

What is the Transition Assistance Program?

The Transition Assistance Program (TAP) was established to offer job search assistance and related services to separating service members during their period of transition into civilian life. The TAP is a partnership among the Departments of Labor, Defense, Homeland Security, and Veterans Affairs to provide employment and training information to armed forces members and their eligible spouses within one year of their separation or two years of their retirement from the military.

Why do we need the TAP?

Although experience shows that veterans generally enjoy a favorable employment rate in the nation's job market, many veterans initially find it difficult to compete successfully in the civilian labor market. The Transition Assistance Program addresses many barriers to success and alleviates many employment-related difficulties.

What does the TAP offer to service members?

The Transition Assistance Program consists of comprehensive three-day workshops at selected military installations worldwide. Professionally-trained facilitators from the State Employment Services, military family support services, Department of Labor contractors, or VETS staff present the workshops.

Workshop attendees learn about job searches, career decision-making, current occupational and labor market conditions, resume and cover letter preparation, and interviewing techniques. Participants are also provided with an evaluation of their employability relative to the job market and receive information on the most current veterans' benefits.

Components of the TAP Workshop

- Personal Appraisal
- Career Exploration
- Strategies For An Effective Job Search
- Interviews
- Reviewing Job Offers
- Support and Assistance

Transition Assistance for Veterans with Disabilities

Service members leaving the military with a service-connected disability are offered the Disabled Transition Assistance Program (DTAP) from the Veterans Affairs representatives. DTAP includes the normal three-day TAP workshop plus additional hours of individual instruction to help determine job readiness and address the special needs of veterans with disabilities.

Program Results

TAP Program participants receive valuable training and information that gives them an edge over other applicants. TAP helps service members and their spouses make the initial transition from military service to the civilian workplace with less difficulty and at less overall cost to the government. An independent national evaluation of the program estimated that service members who had participated in TAP, on average, found their first post-military job three weeks sooner than those who did not participate in TAP.

Since 1990, the Transition Assistance Program has provided job search assistance to over one million separating and retiring military members and their spouses.



“You gave us the essential information we need to go on with our job searches and be successful.”

-- TAP Workshop Participant



For More Information

For more information regarding the Transition Assistance Program and VETS' other programs and services, visit our website at: www.dol.gov/vets

Veterans' Employment and Training Service

U.S. Department of Labor
200 Constitution Avenue, NW, Room S-1325
Washington, DC 20210

Veterans' Employment and Training Service
U.S. Department of Labor
200 Constitution Avenue, NW, Room S-1325
Washington, DC 20210



The mission of the Veterans' Employment and Training Service (VETS) is to provide veterans and transitioning service members with the resources and services to succeed in the 21st century workforce by maximizing their employment opportunities, protecting their employment rights, and by meeting labor-market demands with qualified veterans.

Transition Assistance Program

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

