



Mission Statement

“To provide sound guidance to those who have given so much”

Introduction

The idea for this resource guide came from an experience I had several years ago. A young man who had just come back from the war in Iraq stopped in the Fire Station one afternoon and asked if we were hiring. I explained that the Fire Department was a civil service position and directed him to the City of Norwalk Civil Service Commission.

I ran into this young man several weeks later and inquired as to how he had made out. He looked at me and said, "I am going back to Iraq, there's nothing out here for me." I will never forget the look of despair on his face and thought "man I wish I could have done more for him."

In my opinion, we as a society are failing to give those individuals, who have given so much, an opportunity to succeed in life after their military service. I am very grateful for the opportunity to use Project Leadership as a tool to keep great people in Huron County, Ohio.

Brett Beers – Norwalk Firefighter
US Navy – Drug Enforcement (1987 – 1990)
Small Boat Operations

The purpose of the V.E.E.R. Resource Guide is to assist Veterans in researching gainful employment and educational opportunities upon their return from military service back to Huron County, Ohio. The guide is meant to assist the Veteran in getting a head start with this process. This guide is also a resource to services available to family members.

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This guide will provide the following:

1. Employment and educational opportunities within Huron County, Ohio.
2. The most effective way to search and apply for these opportunities.
3. Other Resources available to the returning Veteran's family members.

In an effort to simplify the many employment and educational opportunities available, this guide breaks the employment categories into three sections: Civil Service, Private Sector, and Self Employment.

The educational section will help you identify what facilities are available within Huron County and the surrounding area and what departments to contact that provide assistance to Veterans.

The First Steps

Each Veteran should take advantage of all programs offered by the Military prior to discharge. Upon arrival to this community the Veteran should contact the local Veterans Affairs office located at 130 Shady Lane, Norwalk, OH 44857, phone 419-668-4105. The Veteran should inquire into The Ohio Transition Assistance Program (OTAPS). The OTAPS is a special program that will assist the Veteran with career guidance and job assessment skills necessary to compete in today's job market. The OTAPS program will provide the Veteran with up-to-date information on what employers are looking for in potential employees, how to find and apply for the ideal job, how to dress for success, write resumes, conduct oneself in an interview and ask and answer those important questions. The Veteran will have the opportunity to communicate directly with local employers and test newly gained knowledge.

Employment Opportunities

Civil Service

Civil Service – This category includes Law Enforcement, Fire Fighting and the United States Postal Service. The Civil Service entities often offer a “credit” to Veterans.

City of Norwalk

City of Norwalk Civil Service Commission
38 Whittlesey Avenue
Norwalk, OH 44857
419-663-6760

- Filing of application (a \$20.00 application fee is due upon filing.) Candidate must provide proof of honorable discharge with DD214 when application is presented. The Veteran will then receive a 20% award toward the written exam.
- The Candidate must score a 70% or higher on the written exam to qualify to move on. (The examination will include areas of reading comprehension, math, mechanical aptitude, spatial relations, etc.)
- Following the successful completion of the written exam the Candidate will need to pass a physical agility test before the Candidate can move on to the background testing and assessment center.

The Norwalk Police Department has an additional requirement. Once the Candidate has passed the written test, the Candidate will then move into other phases which include physical fitness testing, background investigation, identification, and polygraph.

Once eligibility has been established through the testing process the Civil Service Commission will validate a Candidate for two years.

City of Willard

City of Willard Veterans Preference

Willard City Manager

Willard, OH 44890

419-933-2591

- Notice of accepting application will be advertised in the media and various websites.
- Candidate must have been a member of the armed forces of the United States in time of war or national emergency within the past 5 years following their honorable discharge.
- Candidates who are Veterans must provide proof of an honorable discharge with a DD214. (Original or photo static copy.)
- Candidate must score a 70% or higher to move on to the next step.
- Candidates who have passed the written test will then receive 5 points for a non-disabled Veteran and 10 points for a Veteran currently receiving compensation from the United States Veterans Administration for a war-service-incurred disability of more the 10%

City of Bellevue

City of Bellevue

Mayors Office

Bellevue, OH 44811

419-484-8400

- Notice of accepting applications will be advertised in the media and various websites which will include time, place, and general scope of the exam. (A \$20.00 application fee is due upon filing the application.)
- Candidate must score a 70% or higher to move on to the next step.

(City of Bellevue continued)

- Candidates who are Veterans must provide proof of an honorable discharge with a DD214.
- Candidates who have passed the written test will then receive 20% award to their score.

Other Civil Service Employment**The United States Postal Service**

Information on the USPS can be found at www.usps.com which states “The United States Postal Service® is a federal agency and complies with the Veterans Preference Act which permits 5 or 10 points to be added to a qualifying score of 70 or better.” (Not all military Veterans are entitled to a Veteran preference.)

Ohio State Highway Patrol Employment

While the Ohio State Patrol does not have a specific Veteran’s preference hiring practice, once a Candidate has successfully completed all the requirements for hiring, including the successful completion of the Highway Patrol Academy and the Civil Service exam, a 20% credit is added to the Candidate’s final score.

An overview of the required process for acceptance to the Ohio State Highway Patrol Academy includes:

1. Written application
2. Written exam
3. Background check
4. Medical/Physical exam
5. Psychological assessment

For additional information visit:

<http://statepatrol.ohio.gov/operationalunits/recruit/recrts.html>

Private Sector

Please contact the Veterans Administration Office at 419-668-4105 to obtain the most current information to search for jobs in the Private Sector.

Another good resource would be Ohio Job and Family Services. They can be reached at 419-668-8126.

Most employers are utilizing Employment Placement Centers to fill positions in the Huron County area. They are as follows:

- Westaff 419-663-5201
- Spherion 419-465-6200
- Inventive Staffing 419-842-4071

A word of caution: Please understand all terms to any agreement you may enter into before entering into them!

Here is a list of the largest employers in Huron County, Ohio at the time of printing: (June 2009)

Company Name	Contact Information	Category
Pepperidge Farm	Willard OH 419-933-2611	Manufacturing
Mayflower Commercial Vehicle Group	Norwalk, OH 419-668-8132	Manufacturing
Fisher-Titus Medical Center	Norwalk, OH 419-668-8101 www.ftmc.com	Service
Huron County Government	Norwalk, OH www.hccommissioners.com	Government
MTD Products/ Midwest Industries	Willard, OH 419-935-6611 www.mtdproducts.com	Manufacturing
Norwalk City Schools	Norwalk, OH 419-668-2779 www.norwalk-city.k12.oh.us/schools/boe/boe.htm	Government
R. R. Donnelley & Sons Co.	Willard, OH 419-935-0111	Manufacturing
Berry Plastics Group	Monroeville, OH 812-424-2904 www.berryplastics.com	Manufacturing

Self Employment

If you are interested in starting your own business, there are many resources available to the Veteran through the Small Business Administration (SBA) and Department of Veteran Affairs Veteran Benefits Administration Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Service (VR&E.) It may make more sense for you to work for yourself rather than someone else. Self Employment is a category that should not be overlooked. The skills acquired in the Military may be a perfect fit for your own business.

For more information visit:

- American’s Small Business Development Center Network
<http://www.asbdc-us.org/>
- SBA’s Office of Veterans Business Development
<http://www.sba.gov/aboutsba/sbaprograms/ovbd/index.html>
- The Center For Veterans Enterprise
<http://www.vetbiz.gov/>
- Or Google “SBA Services available to Veterans” yourself to see what is available.

Educational Opportunities

BGSU Firelands

1 University Circle

Huron, OH 44839

419-433-5560 ext. 20657

Veterans Services Coordinator

Helps with G.I. Bill Benefits

Free Tutoring & Career counseling

Firelands Regional Medical Center School of Nursing

1912 Hayes Ave.

Sandusky, OH 44870

419-557-7121

Financial Aid Coordinator

Assists Veteran with G.I. Bill

Nursing is a 3 year program and once completed a Veteran can sit for the state registry test.

EHOVE Adult Education Career Center

316 W. Mason Rd.

Milan, OH 44846

Veterans Assistance

419-499-4663 ext. 213

(Educational Opportunities continued)

North Central State
2441 Kenwood Circle
Mansfield, OH 44906

Veterans Benefits Certifying Official
e-mail: financialaid@ncstatecollege.edu
419-755-4723

Terra Community College
2830 Napoleon Road
Fremont, OH 43420-9600

Financial Aid Advisor and Veterans' Benefits
419-559-2348 or 1-866-AT-TERRA (866-288-3772) ext. 2344

Tiffin University
195 Miami St.
Seitz Hall
Tiffin, OH 44883

Financial Aid Advisor
419-448-3279 or
1-800-968-6446 ext. 3279

Standard Industrial Classification Manual

The United States Armed Forces provides an excellent resource manual to all Veterans that cross reference the job classifications acquired and performed during active service with employment opportunities available in Huron County, OH.

This Standard Industrial Classification Manual can be found at the Veterans Resource table located at Ohio Jobs and Family Services or at your local library.

If you are unable to locate a copy of this manual, you can contact the Huron County Veterans Administration office at 419-668-4105 for assistance.

In addition to this manual, there are many resources that can help you cross reference what you learned during your military service to civilian employment. One of the most useful ways to research these resources would be through the internet. Please be advised; always validate any offer made through the internet before disclosing personal information!

FAMILY SERVICES

Huron County Job and Family Services

Huron County Job and Family Services offers a wide variety of programs designed to help Huron County residents maintain a healthy lifestyle while obtaining and/or keeping employment. This entity maintains a very active “Job Store” for job seekers. Contact: 419-668-8126 toll free 1-800-668-5175 or 185 Shady Lane, Norwalk, OH 44857.

Website: http://www.huroncountydjfs.org/interesting_links.html

Contacts:

- Huron County Veteran Administration
419-668-4150
- Norwalk Area United Fund
419-668-0269
- Huron County Commissioners
419-668-3092
- Norwalk VFW Post 2743
419- 668-2335
- Huron County Job and Family Services
419-668-8126

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