



**Veterans Task Force Initial Meeting**  
**October 18, 2023, 10:00 – 11:30 am EDT**  
**Via zoom**

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**Attending:** Commissioner Whitney Allen, Dallas Kratzer, Paula Payne, Richard Carullo, Nicki Stewart, Deputy Secretary Keith Jackson, Zach Morgan, Sarah Stoll, Derek Poor, Jad Davis, James Iacocca,

**Administrative Staff:** Debbie Dennison, Elishah Taylor, LaChrista Ellis

**Welcome and Overview**

**Whitney Allen, Commissioner, KY Department of Military Affairs (KDMA)** welcomed everyone and thanked them for their time. He spoke about the importance of all the resources available to veterans, military personnel, transitioning service members, and their families (et al). He shared his enthusiasm that this group was coming together to identify all the resources and create a sustainable and easy location for access as the veteran population transitions from active service. He asked **Debbie Dennison, Deputy Executive Director, of the Kentucky Workforce Innovation Board (KWIB)** to walk through the exercises for discussion.

**Group Discussion:**

**Debbie** shared that the goal of the day's discussion was brought about by the August 2023 Education and Workforce Collaborative (Collaborative) board meeting. In the meeting, one of the most important challenges lifted for veterans in Kentucky is being able to identify all resources available. **Beth Brinly, the Deputy Secretary of the Education and Labor Cabinet (ELC), and the Chair of the Collaborative** recommended the creation of a Task Force. The Task Force will be responsible for creating a comprehensive list of available resources and aligning them to make it easier for veterans to access the information they need. This streamlined support system will help veterans to better navigate the resources available to them. A list was created using a Google [Jamboard](#), which includes the following items:

- United Way of the Bluegrass – 211 / KYNECT
- KCTCS Veterans Program
- Veteran's Club

- ETS – Sponsor Program: <https://etssponsorship.com/>
- Marriott 100,000 points for transitioning servicemembers
- Kcc.ky.gov - Department of Workforce Development (DWD): Adult Education, Vocational Rehabilitation, Career Development Office, Office of Employer and Apprenticeship Services
- Volunteers of America
- SHRM Veteran Ambassador Program: <https://store.shrm.org/SHRM-Foundation-Veterans-at-Work-Certificate-Program>
- USA Cares – HVRP Homeless Veterans’ Reintegration Program
- USA Cares – CSP Corporate Fellowship Program
- Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE) – using military credit recommendations for degree completion
- Employment Resource Groups (e.g., Humana, GE Appliance, etc.)
- DOD SkillBridge
- Kentucky Department for Veterans Affairs (KDVA): <https://veterans.ky.gov/Pages/index.aspx> (Benefit and Trust fund sections)
- KDVA Veteran’s Employment and Training Support Program (KyVETS)
- Kentucky Commission for Military Affairs (KCMA)
- Kentucky VALOR
- Veterans Reintegration Program
- JVSG / Wagner Peyser
- Department for Aging and Independent Living Programs (DAIL)
- Knox Regional Alliance
- PsychArmor- Helping
- VSO Leadership
- Kentucky Chamber Military Hiring Academy – teaching employers how to find/hire/retain veterans, service members, and their spouses.
- DoD COOL Program – Credentialing Opportunities Online: <https://www.cool.osd.mil/>

**Additional resources provided within the chat include:**

- Role/mission/purpose of key organizations in the Greater Louisville Region:
  - a. Ft. Knox/Ft. Campbell Soldier for Life – Transition Assistance Programs (SFL-TAP): SFL-TAP provides training, resources, and one-on-one counseling to service members and their families transitioning to the civilian workforce. SFL-TAP provides networking opportunities for veterans and employer partners through their weekly employer days, job fairs, and information seminars.

b. United States Army Recruiting Command (USAREC): USAREC is responsible for recruiting the US Army +70K entry-level skilled soldiers including the Army Reserve and National Guard. Its Partnership for Youth Success (PaYS) Program partners with a cross-section of private industry, academia, businesses and state and local public institutes to grant interviews and hire veterans after their completion of the military obligations, for Reservists/Guardsman (part-time Soldiers), completion of their initial training.

c. Veteran Community Alliance of Louisville (VCAL): The Veterans Community Alliance of Louisville was established in 2014 as a means for coordinating veterans services in Louisville and promoting veteran-friendly community relations. VCAL is a comprehensive network, comprised of veterans, veteran service providers, and other community members who care about the state of veteran services and veteran relations in Jefferson County.

d. Kentucky Career Centers (KCC) Local Veteran Employment Representatives (LVRs) Program: The LVR program conducts outreach to employers and engages in efforts to increase the employment opportunities available to veterans and encourage the hiring of Veterans. The Local Veterans Employment Representatives work with other agencies and providers to facilitate priority services to Veterans.

e. Employer Support of the Reserves and Guard (ESRG): ESRG, a Department of Defense program, was established in 1972 to promote cooperation and understanding between Reserve Component Service members and their civilian employers and to assist in the resolution of conflicts arising from an employee's military commitment.

f. Small Business Administration (Louisville Office): Can identify or promote veteran-owned businesses to support Louisville's water contracts and projects.

*Identify Communities Served (areas): As a whole, all organizations' missions overlap and benefit various areas in the Greater Louisville Region, the state of Kentucky, and the United States. This provides a very large veteran talent pool ranging from transitioning military personnel seeking new civilian careers, veterans wishing to change civilian careers, disabled veterans, and unemployed veterans.*

**Specific areas identified to serve/recruit veteran talent:**

- Ft. Knox Military Installation: Population of +5,000 military personnel. Averages 40 transitioning veterans per month.
- Ft. Campbell Military Installation: Population of +29,000 military personnel. Averages 400 transitioning veterans per month.
- State of Kentucky: population of +300K veterans. +166K are work eligible (18-64). +30 veteran-owned businesses.

- City of Louisville/Jefferson: Population of +15K veterans living in the city and county. Target areas include the West End, Smoketown, and other disadvantaged areas with the highest unemployment and disproportionately underemployed workers.

### **Recommendations where to share KY Veterans Resources**

The second portion of the exercise was to lift up locations where these resources might be shared. We can look at one location ultimately or multiple. The following were lifted:

- ESGR Office
- SCG South
- Purple Star – MIC3 program
- Career Center – [kcc.ky.gov](http://kcc.ky.gov)
- KCMA
- KDVA
- Regional Veteran Benefits Administration (VBA) – Louisville KY
- Tourism Department
- Economic Development Commission
- Cabinet for Health and Family Services
- KY Transportation Cabinet
- Local Workforce Boards
- 211 / [kynect.ky.gov](http://kynect.ky.gov)
- [Kyvets.ky.gov](http://Kyvets.ky.gov)

Additional discussion included an upcoming Veterans Employment & Training Symposium (VETS) to be held on November 16<sup>th</sup> through partnerships between, KCTCS, Adult Education, KCMA, KWIB, KY Chamber, and others. 200 employers are expected to be in attendance. The goal is to engage employers to become part of the SkillBridge eco-system through registering on the DOD website: <https://skillbridge.osd.mil/military-members.htm> and with the state SkillBridge office: <https://klecs.ky.gov/military-to-law-enforcement>, to engage servicemembers who are within one year of leaving military service and presenting them with employment opportunities in the state.

It was brought to the group's attention that when attempting to facilitate information, creating a pipeline beginning with the Veterans Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty or DD-214 form is especially important. Pertinent information can be given to employers so that Veterans will be employment-ready upon relocation. This information also can be provided to state agencies, so they are able to participate in certain programs.

Additional discussion was had about other support agencies and networks. Commissioner Allen thanked the task force members for their ideas and participation. He recommended next agenda topics might include the subsequent steps on this information, a six-month strategy program for veteran integration, recruitment, and legislative discussion, amongst others.

**11:10 am EDT ADJOURNMENT**



EDUCATION AND  
LABOR CABINET

## **Veterans Task Force Initial Meeting Briefing Book**

October 18, 2023

10:00 – 11:30 am EDT

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**Veterans Task Force Initial Meeting**  
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**Table of Contents**

	Page
Agenda .....	4
Information From Partners:	
Department for Aging and Independent Living Programs (DIAL) Services .....	5
Homeless Veterans’ Reintegration Program .....	7
Kentucky Career Center - Jobs for Veterans State Grants (JVSG) .....	8
Kentucky Commission on Military Affairs (KCMA) Military Community Support Paper .....	9
Kentucky Community & Technical College Military + Veterans Information .....	10
Knox Regional Alliance Veteran .....	11
Lincoln Trail Workforce Development Board (LTWDB) Annual Report Narrative .....	12
Veterans - West Kentucky Workforce Board .....	14
Purple Star Award .....	15
Task Force WELCOME – Kentucky .....	16
United Way – Bluegrass (UWBG) 211 United Way .....	19
Veteran’s Club .....	20
Volunteers of America (VOA) .....	21
Kentucky Veterans Accelerated Licensure Occupational Recruitment (KY Valor) .....	22





## Veterans Task Force Work Group Meeting

**Topic: Veterans Task Force Initial Meeting**

**Time: Oct 18, 2023 10:00 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)**

**Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89309120038?pwd=NHF3aGp2cU50Q2dFNTZNNTI4NHZydz09>

**Meeting ID: 893 0912 0038 / Passcode: 354363**

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10:00AM      **CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

**Welcome and Overview**..... *Whitney Allen*  
*Commissioner, Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs*

**Group Discussion:**

- **Compilation of Veterans Resources in KY**
- **Information Repository**

**11:30am EST ADJOURNMENT**

## Department for Aging and Independent Living Programs (DAIL)

### **Hart Supported Living (HSL)**

This program provides funds for supports to help Kentuckians with disabilities live in their homes and communities and avoid institutionalization.

### **Personal Care Attendant Program (PCAP)**

The program helps severely, physically disabled adults at risk of being institutionalized to live in their own homes and communities by subsidizing costs of personal attendant services.

### **Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)**

The TBI Trust Fund was established to help individuals with a brain injury maintain the highest quality of life possible through its services and supports.

### **Home and Community Based Waiver**

The Home and Community Based (HCB) Waiver is part of Kentucky's 1915(c) HCBS Medicaid Waiver program. HCB provides assistance to the elderly or to adults and children with physical disabilities to help them live in the community as independently as possible.

### **Homecare**

The Homecare Program provides in-home services and supports for individuals 60 and older with functional disabilities who are at risk for long term institutionalization.

### **Title IIIB**

The Older Americans Act (OAA) Title III B Supportive Services Program provides a variety of services for seniors, age 60 and older to address functional limitations, maintain health and independence, promote access to services, and more.

### **Title III C1 – Congregate Meal**

This program serves meals in a group (congregate) setting to individuals aged 60 and older. Sites may also provide nutrition education, nutrition risk screening and nutrition counseling.

### **Title III C2 – Home Delivered Meal**

This program provides Home Delivered meals and related nutrition services for older adults.

### **Title IIIE**

Federally funded program that helps caregivers improve the health and well-being of the elderly in their care and to provide caregivers with information, training, and assistance.

### **Title IIID**

Provides evidence-based disease prevention and health promotion services to seniors.

### **KY Caregiver**

State funded program whose purpose is to support grandparents who are providing primary care for a grandchild under the age of 18 years of age. Services may include financial and supportive services.

### **Ombudsman**

The Kentucky Long-Term Care Ombudsman program advocates for residents of nursing homes, personal care homes and family care homes, as well as, improving care and encouraging positive change at all levels.

### **State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP)**

State Health Insurance Assistance Program is a national program that offers one-on-one counseling and assistance to individuals with Medicare and their families.

### **Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRC)**

Kentucky has 15 Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRC) throughout the state that provide a single point of entry for consumers to access aging and disability information, referrals, programs and services. The Barren River, Pennyrite, Green River and Lake Cumberland AAA's, offer the Veteran Directed Home and Community Based Services Program in their areas. The KY Regional Planning and Development Agency (KIPDA), the University of Louisville, and the Veterans Administration, formed a coalition to help veterans needing assistance in accessing VA services.

### **Adult Guardianship Program**

This program currently serves 90 veterans and 37 dependents of veterans, whereby CHFS has been appointed by district courts as guardian, limited guardian, conservator or limited conservator, per KRS 210.290.



U.S. Department of Labor  
Veterans' Employment and Training Service

# HOMELESS VETERANS' REINTEGRATION PROGRAM



## ABOUT THE HOMELESS VETERANS' REINTEGRATION PROGRAM



The Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Program (HVRP) is an employment focused competitive grant program of the Department of Labor Veterans' Employment and Training Service (DOL VETS). It is the only federal grant to focus exclusively on competitive employment for veterans experiencing homelessness. HVRP's core objectives is to provide services to assist in reintegrating veterans experience homelessness into meaningful employment and to stimulate the development of effective service delivery systems that will address the complex problems facing homeless veterans.

## SUPPORT FOR VETERANS



HVRP is intended to support veterans experiencing homelessness to reintegrate into society through participation in the workforce. Employment alone cannot end veteran homelessness, instead, employment is one piece of the picture, an important part of a complex delivery system that depends on close and productive collaboration between multiple providers to address the needs and barriers of veterans experiencing homelessness. The role of HVRP is to support veteran job seekers to confront and overcome barriers and challenges that prevent them from finding and retaining good jobs.

## THE NATIONAL VETERANS' TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CENTER



The National Veterans' Technical Assistance Center (NVTAC) provides training and technical assistance to HVRP grantees and other organizations who are committed to helping veterans experiencing homelessness find employment. DOL VETS funds NVTAC to provide programmatic support to HVRP grantees at no cost. NVTAC offers a variety of products and services including one-on-one consultations, customized training, web-based training, best practices, and a robust community of practice.

# 1987

The year HVRP was authorized under the *Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act*

# 166

The number of federal grants that enable recipients to provide a wide range of services to homeless veterans and those at risk of homelessness.

# 47%

The percentage decrease of the number of veterans experiencing homelessness between 2010-2016

Scan the QR code to the right to learn more about JVSG, or visit:  
[www.dol.gov/agencies/vets/programs/hvrp](http://www.dol.gov/agencies/vets/programs/hvrp)





The Jobs for Veterans State Grants (JVSG) program provides federal funding, through a formula grant, to 54 State Workforce Agencies (SWAs) to hire dedicated staff to provide individualized career and training-related services to veterans and eligible persons with significant barriers to employment and to assist employers fill their workforce needs with job-seeking veterans.

**Program Staff:** The JVSG program supports the Disabled Veterans' Outreach Program (DVOP) specialist position, Local Veterans' Employment Representative (LVER) staff, and Consolidated Position staff. DVOP specialists provide individualized career services to veterans with significant barriers to employment, with the maximum emphasis directed toward serving veterans who are economically or educationally disadvantaged. Veterans with barriers include homeless veterans and vocational rehabilitation clients. Local Veterans' Employment Representatives conduct outreach to employers and business associations and engage in advocacy efforts with hiring executives to increase employment opportunities for veterans and encourage the hiring of disabled veterans. Consolidated Position staff serve in a dual role as DVOP and LVER.

#### Available Services

- Priority of Service
- Career assessments
- Job search assistance
- Interview preparation
- Labor market information
- Resume and cover letter assistance
- Access to computers and internet service
- Translating military experience to civilian responsibilities
- Specialized services for veterans with disabilities through our Office of Vocational Rehabilitation
- Connections to area Veteran Service Organizations

Visit <https://kcc.ky.gov/veterans/Pages/default.aspx> for more information.

# Kentucky Commission on Military Affairs (KCMA)

## Military Community Support

June 2, 2023

The Kentucky Commission on Military Affairs (KCMA) was created to serve as a watchdog for the military community in Kentucky, particularly related to potential Base Realignment and Closing (BRAC) actions, and to be a bridge for bringing programs across the Commonwealth together to benefit military, veterans and their families. We are a two-person team in the Office of the Governor consisting of Brigadier General (Retired) Steve Bullard in the Executive Director role and Stacey Shane as Executive Advisor. We are facilitators leveraging relationships to facilitate military community success through advocacy to state, business, community, military and legislative leadership across the Commonwealth.

Our primary focus activities are as follows:

- Protect and Grow DoD Installations and Activities
- Expand the Economic Impact of KY's Defense-Related Industry
- Develop and Implement the Model for Transitioning Servicemembers, Veterans & Spouses
- Establish KY as the Most Military Friendly State in the Nation and Grow Veteran and Retiree Populations
- Communicate Strategically and Gain Inter-Agency, Inter-Governmental and Public-Private Partnership Support for Strong Military Advocacy

Here are some current ways KCMA is supporting Transitioning Servicemembers, Veterans & Spouses:

- Legislative advocacy to the Kentucky General Assembly
  - For a detailed assessment, see <https://kcma.ky.gov/Legislation/Pages/default.aspx>
  - DOD-priority military spouse occupational licensing legislation and much more
- State Commissioner for the Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission (MIC3)
  - Advocates for transitioning military families and facilitates case resolution
- Chair of the Kentucky Purple Star Schools Advisory Council
  - 42 K-12 schools now participating to support military-connected students/families
- Partnership with the Christian County Military Affairs Coalition
  - Currently developing a program with the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce and Kentucky Society of Human Resource Managers (KYSHRM) on the potential for an "academy" program to train employers on outreach to transitioning military/veterans/spouses
- Partnership through Senior Associate Dr. Dallas Kratzer with the Council on Postsecondary Education for development of a Kentucky Collegiate Purple Star Schools Program
- Partnership with the Kentucky Workforce Innovation Board (KWIB) Veterans and Transitioning Servicemembers (VATS) committee, co-chaired by Dr. Kratzer and Jason Hutchinson
  - Developing the concept for creating "Task Force WELCOME" (Workforce and Education Leveraging Communities for Military Employment), an office focused on utilizing the Department of Defense (DOD) SkillBridge program to attract transitioning servicemembers to employment opportunities in Kentucky
- Stood up the University of Louisville \$2M Cybersecurity Certifications, Careers, & Communities (C4) program through a 2-year, \$2M DOD Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation grant
- Working with the Council of State Governments (CSG) and Kentucky employers to appraise them of our Department of Defense SkillBridge/Army Career Skills Program efforts and the potential to grow a related workforce development program to help Kentucky employers identify and facilitate hiring of transitioning military servicemembers and their spouses
- Creation of the Kentucky Military-to-Law-Enforcement (M2LE) program
- Eastern Kentucky University (EKU) Nursing program recognition of American Council on Education credit recommendations for the Army Practical Nursing Military Occupational Specialty
  - EKU is a national leader in this and other military accreditation efforts



KCTCS has made significant strides to enhance support of our military and veteran students at our 16 colleges. The establishment of Veterans Resource Centers at each college is a testament to our commitment to providing a conducive environment for veterans to thrive academically and personally. With eight centers in place and eight more under development, veteran students will have dedicated spaces to access tailored services, receive specialized assistance, and connect with fellow veterans.

In addition, the implementation of a new Veterans enrollment reporting function in KCTCS' student information system marks a significant milestone in streamlining administrative processes. This enables more efficient tracking and reporting of veteran enrollments, ensuring accurate data collection and analysis. By effectively managing veteran enrollment data, we can better understand the needs and trends of this student population, leading to improved support and targeted initiatives.

Furthermore, KCTCS has taken a proactive approach to recognize the value of military experience and expedite the transition of veterans through their academic journey. The awarding of credit for military training and experience acknowledges the skills and knowledge gained during military service, shortening their time to program completion.

Our Strategic Objectives for 2023-2024 are:

1. Enhance Veteran Support Services. Continuously improve and expand the range of support services KCTCS offers to veterans, ensuring their seamless transition into academic life and fostering their overall success.
2. Strengthen Partnerships. Forge strategic partnerships with military units, community organizations, employers, and veteran support agencies to leverage resources and expertise in providing comprehensive support to our veteran students.
3. Improve Data Management. Develop and implement robust systems to collect, analyze, and report KCTCS veteran enrollment data to inform evidence-based decision-making, program enhancements, and resource allocation.
4. Promote Military Credit Recognition. Expand KCTCS' award of Credit for Prior Learning (CPL) for their military courses and experience to save veteran students time and money on their degree or certificate.
5. Expand Outreach and Awareness. Increase visibility and awareness of KCTCS's commitment to supporting veteran students through targeted outreach efforts, marketing campaigns, and community engagement initiatives.

By aligning our efforts with these strategic objectives, KCTCS will continue to improve the educational experience and outcomes for our veteran and military students, empowering them to achieve their academic and career aspirations.

**Contacts:** • Military Services – Mr. DeMarcus Hopson ([demarcus.hopson@kctcs.edu](mailto:demarcus.hopson@kctcs.edu))  
• Military Credit – Dr. Kendrah Winters-Pearson ([kendrah.pearson@kctcs.edu](mailto:kendrah.pearson@kctcs.edu))

**Memo For:** Debbie Dennison

**Subject:** KRDA Support to Military Veterans

1. **Background.** The Knox Regional Development Alliance (KRDA) is a community-based non-profit organization focused on promoting and protecting Fort Knox to increase its economic impact on the Greater Fort Knox Region and the commonwealth of Kentucky.
2. **Organizational Goals.** KRDA has four stated goals:
  1. Advocate for new missions and retain existing missions at Fort Knox
  2. Expand defense contractor business and presence in the region
  3. Develop more public-public and public-private partnerships
  4. **Advocate and facilitate improved support for Soldiers and their families**
3. **Military-connected Workforce Development.**

Our fourth goal is where our work often intersects with military-connected workforce development activities. A defense community's support to Soldiers and their families and the region's broader military-connected population (veterans, retirees) plays a critical role on whether an installation is considered positively for growth opportunities. KRDA works closely with numerous community partners to advocate and facilitate that support. For example:

  - KRDA worked with Lincoln Trail Workforce Development Board, the Kentucky Career Centers-Lincoln Trail, Fort Knox Army Community Services and Army Human Resources Command to develop a first of its kind spouse employment model of support whereby military spouses can connect with no-cost employment support even before they arrive at Fort Knox.
  - KRDA also regularly meets with / advises employers on ways to connect with veterans, transitioning service members and military spouses who are seeking employment opportunities. We help employers connect with key leaders and agencies on post and within the Department of the Army. In addition to our Army contacts, we have partners in the non-profit sector who are actively supporting veteran job seekers with whom we regularly collaborate and to whom we connect employers. Of note, we have been particularly active in consultation with the team from Blue Oval SK and Ford as they consider how best to attract military talent to the new EV Battery plants in Glendale, Ky.
  - KRDA also lends support to regional training and education providers, most notably Elizabethtown Community and Technical College and the University of Louisville in the development and promotion of education programs designed specifically for (e.g. Army Career Skills Program, DOD Skill Bridge) or well-suited for military-connected talent.
4. In addition to supporting KRDA's mission, our work to attract and retain military talent comes from our deep personal commitment to our military service members. It is the right thing to do for those who have devoted their lives in service to our country and the smart thing to do for our region's employers who are in search of quality talent. We are available to further discuss our work via phone or in person. Contact us at [jim@growknox.org](mailto:jim@growknox.org) or [beth@growknox.org](mailto:beth@growknox.org) or at 270-351-8800.



## **Lincoln Trail Workforce Development Board (LTWDB) Kentucky Career Center – Lincoln Trail (KCC-LT) Leading Nation in Military Spouse Employment Support**

**Background.** The Lincoln Trail region has been home to Fort Knox for more than a century. In addition to being a premier military installation and critical to our nation’s defense, it is the region’s largest employer and a great source of talent for other regional employers. Much has been said about the value of hiring veteran talent but far less has been written about military spouse talent. Military spouses are often the unsung heroes of the military family. Adaptive, resourceful and highly skilled, military spouses move from place to place taking care of the family while often trying to find employment in meaningful careers that are easily transferrable. For decades the LTWDB and LT-KCC have maintained a strong partnership with Fort Knox leaders providing services to military spouses who are seeking employment while their servicemember is stationed at the installation.

### **Mission Growth = Hundreds of New Military Spouses**

In February 2020, news came that the Army had selected Fort Knox as the location of its new V Corps headquarters and that some 2,000+ people (650 Soldiers and their families) would call the Greater Fort Knox Region home beginning in the summer of 2020 (fiscal year 2021). While the Army’s traditional summer moving season always saw people coming to and moving from our region, we knew the summer of 2020 would bring a much larger surge of inbound families than what we were typically accustomed to serving and welcoming.

### **Creating a First-of-its-Kind Model of Support**

The LTWDB saw this larger than usual influx of military families as an opportunity to closely evaluate its model of support. In partnership with the Knox Regional Development Alliance (KRDA), a community-based non-profit organization focused on supporting Fort Knox, we met with Fort Knox officials, learned about their evolving needs and examined our process for providing support to military spouses seeking employment. We explored ideas on how we could provide even better more integrated support for Army families. In doing so, the LTWDB created a first of its kind spouse employment model that includes contact information for career services for military spouses on all military orders of Soldiers coming to Fort Knox. That contact information allows military spouses to take a proactive approach to their career search even before they arrive. A simple contact form was also added to the [greaterfortknox.com](http://greaterfortknox.com)

*“Providing employment support to our military spouses is a top priority from the Secretary of Defense to the Chief of Staff of the Army and, of course, right here at Fort Knox. We always are looking for new and innovative ways to tap into community resources and I think this new model could become an Army best practice. We are fortunate to have great community partners who want to help us do the very best we can for our Army families.” - Melinda Roberts, Fort Knox’s Chief of Army Community Services*

website that KRDA created for military families moving to the region. The jobs page contact form is emailed LTWDB staff who assign a dedicated KCC-LT staff member to reach out the military spouse and provide support. LTWDB also works collaboratively with Fort Knox’s new

spouse employment representative who also regularly refers spouses to KCC-LT staff for support.

### **Volunteer Community Connectors**

We know that most job opportunities come from relationships and networking as opposed to a job board. That puts military spouses at a distinct disadvantage having not lived in the community where they are seeking employment and often lacking that valuable professional network that can help open doors. That's where our volunteer community connectors serve as the final piece of the spouse employment model we've put in place. With the support of KRDA and our business services team, a dedicated group of business professionals in a variety of industry sectors have volunteered to be a network catalyst for military spouses who request their support. Whether it's introducing them to key contacts, inviting them to networking events or passing their resume on to friends and colleagues, our volunteer community connectors stand ready to provide that added community support that comes from years of being engaged in the local community. It is yet another example of our region's dedicated support to our military families and a unique component to this model of support.

### **Tracking Success**

Since launching this new model, dozens of military spouses have reached out for support. We are finetuning how best to track job placements as follow up is dependent on the military spouse, but we know the model is being exercised, that military spouses have a proactive vehicle to garner no-cost professional career services and a network of volunteer community advocates willing to give their time to help.

## **West Kentucky Workforce Board - Veteran's Information Update**

West Kentucky Workforce Board has a dedicated staff assigned to transitioning and veterans' employment. The WKWB's Veteran Transition Liaison engages with transitioning service members and military spouses on a daily basis, representing the businesses and industry across the 17-county workforce region. He attends weekly employer day events held at the Transition Assistance Program (TAP) facility at Fort Campbell where he speaks to individuals about employment opportunities across the WKWB region.

The Liaison also works with our Business Liaisons and WIOA career coaches in the Kentucky Career Centers in addition to members of the Chambers of Commerce and Economic Development groups. This extended reach to resources and community partners facilitates a streamlined approach to connecting job seekers to employment opportunities by placing that individual's resume, translated military work experience, and contact information in the hands of local HR professionals for review. In addition to the weekly career events at the TAP facility, staff collaborates with and attends job fairs events facilitated by USO Transitions, the Spouse Employment Office and Career Skills Program Office, all on-base.

The Liaison generally assists local business/industry with their on-site access to Fort Campbell career events. He may provide their job openings at events when they are unable to attend and supply information to attendees on their behalf. He assists communities that may wish to host transitioning military for special events at their locations or on base.

The WKWB also coordinates local efforts/events with our counterpart workforce board in Tennessee with whom we have a long history of joint USDOL-ETA grants and activities over the last 30 years. Most of those efforts were located on base and focused specifically to the transitioning military by bringing those extra community details and information in an attempt to draw those exiting military to our local business/industry.

Recent initiatives and efforts:

1. WKWB / South Western Kentucky EDC / Fort Campbell TAP collaborate to host a monthly Manufacturing Seminar. Plant leaders and HR professionals from local manufacturing companies visit the TAP facility where they speak on their company's local/global impact, career opportunities, and employee benefits. This is a 2-hour event, held the last Tuesday of each month.
2. WKWB / South West Kentucky EDC have coordinated with local employers to record a budget friendly, 2-4 minute soundbite with a company HR representative and military veteran (if available). This event is meant to increase visibility of these companies prior to their end of month visit at the Manufacturing Seminar. Note: These events were coordinated to fill the gap left behind when the HEROES MAKE AMERICA Military to Manufacturing Career Skills Program stopped being offered in-person at Fort Campbell due to budget restrictions.
3. WKWB / Murray State University / Fort Campbell EAGLEWERX (Applied Tactical Innovation Center) are preparing to examine opportunities for academic/research partnerships which would allow MSU to assist EAGLEWERX personnel in the development of components and systems to solve tactical problems. <https://home.army.mil/campbell/index.php/eaglewerx>



Instilling a sense of connection and strengthening resilience within Kentucky's military-connected youth.

### About The Program

The Purple Star Award is a state-sponsored recognition for individual schools' dedication and support of military-connected youth and families. The program is supported by the US Department of Defense, Military Child Education Coalition and the Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission and is currently implemented in 41 states and 12 schools in Kentucky. The Purple Star Award Designation ensures every military-connected youth in Kentucky receives what they need to succeed.

### To Apply Visit

[www.kypurplestar.org](http://www.kypurplestar.org)  
or email: [kypurplestar@ky.gov](mailto:kypurplestar@ky.gov)



### How it Helps Students and Families

- Provides a Caring School Environment for Students
- Improves Social-Emotional Skills Needed for Students and Families
- Celebrates Military and Veteran Families in their Local Community
- Connects Families to State and Local Community Resources



### Purple Star Award Qualifications

- Designate a School Liaison
- Attend Professional development Training Page on Military Culture
- Establish a School Resource Page
- Host One Military Recognition Event

## Task Force WELCOME

### Workforce and Education Leveraging Community Opportunities for Military Employment

**Overview:** The concept is to build an office focused on utilizing the DoD SkillBridge program to attract transitioning servicemembers to employment opportunities in Kentucky. The DoD SkillBridge program allows servicemembers in their last six months of active duty to pursue internship opportunities with employers who are part of the program. In their last 12 months of active duty servicemembers enter into the Transition Assistance Program (TAP), where they begin looking for internship opportunities with an employer, these internships can be up to six months long. The employer provides a training plan designed to help the servicemember understand the work culture and civilian employment while easing their transition out of the military. During the internship, the servicemember is still on military status, so the employer cannot pay them or work them over 40 hours a week. Also, the servicemember is still covered by the military for health insurance. Many of these internships lead to employment.

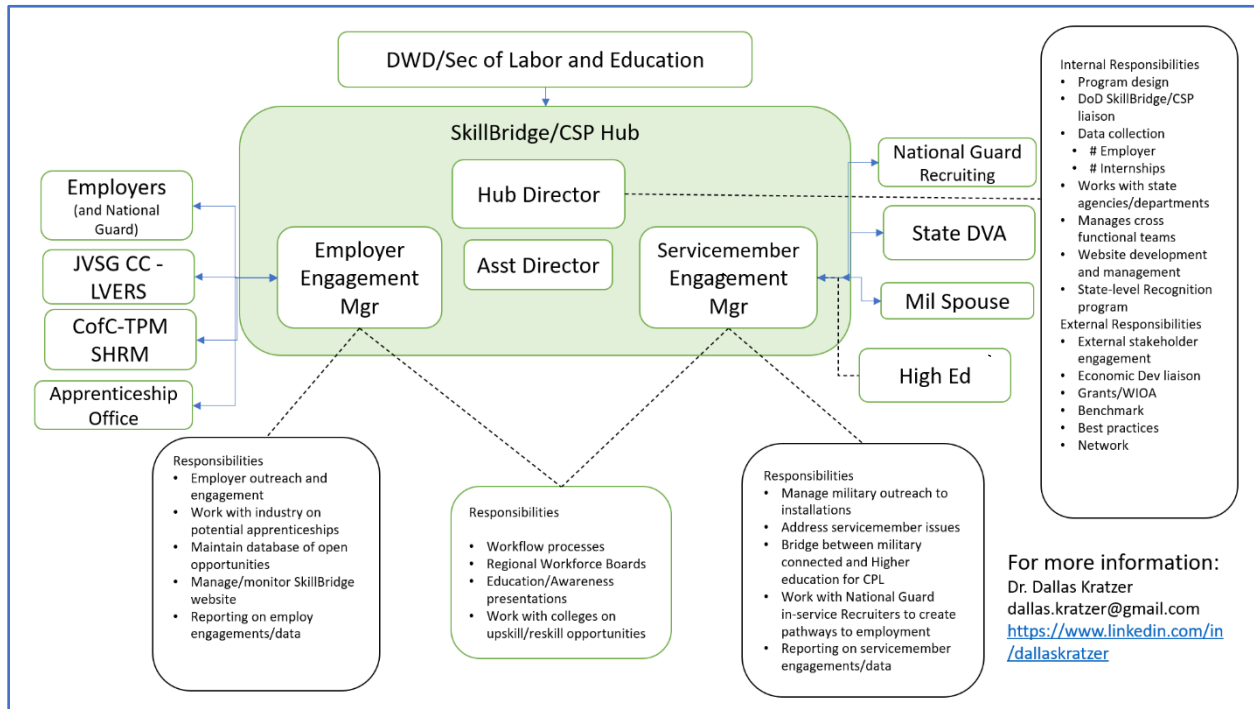
This concept has already been proven to work in Kentucky on a small scale (Military to Law Enforcement – M2LE, Emergency Medical Technicians – EMTs, agri-business, High School Career and Technical Educators/teachers, and at Atlas Air – aircraft maintenance). The concept is based on the Virginia Values Veterans (V3) - [Virginia Values Veterans \(V3\) Program - Virginia Department of Veterans Services](#).

The next step is to expand the program to address the need for employees in existing and new high-demand fields through helping organizations become Authorized Partners of internship opportunities. The recommendation is to create a team focused on engaging employers, reaching out to Transition Assistance Programs (TAP) at military installations and to coordinate employment efforts across the state, without duplicating the efforts of other organizations.

**Structure:** The proposed office needs to engage on four specific areas:

- 1) Engage employers to become part of the SkillBridge eco-system through registering on the DoD website and with the state SkillBridge Office.
- 2) Engage servicemembers who are within one year of leaving military service, presenting them with employment opportunities in the state.
- 3) Liaison with state agencies to facilitate the integration of efforts to maximum opportunities while mitigating duplication. For example, the SkillBridge Hub Team would work with
  - a. the Office of Employer and Apprenticeship Services (OEAS) to develop pathways from internships to apprenticeships
  - b. the JVSG Career Centers to identify and coordinate employment opportunities for veterans in local communities
  - c. the higher education institutions to establish and implement educational activities to provide re-skill/up-skill opportunities and recognize credit for prior learning associated with military service
  - d. the State Department of Veteran Affairs to aid in their transition from servicemember to veteran and educating them on their in-state veteran benefits
- 4) Develop and manage an employer training program to help them develop their SkillBridge/CSP programs, foster military cultural awareness, and networking opportunities

To accomplish these activities, the proposal contains a staff up to 4 to 5 individuals with the following roles and responsibilities:



**Timeline:** The program will take less than six months to be fully developed and engaging employers and servicemembers. The following timeline is a suggested implementation sequence.

**Month 1-3:** Establishing office structure and positions, hiring of Hub Director

**Months 2-4:** Hiring of Asst Hub Director, Employer Engagement Manager/Lead (EEM), and Servicemember Engagement Manager/Lead (SEM). **Note:** The EEM position needs to be filled first because they can start establishing employer relationships and identification of internship possibilities.

**Months 3-6:** Establish Employer Training Program, data collection, and state-level recognition programs.

**Budget Projects:** The cost to implement the proposed idea could be between \$350,000 and \$400,000. The main expenditures in the first six months would be related to personnel cost with an increase in expenses in the second six months associated with travel and seminar funding. The following are recommended.

<b>Personnel</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Total</b>
Exec Director:	Though this may seem high, the intent is to mitigate turn-over	Salary: \$85,000 to \$90,000	\$90,000
Asst Hub Director:		\$75,000 to \$80,000	\$80,000
EEM/SEM:	One Each	\$50,000 to \$60,000	\$120,000
<b>Office/Marketing</b>			
Website/ Social Media		\$15,000	\$15,000
Print		\$10,000	\$10,000
Marketing Packet	Materials to use for display table events	\$5,000	\$5,000
<b>Travel</b>			
Months 1-6	Minimal travel, all in-state	\$30,000	\$30,000
Months 6-12	Hosting seminars, military base visits	\$50,000	\$50,000
Projected Total Cost			\$400,000

**Assumptions:**

- Data reporting is key to validating the Return-on-Investment (ROI). Data collection and reporting needs to be conducted weekly.
- ROI to be calculated on the number of servicemembers/spouses gaining employment through the SkillBridge Office. The actual monetary return can only be approximated, it is recommended to use the median income for the state of \$52,000 per family.
- Production goals need to be established for the program, but the initial target should range in the 30-50 in the first year. If the minimum number of 30 candidates a year this would be approximately \$1,560,000 of new employee pay. Additionally, there is an opportunity for employers to gain as much as \$9,000 tax credit through higher transitioning services members and their spouses (they are considered displaced workers).
- Since the program is designed to attract transitioning servicemembers, consider doing a SkillBridge internship for the EEM/SEM positions. Additionally, this could become a funnel point for bringing SkillBridge candidates into other state government positions.



By calling 211, veterans can get connected with a wide variety of resources, including workforce participation and development.

Connecting with the resources you need is simple. Reach 211 in one of three ways:

1. Dial 2-1-1 from your phone
2. Text your zip code to 898211
3. Visit [www.uwbg211.org](http://www.uwbg211.org)

Service Tree:

The Service Tree lists all services in "branched" groups, starting with the very general and moving to the very specific.

- [Basic Needs](#)
- [Consumer Services](#)
- [Criminal Justice and Legal Services](#)
- [Education](#)
- [Environment and Public Health/Safety](#)
- [Health Care](#)
- [Income Support and Employment](#)
- [Individual and Family Life](#)
- [Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Services](#)
- [Organizational/Community/International Services](#)

In the past year, 211 provided support for:

- 2-1-1 Calls: 14,949
- Incoming/Outgoing Text Messages: 8,406
- Website Sessions: 32,534

Stay Connected to UWBG!

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- [Twitter](#)
- [Instagram](#)
- [YouTube](#)
- [LinkedIn](#)





## **OUR MISSION:**

To Provide Connection, Healing, Recovery, Housing Assistance, and Vocational Training to the Veteran Community.

## **WHO WE SERVE:**

As an organization of veterans and their families, we believe it is important to represent the tremendous diversity we experienced while a part of the rank and file. Veteran's Club will serve any veteran and their families, regardless of age, race, marital status, sex, gender or religion.

## **OUR PROGRAMS:**

### *Equine Facilitated Mentoring Program*

This program is designed by Veterans and Equine Professionals with the support of Clinicians who have personal experience in the power of equine mentoring and its ability to help those who are suffering. The horse has a God given ability to reach past the outward facade and into the heart, allowing people to begin to heal wounds that they may not have even identified.

### *Connections*

Our Connections program provides a great way for Service Members, Veterans, and Families to experience the fellowship that they had while they were in service. Most of our events are held at Veteran-friendly / Veteran-owned establishments. Some ways that we connect are military family dinners / cookouts, Coffee and Camaraderie, kayaking, our weekly Veterans Support Group, and more.

### *Operation Jeep Build*

Operation Jeep Build is a vocational training program focusing on automotive repair. This program is overseen by ASE Certified Mechanics with decades of specializing Jeep experience.

### *Women Warriors*

Our Women Warriors Program provides a safe space for women to connect, support, and address each other's needs. Additionally, we provide recreational opportunities, clinical support, shared resources, and hold annual retreats for all Women Warriors in Kentucky and beyond.

### *Resilient Mind Program*

The Resilient Mind Program's objective is to provide participants with the resources they need to improve their performance by instilling in them a sense of purpose, accountability, and direction. Our objective is to challenge participants and provide them the tools and knowledge they need to succeed better in their personal and professional undertakings.

### *Veteran's Club Assistance Program*

We assist Veterans and their families through housing assistance for homeless veterans, career transition, clinical supportive services, referrals to partnering agencies, or immediate needs.

June 9, 2023

In Kentucky, VOA serves approximately 760 veterans and their families every year through Supportive Services for Veteran Families and the Staff Sergeant Parker Gordon Fox Suicide Prevention Grant Program.

We provide supportive services to low-income veteran families living in or transitioning to permanent housing. These programs provide eligible veteran families with outreach, case management, and assistance in obtaining VA and other benefits, which may include health care services, daily living services, personal financial planning services, transportation services, fiduciary and payee services, legal services, childcare services, and housing counseling services.

In addition, programs may also provide time-limited payments to third parties (e.g., landlords, utility companies, moving companies, and licensed childcare providers) if these payments help veteran families stay in or acquire permanent housing on a sustainable basis.

The Staff Sergeant Fox program provides training and education resources toward community-based suicide prevention efforts to meet the needs of veterans and their families through outreach, suicide prevention services, and connection to VA and community resources.



*Serving Kentucky, Tennessee, West Virginia, and Clark and Floyd Counties in Indiana.*





## Kentucky Veterans Accelerated Licensure Occupational Recruitment

### Overview:

Funded by the 2022 Kentucky General Assembly, Kentucky Science and Technology Corporation (KSTC) launched a new workforce initiative to match veterans with open job opportunities in Kentucky. Veterans Accelerated Licensure Occupational Recruitment, or [KY VALOR](#), is designed to recruit transitioning service members and their families to civilian occupations throughout the state by partnering with Kentucky employers.

KY VALOR will offer veterans credit for prior military education and experience to quickly secure occupational licensures and certifications in the Commonwealth through 44 accelerated pathways developed by KSTC through a previous grant from the U.S. Department of Labor called [VALLO](#). Kentucky is one of only three states with these military-friendly pathways, which lead to 55 licensed/certified occupations and cover more than 180 Military Occupational Specialties.

### FIND A CIVILIAN CAREER PATH IN KENTUCKY

Use your military experience to find a fulfilling post-service career.

Kentucky offers over 150,000 job opportunities and more than 44 accelerated career pathways that give you credit for the education and experience you gained in the military. You can skip lengthy job searches and certifications to quickly advance to your next career, and [KY VALOR](#) can [help](#).

### KY VALOR PAIRS VETERANS WITH PROSPECTIVE EMPLOYERS IN KENTUCKY

We are a nonprofit organization that helps veterans capitalize on their military experience to meet career goals. We partner with employers throughout the Commonwealth to connect transitioning service members and their spouses with open job opportunities.

We believe that the shortest pathway for the transitioning veteran is the best pathway. By recognizing your unique career goals and family needs, we'll connect you with a fulfilling career in Kentucky.

For more details, click [here](#).