

N E W S R E L E A S E

News Release

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**This Veterans Day, EDD calls on California employers to hire veterans**

*NOTE TO EDITORS: A broadcast quality video package with Veterans Day soundbites and B-roll is available. See end of this news release for details.*

SACRAMENTO – The California Employment Development Department (EDD) is calling on California’s employers to celebrate Veterans Day with a renewed commitment to hiring those who have served in the military.

“EDD is proud to serve veterans throughout the year by connecting them with California employers who value the skills military men and women bring to the workforce,” said EDD Director Patrick W. Henning. “Employers who hire veterans get experienced employees who are tested, proven and true.”

The EDD is marking Veterans Day with “Vets, Ready for the Workforce,” an outreach effort to both employers seeking workers and veterans seeking jobs. EDD’s new [Veterans Day webpage](#) includes data on veteran employment in California and the skills veterans bring to the workplace. The webpage also features job services for veterans, resources employers can use to hire veterans, and stories on veterans who have transitioned to successful civilian careers and the employers who hired them.

California is home to 1.9 million veterans. Currently, 900,000 veterans are employed in California in industry sectors that include professional and business services, educational and health services, public administration, wholesale and retail trade, transportation and utilities, manufacturing, and construction.

“Making the transition from military life to the civilian workforce can be a challenge,” said Dr. Vito Imbasciani, Secretary of the California Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet). “Fortunately, there are numerous programs designed to assist veterans, whether that means help writing a résumé, learning new skills or connecting with employers who appreciate the value of military experience. As a state, California is committed to helping veterans transition into their productive, successful civilian lives.”

(more)

For more than a decade, EDD has held “Honor a Hero, Hire a Vet” job and resource fairs throughout California to connect veterans with employers looking to hire veterans. These events have brought together more than 34,000 veterans and over 12,500 employers and resource agencies. Under a Governor Brown’s initiative, the events are administered by EDD in coordination with the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency and other departments.

**Additional Services for Veterans:**

- Local EDD employment representatives at [America’s Job Center of California<sup>SM</sup> locations](#) provide job and career assistance to veterans. EDD veteran representatives work one-on-one and provide specialized assistance to veterans with significant barriers to employment.
- [CalJOBS<sup>SM</sup>](#), EDD’s online labor exchange system, can help veterans translate their military training and specialties into marketable skills applicable to civilian jobs. Veterans will be directed to employers with job openings that match their military experience.

**Additional Services for Employers:**

- Local employment representatives at America’s Job Center of California<sup>SM</sup> locations work with employers and help match their employment needs with qualified veterans.
- CalJOBS<sup>SM</sup> is available to employers to post job openings. Employers can also use CalJOBS<sup>SM</sup> to refine their candidate searches to focus on veterans.
- The [Work Opportunity Tax Credit \(WOTC\) program](#) provides employers a tax credit for hiring veterans who face special obstacles as they try to reenter the workforce.

**Quick Stats on Veterans in California’s Workforce:**

- The unemployment rate of the 900,000 veterans in the state’s labor force fell from 7.1 percent in August 2015 to 5.8 percent in August 2017, part of a steady upward trend in employment in California.
- One in five of the state’s employed veterans works in management, business or financial jobs.
- More than 100,000 veterans work in each of these fields: professional and business services, public administration, and educational and health services.
- A third of California veterans have earned a bachelor’s degree or higher.

If you are an employer interested in hiring veterans or a veteran seeking employment assistance, please visit [CalJOBS<sup>SM</sup>](#) or contact a representative at the [America’s Job Center of California<sup>SM</sup>](#) location nearest you.

**Media Video Package:**

- **Information on EDD services available to veterans transitioning from the military into the civilian workforce** – Soundbites with EDD Director Patrick W. Henning. Suggested broadcast copy available.
- **Interview with a Northern California employer and veteran employee who connected through EDD’s services** – Soundbites and B-roll of Honeycutt Aviation’s owner and an employee, a U.S. Air Force veteran. Suggested broadcast copy available.

Contact the EDD Communications Office for broadcast quality video, soundbite log and suggested broadcast copy at [MediaInquiries@edd.ca.gov](mailto:MediaInquiries@edd.ca.gov).