

MONTHLY GRANT REPORT

NORTH FLORIDA

New Applicant Totals: 89

Spouses	60
Veterans	21
Active Duty	3
Caregivers	4
Dependent	1

New Hires: 7

- 5 Navy Spouses – Jacksonville
- 1 Navy Veteran – Jacksonville
- 1 Air Force Spouse – Eglin AFB

Applicant Breakdown:

Region 1	40
Escambia County (2)	
Okaloosa County (33)	
Santa Rosa County (5)	
Region 2	1
Bay County (1)	
Region 5	1
Bradford County (1)	
Region 6	47
Clay County (4)	
Duval County (43)	

Total Applicant Contacts:

Over 2900 - Spouses and Veterans

NORTH FLORIDA OCTOBER 2010

NORTHEAST FLORIDA

Summary:

In October, MSCCN hosted a workshop, Employment Treasure Chest, in Jacksonville, FL. We have continued to work with applicants and are encouraged by the number of companies currently hiring. This month we contacted over 900 applicants helping many of our candidates with their resumes and job search plans.

We also hosted the October meeting of the MSCCN MilSpouse Job Club. This month's meeting was very motivational and members have shared that it had an impact on their job search. Participation increased at our meetings and on our Meetup board. We are looking forward to expanding our discussion on interviews at next month's meeting.

Events and Meetings:

October 26, 2010 – Employment Treasure Chest Workshop at NS Mayport

MSCCN was pleased to host our Employment Treasure Workshop on October 26th at NS Mayport. The interactive, all day event featured workshops, lunch, and a keynote speaker. It was a great success and our applicants are ready to apply this new knowledge to their job search!

We kicked off the day with a workshop to help our attendees create a plan for their job search. When we asked our group if any of them had a plan for their job search only one person raised their hand – and they had been to our workshop before!



The premise of the workshop is we have a plan or checklist for almost every aspect of our life, yet we tend to just sit down in front of the computer and start searching for a job. We presented a step by step process to help our attendees create a plan, a job search schedule, and organization to improve their results.

We were also fortunate to have Margaret Stanley, Store Director for the Mayport Commissary, attend and share information about their work opportunities and hiring process. She provided a wonderful inside look at the process and offered practical advice to help our spouses and Veterans get hired.

Our keynote speaker was Leona Sheddan, the Executive Director of the Jacksonville Humane Society. She shared an inspirational speech about how to sell yourself and achieve your goals. Meghan Kopitke, the Humane Education Manager, also spoke about her life as a Navy Spouse and how she landed her dream job with the Humane Society. Leona discussed practical tips for your job search, including being prepared for an interview by knowing about the company. She also shared her career journey and the story of the Jacksonville Humane Society. Our honorary guest for the day was Noodle, the Humane Society Education Dog, who helped our attendees with their networking!

Job seekers are reminded over and over that networking is the most effective way to find a job, but when you ask if they are implementing a networking plan they usually say no. So, we spent the afternoon breaking down the networking barrier by creating a fun way for our attendees to practice. We asked them a series of increasingly difficult questions and then had them pair up to practice sharing information about themselves. As the questions became more difficult, they remarked that the process got easier the more they practiced. They are now armed with new ideas of places to network, techniques to use, and more importantly the experience sharing their stories.

Our Employment Treasure Chest workshop was enjoyed by all, and both spouse and Veteran jobseekers who participated reminded us of why these events are important. Military-affiliated candidates are often frustrated by long job search processes, starting over, and/or feel disconnected with the community due to moving, but our attendees are motivated to make a difference. Providing hope, encouragement, and employment solutions is hard to measure in the short-term, but the MSCCN team can report the number of known hires has quadrupled in North Florida over the past 9 months.

October 27, 2010 – MSCCN MilSpouse Job Club Meeting

MSCCN hosted this month's meeting of the MSCCN MilSpouse Job Club on October 27th at VenturePlex in Jacksonville, FL. This month we focused on how to present yourself effectively to a hiring manager. We were joined by guest speaker and hiring manager for Action News, Brad Raney. We started out the meeting with some information about upcoming employment events and organizations that

specifically help the military job seeker like Worksource and the Navy Fleet and Family Support Centers. The remainder of the meeting was reserved for Brad Raney's presentation Launch Your Vowels, Take Command of Your Career.

His session was fun and inspirational. He went through each of his "vowels" and described how to convey them to a hiring manager to help you stand out in an interview. His suggestions included how to convey a positive attitude and how to show your energy in the interview. He also gave some suggestions and examples of the best and worst cover letters he has ever seen. We have received great feedback from the meeting. Our members have shared that this really changes how they think about selling themselves and many of the participants felt like they finally have a cover letter after years of trying.

October 27, 2010 Virtual Training – Just One Thing: Top Tips for a Successful Job Search

MSCCN hosted a virtual training seminar on October 27th, called "Just One Thing – Top Tips for a Successful Job Search and Q & A" to discuss top job searching tips on a variety of topics. The training contained information ranging from tips on resumes, networking, interviews, and everything in between that dealt with the job search process.

The virtual training began with the participants introducing themselves, describing the industry they were interested in, and the area from which they were calling. During the training there was a good flow of communication between the candidates and presenters. We discussed the importance of having a business card and what information should be included when you are searching for a job. Information and tips were provided on how to develop an elevator speech and what the purpose of one was. While talking about networking, two of the most critical steps, following up with individuals and building a rapport, were emphasized. Questions about informational interviews came up, along with how to best target a resume, and how to use a site like LinkedIn as a networking tool.

The feedback received from the participants was extremely positive. The participants expressed thanks for offering this type of training format. After the virtual training, each participant was sent a training manual highlighting various points of information that was discussed. One participant emailed, saying "I loved the fact that it [the virtual training] was informal. You were able to keep my full attention throughout the whole session, you all were well prepared and stayed on point with each bullet, but still giving us the opportunity to express our issues."

This month we also had a virtual meeting with a representative from Goodwill industries. We learned about their program and what they are doing to help homeless veterans as well as sharing information about how MSCCN programs and services. We have also maintained relationships this month's with area recruiters and have been able to share some great job opportunities with our applicants including positions at Landstar and Michelin.

Conclusion:

Our employment workshops this month were popular with our attendees. We appreciate the continued support and expertise of our area partners including the base Fleet and Family Support Centers and Worksource with these events. This month's job club was fun and inspiring for our members. We are pleased that we have been able to move it to a location more centralized in Jacksonville and hope that will help us continue to grow.

Next month, we are looking forward to continuing our outreach in North Florida and to working with our applicants. We are planning to attend the Recruit Military Opportunity Expo and the Annual Northeast Fall Career Expo. We will also be hosting another meeting of the MSCCN MilSpouse Job Club and will focus on how to prepare for an interview.

NORTHWEST FLORIDA

Summary:

This month MSCCN has participated in and hosted a number of events in Northwest Florida. October saw an increase in candidates due in part to the Military Spouse Employment Symposium MSCCN co-hosted with the Airman and Family Readiness Center at Eglin Air Force Base. Over 90 registered spouses attended as well as approximately 32 walk-ins, making this the largest employment event held at Eglin AFB. We also hosted the monthly MilSpouse Job Club in Milton, Florida and participated in the monthly employment panel at the International Military Spouse Network meeting at Eglin AFB. We also made contact with over 2,000 military-affiliated job seekers and applicants who are currently looking for employment, and began planning the MilSpouse Job Club for Pensacola, Florida.

Events and Meetings:

October 14, 2010 – MSCCN Military Spouse Employment Symposium Eglin Air Force Base

The Military Spouse Corporate Career Network (MSCCN) hosted an all day Military Spouse Employment Symposium at Eglin Air Force Base in Northwest Florida on October 14, 2010. This event was co-sponsored by the Eglin Airman and Family Readiness Center, and attended by base agencies such as AAFES, the Civilian Employment Office, Non-appropriated Funds Office, Child Development Center, Jobs Plus, and more.

The event started with fifteen minute introductions from the MSCCN, Airman and Family Readiness Center, Civilian Employment Office, and Jobs Plus. Introductions were followed by a two hour workshop session for attendees to visit each agency for one-on-one assistance. During the afternoon

session attendees continued to work with MSCCN and the Airman and Family Readiness Center on resumes and job search information while participating in on site work sessions on social networking, polishing your professional image, interview skills, and how to dress for success.

There were 90 registered attendees that participated in this event, and approximately twenty-five walk-ins, making this event the largest military spouse employment event hosted on Eglin Air Force Base. Each attendee walked away armed with information they need to take control of their job search and employment positions currently open on Eglin Air Force Base.

This event was beneficial for the MSCCN because it led to new relationships with the Civilian Personnel Office and Non Appropriated Funds Office, and deepened the relationship with the Airman and Family Readiness Center.

October 21, 2010 MilSpouse Job Club – Milton, Florida (Naval Air Station Whiting Field)

The Military Spouse Corporate Career Network (MSCCN) held the October meeting of the MSCCN MilSpouse Job Club in Milton, FL on Thursday, October 21, 2010. The event took place at the Whiting Pines Community Center located in off base housing near Naval Air Station Whiting Field from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

The event was sponsored by The Community Foundation in Jacksonville and NAS Whiting Field Fleet and Family Service Center, and powered by the MSCCN. There were three military spouses in attendance at the meeting this month. The topic of the day was "Networking and Interview Skills to Use in Your Personal and Professional Life", intended to better prepare military spouses for interviews.

To start the meeting attendees were asked to introduce themselves and share with the group why they were there and what they were hoping to accomplish. After introductions we began discussing the dos and don'ts for interviews, top questions asked and the best way to answer, and the proper dress attire for an interview.

At the end of the meeting we gave each attendee one-on-one assistance with their resume, making changes that will help them better represent themselves to the employers. Before closing the meeting we discussed open job positions the each attendee may be interested in and "guerrilla job search tactics" that would help them get an interview.

The October meeting of the MSCCN MilSpouse Job Club- NW Florida was a great success with attendees as they learned positive interview and resume techniques that will help each move forward in their job search. The topic for next month's job club meeting will be polishing your professional image and branding yourself both on and offline.

October 29, 2010 Presentation at the International Military Spouse Network Meeting – Eglin Air Force Base

The Military Spouse Corporate Career Network (MSCCN) presented MSCCN services to attendees of the October meeting of the International Military Spouse Network. The event took place from 9:00-11:00 a.m. at the Airman and Family Readiness Center on Eglin Air Force Base. This monthly event is co-sponsored by the Airman and Family Readiness Center and Jobs Plus, and supported by the MSCCN. There were eight military spouses in attendance at this month's meeting.

The meeting started with each sponsoring agency giving an introduction of their organization to include mission, programs, and services for military spouses. Following this introduction the attendees were asked to introduce themselves and share with the group why they were there, what they were hoping to get out of the meeting, and how the organizations can best assist them.

During the meeting accessed the MSCCN website, O-Net, and the Eglin Airman and Family Readiness site to show attendees how to access and use each site. Additionally, the group discussed resume formats that are received well by recruiters, and the meeting was wrapped up by engaging the group in a round table discussion on employment issues that each of them face as they go through their job search and open positions that each of them may be interested in.

This monthly meeting is successful for many reasons. Most importantly, because it gives our military spouse's direct assistance, but also participation in these events allows the organization the opportunity to work cooperatively with fellow agencies in support of military spouses and expand our network relations. Our ever expanding relationship with Jobs Plus and the Eglin Airman and Family Readiness Center allows us to better serve our military spouses within Okaloosa County.

In Conclusion:

Outreach continues to grow in the Northwest regions as does participation in all MSCCN on site and virtual events. We continue to expand the topics covered in our virtual training sessions, and MilSpouse Job Club meetings to meet the needs of our military job seekers.

The main priorities this month were the Military Spouse Employment Symposium at Eglin Air Force Base in Northwest Florida and the introduction of recruiters at all MSCCN events. Events scheduled for next month include the launch of the MilSpouse Job Club in Pensacola (FL), a MilSpouse Job Club Meeting in Milton (FL), virtual training sessions, and participation in the International Military Spouse Network's employment panel. Our goals next month are to increase recruiter contacts and the numbers of hires within these regions.

The main priority this month was to expand the topics for the Virtual Training Program, increase our outreach numbers, increase the numbers of employment opportunities posted, and participate in events that military-affiliated job seekers attended. Next month we will continue to focus our efforts

in expanding our virtual training platform, to increase recruiter contacts and expand job opportunities for our military spouses and veterans, and to assist candidates with resume improvements that our recruiters would like to see.

Feedback:

"I so enjoyed talking with you and learning about MSCCN. It was refreshing to talk to someone with so many commonalities, despite some of them being hardships. I look forward to working with you. Thank you!"

- Rita, Military Spouse Employment Symposium

"This was a good program. It was very informational and it is a good resource especially for spouses new to the area. Thank You."

- Military Spouse Employment Symposium

"Thank you so much for all the wonderful information!"

- Nicole

"Thank you for the listing! Those types of jobs are not seen very often."

- Kelly

"All the information about MSCCN, Jobs Plus, and Military 1 Source very useful!"

- Military Spouse Employment Symposium

"I enjoyed seeing how Brad Raney organized his resume differently from the traditional resume setup, more of a combination resume. I am currently working on my resume refinement and less of a pared down cover letter and more of a targeted, specific cover letter for each contact.

I found Brad's presentation very motivational and I am so glad you invited me. It was a helpful and informative meeting."

- Cat, MSCCN MilSpouse Job Club

"I liked the atmosphere and the guest speaker was great. I learned a lot about cover letters and other pointers."

- Joe, MSCCN MilSpouse Job Club

"I just wanted to take a moment to tell you that I really enjoyed the seminar. It was very informative and made me realize, if I didn't know it already, just how much things have changed since I last

worked. You both not only taught things we need to know, but actually made learning them fun, which, at least for me, is always a good thing.

It has been my intention to find a job to work from home, but I have to say I actually enjoyed the day more than I thought I would so maybe it's time I get back into the world.

I know that I am going to have to do the resume thing and I will be needing all kinds of help with that since my resume skills have never been stellar to say the least. Another reason to thank Fleet and Family Services and you and Lisa. Any advice, info, words of wisdom you can give me would be greatly appreciated. Again, thank you for just doing what you do and doing it so well.”

- Kim, Employment Treasure Chest

“Thank you for this very informative workshop. I liked the information given for the networking, how to make your resume targeted for specific jobs, and other ways to get your resume out there than just applying. “

- Debra, Employment Treasure Chest

“I thought today was a great inspiration and a fun time. Learned a lot and enjoyed myself. Thanks for all you do!”

- Stephanie, Employment Treasure Chest

“Very informative, gave me a lot to think about. I enjoyed the day. I learned it's a whole new world in the job search and I will be in contact. Thanks.”

- Kim, Employment Treasure Chest

“I really enjoyed the networking part. It makes you think about yourself and what you have to offer, not just the everyday Joe, a cookie cutter after 20 years in the Navy. I would like to have more, we need this in the TAP class.”

- Employment Treasure Chest

I love the "binder plan" and will implement it in my goal. I would love more help with resume building. Great workshop and glad I came. Thank you.

- Stephanie Smith, Employment Treasure Chest