteran is successful, many will praise the military. You have to actually sit down and interview each veteran to see how their military service may of affected them as civilians. It's not as simple as you serving in the Marines and you will either emerge a success or failure.

### Job Networking Events

#### MEA Members Assisting Marines in Transition





## **MEA 2017 Board Membership**

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Public Relations	Vacant	publicrelations@marineea.org
Résumé Assistance	Chuck Anderson	Resumes@MarineEA.org
Quantico Luncheon	Lester Niblock	Quantico_Luncheon@MarineEA.org
Quantico TRS	Ed Yarnell	Quantico_TAP@MarineEA.org
Webmaster M4L Representative	Will Donaldson Joshua Tuttle	Webmaster@MarineEA.org m4l@marineea.org
Wounded Warrior Representative	Bill Peters	WWR@MarineEA.org
Chapter Representatives	Name	eMail
Camp Pendleton Chapter President	Steve Fisher	pendletonchapter@marineea.org
New York City Chapter President	Vacant	newyorkchapter@marineea.org
Atlanta Chapter President North East Ohio President	Vacant Vacant	atlantachapter@marineea.org NEOChapter@MarineEA.org
Camp LeJeune Chapter President	Vacant	lejeunechapter@marineea.org

### Marines in Transition

## **Upcoming Events**



May 10, 2017 MEA Networking Luncheon Henderson Hall

June 16, 2017 MEA Networking Luncheon Quantico

Camp Pendleton Chapter The MEA Camp Pendleton Chapter meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of every month on Camp Pendleton

View a listing of events and job fair on the MEA Calendar www.marineea.org

## UPCOMING CAREER FAIRS

Corporate Gray Job Fairs www.corporategray.com/jobfairs/

> Job Zone Career Fairs www.jobzoneonline.com/

Orion International www.orioninternational.com/

DAV All Veterans Career Fairs www.dav.org/