

# Career Exploration

## Your Checklist for Success

- Take at least one personality assessment, preferably more than one.
- Take at least one career aptitude assessment, preferably more than one.
- See a military- or DoD-provided transition assistance counselor or attend a transition assistance program (TAP) workshop.
- Find out if any of the post-government employment restrictions apply to you.
- Complete the “Personal Strengths and Personality Traits” handout.
- Look at the Bureau of Labor Statistics’ Occupational Outlook Handbook to learn about the growth prospects for your ideal post-military career.
- Review several job-hunting information websites to familiarize yourself with the websites, options, functionality, job postings, and to learn more about what companies are looking for from employees in your career field.
- Find out if you are eligible for relocation, shipping and/or storage benefits, and if so, how much.
- Talk to your immediate and extended family to see what they think about the possibility of relocation.
- If considering relocation, research the areas you are interested in to ensure they offer the things you consider most important.
- If considering relocation, contact your nearest Family Center for relocation information and planning assistance.
- Complete the “To Move or Not To Move” handout.
- If relocating, create an account on the Plan My Move website to help prepare for the move.
- Identify which GI Bill(s) you qualify for.
- List at least two other sources of educational funding you might qualify for.
- Get a copy of your Service Transcript (also known as the Verification of Military Experience and Training – VMET).
- Find out if a certificate or other form of accreditation is needed for your ideal career, and if so, identify three places to get the accreditation you need.
- If you decide to return to school, check to make sure it is accredited by a nationally accepted regional accreditation body.
- If you are interested in self-employment, visit the Small Business Administration (SBA) website.
- Identify two or more sources of funding for the purchase or expansion of a small business.
- Learn more about the 8(a) Business Development Program and speak to an SBA advisor about it, if you think you may be eligible.