



National Guard
Center for America
Military Spouses Corporate
Career Network
Corporate America
Supports You

Lansing Center

833 East Michigan Avenue, Lansing, Michigan

December 10, 2011 • 12:30 to 2:45

Lunch refreshments will be served



Color Guard and National Anthem

National Guard

From the Heart to the Hands

Matt Dame

Welcome and Introductions

Bob Dorigo Jones, Center for America

Introducing *American Jobs for America's Heroes*

Major General Gregory J. Vadnais, Michigan National Guard

Finding Jobs for Citizen Soldiers

Governor Rick Snyder, Michigan

MSCCN and CASY: Jobs for National Guard Families

Stacy Bayton, Executive Director, MSCCN and CASY

Business Supports American Heroes

Robert P. Powers, American Electric Power

Call to Action and Closing Comments

Bob Dorigo Jones, Center for America

Original Country Music Songs

Matt Dame

**Reserve Your
Free Tickets Now**

This event is sponsored by American Electric Power through a grant to the Center for America.



American Jobs for America's Heroes

Governor Rick Snyder – Inaugurated in January 2011, Michigan Governor Snyder has overseen the



elimination of the Michigan Business Tax, the elimination of the state's \$1.5 billion budget deficit, and the termination of the double tax on small businesses. A successful businessman and job creator, Governor Snyder also completed the state budget in the shortest amount of time in 30 years. The Governor is also the Commander in Chief of the Michigan National Guard.

Major General Gregory J. Vadnais – Currently serving as the Adjutant General and the Director of Military and Veterans Affairs for Michigan, Major General Vadnais commands and directs the Michigan Army and Air National Guard, with a total of 159 units. As commander of the 38th Infantry Division (Mechanized), he oversaw the



deployment of over 9,000 soldiers to 17 different countries including Iraq, Afghanistan, Bosnia, Kosovo, Egypt and to numerous other security missions in the United States and abroad. MG Vadnais was the Commander for Joint Task Force-Cyclone in response to Hurricane Katrina providing command and control of the over 14,000 Soldiers and Airmen deployed in Mississippi.

Robert P. Powers – Robert P. Powers serves as Chief Operating Officer for American Electric Power, one of the nation's largest electric utilities, with operations in 11 states including Michigan and nearly 19,000 employees. His AEP career began in 1998 as senior vice president - Nuclear Generation and he was responsible for the restart



of the Cook Plant in Bridgman. He is active in the Edison Electric Institute and chairs the Board for the Center for Energy Workforce Development, which focuses on technical talent recruitment to utilities. Bob has served on the National Nuclear Training Accreditation Board and as a member of the Electric Power Research Institute Board of Directors.

Bob Dorigo Jones – A Senior Fellow with Center for America and native Michigander, Bob is host of the



weekly national radio commentary, "Let's Be Fair!" which appears on 85 radio stations with an audience of 27 million listeners. He has appeared on national television programs such as ABC's 20/20, NBC Nightly News, FOX News and CNN to talk about how families, communities and job providers are hurt by lawsuit abuse. Bob serves as master of ceremonies for the "American Jobs for America's Heroes" event in Lansing.

Stacy Bayton – Stacy serves as Executive Director for both Corporate America Supports You (CASY) and Military Spouse Corporate Career Network (MSCCN). She ensures the job readiness and placement of military-affiliated applicants, while maintaining the full operations of CASY and MSCCN's employment and training platforms. Stacy served



in the U.S. Coast Guard Reserve and the U.S. Marine Corps before building her career in law, business and public service. She is a trailblazer in creating jobs and successful employment opportunities for military-affiliated job seekers by building employment programs which connect job seekers to hiring managers. She is founder of health and environmental initiatives and serves as Chairman of the Board for Military Musters.

Matt Dame – A "who's who" in the Nashville songwriting community and recording artist poised to become country music's next super star, Matt is the voice behind the **CFA 10 By 20 Pledge** campaign and many hit songs. He was voted Nashville's #1 Male Demo Singer by fellow songwriters in 2008 and 2009. He has written songs re-



corded by Tim McGraw, Billy Ray Cyrus, Heartland, Russell Hitchcock (Air Supply) and more. A former police officer, Matt will perform **From The Heart To The Hands** – the Center for America 10 By 20 Pledge theme song – to open the Lansing event.

Why American Jobs for America's Heroes is Vital

The National Guard is composed of Citizen Soldiers who maintain a dual status as military members and citizens in local communities who pursue a civilian career while remaining at the ready for deployments. The state of the economy has negatively affected the National Guard population, particularly in light of past and future deployments.

These challenges are unique to the National Guard and Reserve Component as members combine both a civilian and a military career in support of our country. Their families provide support to the members of the Guard and Reserve and we acknowledge their sacrifice and contribution to the military mission as well as the need for continued support to empower our military families as they live and contribute to communities all over the nation.

Our Military members have much to offer employers. These individuals are trained to lead. They know how to work as part of a team. They understand their contribution to the success of the team. They have a good understanding and appreciation for the importance of authority. They know how to carry out those instructions and follow through.

They are part of an elite section of society who have been screened and welcomed into the military because of their abilities. In addition, the National Guard provides more than 107 types of training, many of which correspond directly to types of skills training provided by companies for their employees.

The life experience spouses and family members



have gained while supporting their military member during missions like this can make them excellent potential employees.

As a result of mobilizations, National Guardsmen returning from Iraq and Afghanistan are experiencing a tremendous amount of stress when it comes to the prospect of lack of employment upon their return. For example, the 41st BCT Army National Guard out of Oregon returned from deployment in April 2010 and reported 969 out of approximately 3,000 Soldiers faced unemployment. This statistic, a staggering 34%, was obtained at the demobilization station before soldiers had even returned to home station. Once the unit is home for a short time the rate for the unit is expected to rise to as much as 54%.



Current Army National Guard members number approximately 360,000 with 50 percent having spouses. An overall unemployment rate among members of 15% translates into 54,000 unemployed Citizen Soldiers.

The ability of the spouse/family member of the Service Member to find employment is also critical to these Families. Reserve Component (RC) Service Members do not return to a guaranteed job as do their Active Duty (AD) counterparts. The AD Family is guaranteed at least one income. If an RC Service Member returns home to find they are unemployed; suddenly, that family is dependent on a spouse income to put food on the table and provide shelter. The increase in homeless veterans with families is testament to this fact. The implementation of an expanded employment program is of critical importance to National Guard families.

Through this initiative, MSCCN and CFA are making it easier for small and mid-size employers to attract highly skilled, reliable and team-oriented National Guard members to fill open jobs. We hope we can count on you to do your part!