



***MilSpouse Job Club Event Report
Jacksonville, FL
July 29, 2010***



Left: Guest Speaker - Patty Piazza

Middle: Ann Marie Gammon

Right: Applicant Simone Ifill

Overview

MSCCN hosted a MilSpouse Job Club meeting on July 29, 2010 at the Mayport USO. We met to discuss some of our top tips for making your job search more effective. We had three participants attend and Patty Piazza the Military Family Employment Advocate for Worksource was our guest speaker.

Highlights

The meeting started with introductions from the group and we asked them what top job search questions they would like answered. Their top questions were all about resumes so we decided to change our agenda and address the resume questions. In our experience, the resume process seems to be the most confusing to our applicants. We spent some time explaining that they will hear many different opinions about resumes, but that our best advice is to try to think like the hiring manager and give them a resume that shows a clear benefit to the company. We discussed the main types of resumes and different situations where each could be effective. We also discussed the need to target your resume every time you apply for a job and to ensure

you apply only to positions for which you are fully qualified. We reviewed each attendee's resume and helped each one to develop a good format with bullets to be more effective.

We then discussed some of the most important ways to make the job search process more effective starting with organization. We emphasized that being organized can not only help to keep track of job applications and contacts but it will also make you feel more confident. We suggested networking and volunteer opportunities that would work for each applicant and how to fit these events into a busy schedule. We also discussed interviewing and worked on some practice questions. Each applicant got the chance to develop and practice their answer to what is their greatest weakness. Finally they had additional questions about job fairs, dressing for interviews, and job boards. We took time to answer their questions and shared a list of upcoming workshops, job fairs, and internet resources.

Conclusion

The MilSpouse Job Club meeting was a great success and seems to be filling a need for a flexible, informal environment where spouses can ask pressing questions and get individual advice. Having Patty Piazza participate was wonderful because she was able to bring more resources and experience to our spouses. The meetings are still small but we should be able to grow our numbers through word of mouth and advertising. Our Meetup page has been successful so far and we have additional members registered there who were unable to attend this meeting. For future meetings we plan to involve area recruiters to get their feedback on what makes a successful job applicant.

Grant: North Florida BrAlve Grant

MSCCN Attendee: Lisa Blevins

Guest: Patty Piazza, Worksource