

N E W S R E L E A S E

News Release

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**EDD's "Honor a Hero, Hire a Vet" Bakersfield job fair connects
420 job seekers with 82 employers and resource agencies**

***Annual job fairs now in tenth year of assisting veterans
with civilian employment opportunities***

SACRAMENTO – The California Employment Development Department's (EDD) "Honor a Hero, Hire a Vet" job and resource fair today brought together 420 veterans and other job seekers with 82 employers and resource agencies at the Bakersfield Marriott at the Convention Center. Now in their 10th year, the job fairs have linked more than 34,000 veterans and job seekers with more than 12,500 resource agencies.

"The EDD has a long history of commitment to veterans as they face the challenges of finding jobs in civilian life – a commitment rooted in our admiration for their service to our country," said EDD Director Patrick W. Henning. "The Honor a Hero, Hire a Vet job and resource fairs have been an effective way of helping veterans find high-quality jobs and employers find high-quality applicants."

The job fairs are held at locations throughout the state each year as part of Governor Brown's multi-agency initiative to help veterans in their transition back to civilian life.

"CalVet proudly supports EDD's Honor a Hero, Hire a Vet events throughout the Golden State," said CalVet Secretary Dr. Vito Imbasciani. "Job fairs are important tools in helping veterans transition the skills and experience they earned in their military service to employment in the civilian sector, as well as sharing information about state and federal benefits our veterans have earned."

(more)

The EDD notes that employment prospects for veterans have improved and highlights the attributes veterans bring to a job, including:

- As the California economy continues to expand, job prospects for younger veterans have improved greatly. Their unemployment rate dropped from 13.3 percent in February 2016 to 9.4 percent in February 2017. Even with that drop, however, the unemployment rate for veterans under 35 was still 2.5 percentage points higher than that for their non-veteran counterparts.
- Military training and experience provides many job skills valued by employers, including a strong work ethic, teamwork, discipline, leadership, the ability to meet deadlines, strategic planning, and problem solving. In addition, many veterans have training in advanced electronics, logistics, and information technology.
- The top civilian jobs currently held by veterans in California are in management occupations, with an average salary of nearly \$130,000.
- According to the U.S. Census Bureau, 50 percent of California's veterans have an associate degree or higher in 2017, and 96 percent of the state's veterans have at least a high school diploma.

The Honor a Hero, Hire a Vet job fairs, funded by \$200,000 in federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act funds, bring together public agencies and private companies in a joint effort to help returning soldiers find jobs and careers.

The Governor's multi-agency veterans initiative includes the EDD, the California Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet), California Labor and Workforce Development Agency, California Department of Industrial Relations' Division of Apprenticeship Standards, and California Community Colleges.

In addition to the Honor a Hero, Hire a Vet job fairs, EDD's veteran representatives in local [America's Job Center of CaliforniaSM](#) offices throughout the state help veterans maximize their employment and training opportunities. The EDD encourages veterans to schedule an appointment with a veteran representative for personalized employment services and career assistance. For appointments and information on EDD's veterans' employment services, office locations, and upcoming job fairs, veterans can visit:

www.edd.ca.gov/Jobs_and_Training/Services_for_Veterans.htm

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