

## CalVet Corps Welcome Home Vets Transcript

**JON GUIBOND [Former Marine, OIF Veteran]:**

When I got out of the Marine Corps, I knew about my Federal benefits, the G.I. Bill and medical, but I didn't know what resources were available to me here in California.

**TAKASIA PERRY [Chapter 31 Army Veteran]:**

When I first got out, I was a little bit apprehensive about working a civilian position because I was not aware of how civilians function on the job.

**KENT KJELSTROM [STATE VETERANS PROGRAM COORDINATOR]:**

Navigation through the system is one of the most difficult things. And that's why the program is coming out, the new incentive program that is being published. We're hiring people to help with the transition who are going to work with veterans from the start - taking them as they leave the military, keeping in contact with them, helping them develop and working on any particular needs that the veteran might have. These people are going to have a lot in common because they are recently separated veterans helping recently separated veterans.

**TAKASIA PERRY:**

My biggest fear was finding a job that I could actually fit into.

**RANDY HADLEY [VETERAN EMPLOYMENT SERVICE SPECIALIST]:**

First of all is getting their military skills translated over to civilian skills.

**TAKASIA PERRY:**

I was a little bit afraid that I would not fit in.

**RANDY HADLEY:**

We are veterans ourselves. We can relate and understand what they're going through.

**TAKASIA PERRY:**

Working with Randy has been really, really easy because he talks to you like you're a person and you're not a number. It makes a big difference.

**RANDY HADLEY:**

I'm very privileged...I feel privileged being able to help another veteran get what I got out of this. You know, you did your time so you need to get compensated for that. I make sure they know what's available and try to push them toward getting the services that are out there. A lot of times

they just don't know where the services are and what is available in employment resources such as résumés. We make sure they have a nice résumé created. We have résumé workshops to help and assist with that. And, of course, give them job leads. We also have resources for training and we can help them as far as other resources in the community.

**KENT KJELSTROM:**

This whole program is making sure that we reconnect and keep in contact. So what they're going to do is follow up with these veterans, to continue the services that have been started, and to make sure that questions that come up along the way are answered. And that's what makes it so beautiful, hiring the veterans to help the veterans.