

MONTHLY GRANT REPORT

NORTH FLORIDA

New Applicant Totals: 137

Spouses	63
Veterans	66
Transitioning	8

New Hires: 9

4 Navy Spouses - Region 6
1 Navy Veteran - Region 6
3 AF Spouses - Region 1
1 AF Veteran - Region 6

Applicant Breakdown:

Region 1	39
Region 2	1
Region 5	1
Region 6	96

Counties Served:

Duval
Clay
Santa Rosa
Volusia
Alachua
St. John's
Escambia
Nassau
Okaloosa
Bay

Total Applicant Contacts:

Over 900 - Spouses and Veterans

New Volunteers:

Region 6 - 1 new volunteer

NORTH FLORIDA AUGUST 2010

NORTHWEST FLORIDA

Summary:

This month MSCCN continued to see an increase in the number of military spouses reached through direct contact. We participated at a variety of events hosted by military family centers and MSCCN. A core focus in August was to increase job opportunities for military spouses, veterans, and caregivers as we increased outreach efforts.

August also saw the launch of the MSCCN MilSpouse Job Club in Milton, FL near Naval Air Station Whiting Field, which increased direct contact with military job seekers from Santa Rosa and Okaloosa Counties, and an increase in virtual training opportunities, training, and placement opportunities with military family centers and local corporations. Our efforts resulted in an increase in one-on-one work with military spouse and veteran job seekers.

Events and Meetings:

August 12, 2010 Virtual Training – Networking - What Is It and How to Make it Work for you

This month MSCCN held a virtual training session titled “Networking – What Is it and How to Make It Work for You.” We had 10 participants from around the country and the session lasted for one and a half hours. We focused on helping our attendees understand what it means to network, how to improve network skills, and how to set goals for networking at events.



With 80% of jobs today attained through some form of networking, networking has become a necessary tool that many people still do not understand or utilize.

This virtual training was very helpful to our attendees and to our MSCCN team members in attendance. This training was part instruction and part open discussion for attendees to network together and share ideas and resources. Our attendees were from areas all over Florida, from different careers and backgrounds, giving a full range of discussion for everyone to discuss and learn from.

August 19, 2010 NAS Whiting Field Job Fair

On Thursday, August 19, 2010, MSCCN attended the 2010 NAS Whiting Field Job Fair, held in Sikes Hall onboard Naval Air Station Whiting Field from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. for job seekers in Santa Rosa and neighboring counties.

The NAS Whiting Field Job Fair has been held for the last 21 years to provide a broad range of career opportunities for military members transitioning to civilian life, military family members, and the general public. The event attracts both local and national employers who are seeking well-qualified, educated, and experienced and entry-level individuals for employment opportunities within the local counties as well as national positions from around the world. There were over 60 employers in attendance at this year's job fair, and an estimated 1,200 civilian and military affiliated job seekers in attendance.

The event was a success. It provided an opportunity to directly reach military spouses, veterans, and separating military. From this event the MSCCN has 41 new candidates from the Panhandle regions. This event also provided an opportunity for MSCCN to forge new relationships with recruiters from Military Media, the Navy Exchange at NAS Whiting Field, Pre-Paid Legal Services, Troy University, the University of West Florida, and many others.

August 26, 2010 MSCCN MilSpouse Job Club Meeting – Milton, FL

The MSCCN MilSpouse Job Club was launched in Milton, FL on Thursday, August 26, 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 12:00 noon.

The event was sponsored by The Community Foundation in Jacksonville, the MSCCN, and the NAS Whiting Field Fleet and Family Service Center. There were eight military spouses in attendance. The focus of this first meeting was to explain the purpose and objectives of the MSCCN MilSpouse Job Club and to get an understanding from the attendees on what it is that they would like offered and accomplished through this club.

The top concerns were networking and resumes help, so the rest of the discussion revolved around these two topics. In particular, attendees discussed issues with reporting the skills they acquired in volunteer work and the use of key industry terms that made them visible to the hiring managers. The topic for next month's job club meeting will be "Help – What is wrong with my resume?" so we can continue to address what is perceived as the number one reason people are not getting the job – their resumes.

The MSCCN MilSpouse Job Club - Milton meeting was a great success. Attendees agreed that there is a general need for an informal environment where military spouses can network, address key job search concerns, and get advice that is pertinent to their individual job preparation and search. Not all attendees were looking for a job at this time, but those who were not wanted to know how to keep their work experience and skills up for when they were ready to work again. It was agreed that all spouses, whether they are ready to work now or not, will benefit from the MSCCN MilSpouse Job Club, and that it is important to stay informed and keep your resume, skills, experience, and education current to re-enter the work force now or later. Future meetings will address how to convert tasks to skill sets on a resume, how to record volunteer time and career gaps, public speaking, networking, and actions that each spouse can take to stay visible in their industries.

August 31, 2010 – HeartLink Orientation at Eglin Air Force Base

The Military Spouse Corporate Career Network (MSCCN) attended the recent HeartLink orientation at Eglin Air Force Base in Northwest Florida on August 31, 2010. The goal of the program is to strengthen military families through knowledge about military programs, agencies, and the mission, and in turn to enhance overall mission readiness. Although HeartLink was originally created for Air Force spouses of five years or less, all spouses stationed on each Air Force base regardless of their "time in service" and branch of service are now encouraged to attend.

There were 32 military spouses from both the Air Force and Army in attendance at this last HeartLink orientation. The topics covered ranged from customs and courtesies, how to read a Leave and Earnings Statement, military acronyms, and an introduction to the various base agencies and off-base organizations and the services and programs that they provide to support military families. During this orientation MSCCN gave a short presentation on the MSCCN programs and services, followed by one-on-one discussions with several of the attendees. We received a great response from the attending spouses, almost all of whom were interested in employment assistance and placement either now or in the near future.

The orientation was a great success with all spouses in attendance. In addition to providing families with information on the resources available to them both on and around the base, Heart Link also provides something else that can be valuable to the spouses - a contact network of military spouses who understand one another and can serve as a base of support for one another. The orientation ended with a focus on the importance of all military families and a graduation where every spouse

received a certificate of completion and a HeartLink coin from Wing Commander Col. Sal Nodjoman who thanked the spouses for their dedication to their service member.

For the MSCCN, this was a perfect opportunity to share our programs and services with military spouses while expanding our affiliate network with the Airman and Family Readiness Center and the other base agencies in attendance.

Conclusion:

Each month MSCCN continues to increase outreach, job opportunities, and networking that benefit not only the organization itself, but most importantly the military spouses, veterans, and caregivers of war wounded who we serve. The main priority this month continued to be our military-affiliated job seekers; we arranged meetings, trainings, and activities that created opportunities for our military spouses and veterans. Our MSCCN team continued to work together to expand funding opportunities, our work-from-home program, social media platforms, corporate relationships, MilSpouse Job Clubs, virtual trainings and workshops, and relationships with each command and military family center that our programs touch.

Next month we will continue to focus our efforts in expanding job opportunities and recruiter contacts, which will in turn benefit our military community, and funding that will sustain operations for years to come.

NORTHEAST FLORIDA

Summary:

August was a great month for the MSCCN North Florida Outreach Team. We saw a large number of new applicants throughout North Florida and were able to participate in many events. In Northeast Florida we were able to serve 96 new applicants and had over 700 contacts with military-affiliated applicants looking for employment. We hosted an all day employment seminar titled “Career Battleplan 2010” where we helped applicants with their resumes and shared job search resources. We also participated in virtual training sessions, including a webinar to help our candidates be more effective at the Recruit Military Opportunity Expo in Jacksonville, FL. We were also able to attend the Expo and share information about employment resources and MSCCN’s services with the attendees. Finally, we had a very successful monthly meeting of the MilSpouse Job Club at the Mayport USO. Next month we are looking forward to continuing our virtual training, hosting the monthly MilSpouse Job Club meeting, and participating in an employment event with Worksource.

Events and Meetings:

We continue to have great success and interest in our virtual training platform. We currently have a rotating curriculum of job search webinars that we host every two weeks. We cover subjects like networking, job fairs, resumes, and are adding new training sessions regularly. The flexibility of these sessions has been a benefit to our military families seeking employment, and we continue to receive positive feedback on the format and content. This month we were also able to host one of our all day employment workshop for military spouses and their families. These events allow us to generate a lot of visibility for our program as well as providing a format where we can present a large amount of information in a very interactive setting.

August 6 – Career Battleplan 2010 at New Horizons Computer Learning Center

MSCCN was pleased to host Career Battleplan 2010 at New Horizons Computer Learning Center this month. The all day event was interactive and informative featuring workshops, lunch, and one-on-one applicant guidance. The event was a great success and our applicants learned new skills to help them improve their job searches. We kicked off the day with a resume workshop. It focused on targeting your resume - highlighting skills and achievements most relevant to the position, each time you apply for a job. Attendees emailed resumes prior to the event, which allowed us to share resumes on the projector and offer individual critiques. We had multiple resume experts in attendance who shared wonderful techniques. Attendees remarked that working through the process instead of just hearing how to target a resume made this workshop unique and helpful.

Published author Brad Raney presented an inspirational keynote speech about taking command of your job search. Brad highlighted that characteristics like attitude, integrity, and energy play a major role in how you come across to hiring managers. New Horizons presented a computer class focused on tips to help with your job search. They shared tips on how to navigate the new Office products and highlighted features to make it easier to format resumes.

We were able to address questions specific to our attendees and to offer suggestions on how to improve their resumes and job search. We received some wonderful feedback and are looking forward to our next all day employment workshop this October.

August 18 Virtual Training – How to Make the Most of a Job Fair

This month we scheduled a web training to help our candidates be more effective at the local Recruit Military Opportunity Expo. We focused on how to prepare for a job fair to increase confidence and maximize opportunities and emphasized taking control of the job fair to create mini interview scenarios and networking opportunities. We also coached our participants on how to develop their introductions and stories about key accomplishments. We stressed the importance of follow up and

how a simple thank you note can create a strong impression on a hiring manager. We will offer this training again next month as well as sessions on resumes and networking techniques.

August 19 - Recruit Military Opportunity Expo

MSCCN attended the recent Recruit Military Opportunity Expo at the Jacksonville Municipal Stadium on August 19. The event was open to anyone who has worn a uniform in support of the US military and their families. The expo featured a variety of schools, military support organizations, and military friendly employers including Northrop Grumman and Wachovia. There was a good turnout of companies and job seekers. One of the participating recruiters stated that the level of job applicants was especially good at this event. MSCCN hosted a table to share information about our services with the military families in Jacksonville. We highlighted our new MSCCN MilSpouse Job Club and our biweekly virtual training events. We received a great response from the attendees and sent many of them off to do some homework, either researching the companies attending or to work on their “elevator speeches”. We were able to coach a few of the attendees to create a more effective presentation, and they shared that it helped them feel more confident at the recruiter booths. We will also be attending the next Recruit Military Expo in November.

August 26 – MilSpouse Job Club Meeting at the Mayport USO

MSCCN hosted the August meeting of the MSCCN MilSpouse Job Club at the USO near NS Mayport. We had 11 job seekers participate and share their job search stories. Each attendee shared information about their job search; 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 these 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 of us this is easier said than done, so we worked on a networking exercise to share job search information in a comfortable and informal manner. 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 have seen a lot of new activity on the MSCCN MilSpouse Job Club Meetup page this month. The Meetup page allows us to feature information about upcoming meetings and includes a discussion board for members to share resources and ideas. We have been monitoring the page and updating it with information about upcoming events and job search resources.

Conclusion:

This has been a busy month for the Jacksonville area grants team with a large number of new applicants and subsequent applicant follow up. We have continued to streamline our virtual training platform and have upgraded to a new service that will allow more participants to attend each session. We were able to attend a successful area job fair and will attend more in the upcoming months. The participating recruiters were encouraged about the quality of the applicants, and some of the companies were expanding with new hires. Our job club meeting was fun and informational this month, and we continue to register new members on our Meetup board. We were also able to host an all day employment workshop where our applicants received individual resume assistance. These workshops are important for us to be able to receive feedback from our attendees, and we will host additional workshops in September and October.

Feedback:

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.

- Jessica (Job Club)

Just a short note to say THANK YOU for your fun and informative meeting yesterday at the Mayport USO. Hopefully, my comments added some value to the discussion. And who would have thought that I would meet a FORRESTAL Shipmate ... and potential professional liaison. Same for Sarah -- she really enjoyed the group discussion and meeting folks. Further, I appreciate that you took the time to forward my resume / CV and profile to your colleague ... thank you!

- Jonathan (Job Club)

As I told you earlier, I was apprehensive about the format since it was the first time that I have participated in a virtual event. However, I felt extremely comfortable with it, and this is coming from a person that does not like to talk on the phone. Between your delivery, and the fact that I was comfortable at home, what a difference it made! As for the content, you really did a fantastic job of researching the subject and the fact that you were quite energetic about it was a fantastic addition. Knowledge and presentation, you covered everything that was to be covered, don't think you could have done any better. However, that opens the door to the next one.

- Juan (Virtual Training)

Thank you, I don't feel like a superstar. I think you're the superstar because you bring people together who need to hear your message. What I love about you is that you create an empowering environment where people are safe to say and be exactly who they are, and that's what makes for a great facilitator. Also, you bring in guest speakers that provide a wealth of information that can help inspire, motivate, or get someone a job and that is just brilliant!

- Milly (Career Battleplan)

Your Jacksonville Outreach Coordinator is phenomenal! I love her handouts and the way she organizes her seminars. She is an excellent resource and partner for me in helping the military families in the area. She has many great real life examples she uses which makes it seem more real of a connection for the spouses.

- Patty Piazza, Military Family Employment Advocate at Worksource