

## MSCCN MilSpouse Job Club - Jacksonville, FL

**August 26, 2010 - USO of Jacksonville**

MSCCN hosted the most recent meeting of the MSCCN MilSpouse Job Club at the USO near NS Mayport. We had 11 enthusiastic job seekers participate and share their job search stories. Each attendee introduced themselves. We had participants looking for work in areas ranging from electronics to genetic research.

Patty Piazza, the Military Family Employment Advocate from Worksource, attended as one of our guests to share advice and information about her organization's resources. We also welcomed Pam Ottesen, a Work and Family Life Consultant, from the Mayport Fleet and Family Support Center. Both of the organizations offer no cost job search support and classes to military families. The Fleet and Family Support Center also offers a wide variety of services such as financial planning and new parent support.

At this month's meeting we focused on networking. Job seekers often end up spending most of their time at the computer applying online and doing internet research. We encouraged our attendees to limit their time online and instead get out of the house and network. For many, this is easier said than done, so we worked on a networking exercise to share information about your job search in a comfortable and informal manner. We broke into pairs and practiced an informal "elevator speech" describing what kind of work each person wanted to find. The overall response...."it was easy and fun!"

Our attendees found out that their fellow job seekers had a lot to offer in the way of encouragement and advice. One group had a great volunteer suggestion for a member who wanted to be a social worker and another member had a job position to share. Our focus was to highlight that you never know who may be able to help you with your job search. It is important to be able to clearly explain what kind of work you are looking for in a formal and informal setting, and then to get out of the house and create new networking opportunities to share your story every day.

We hope to see you at a future job club meeting soon!  
[www.meetup.com/milspousejax](http://www.meetup.com/milspousejax)



Lisa Blevins, MSCCN, giving attendees some job search advice



Lisa Blevins and Patty Piazza, Military Family Employment Advocate for Worksource



Job club members getting advice on networking to improve their job search

From our attendees:

“I attended my first job club meeting. Met wonderful people to network with. Will attend the next meeting!”

“You did a great job giving us lots of really helpful information, and I am looking forward to using it in my job search! And I really have to thank you for singling me out, Milly had made me feel really confident, and usually I get nervous when selling myself, but the two of you really helped bring me out of my shell really quickly, and that's definitely a skill I needed to acquire, and you both made it almost instantaneous.”



Two new attendees at the monthly job club meeting



Milly Eminger, MSCCN Volunteer, and job club attendee