The Texas Workforce Commission promotes and supports a workforce system that offers employers, individuals, and communities the opportunity to achieve and sustain economic prosperity.
The Texas Veterans Leadership Program (TVLP), sponsored by the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC), is a comprehensive program that assists returning veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan as they resume civilian life in Texas. The TVLP was started in July 2008 by TWC Commissioner Tom Pauken. It was modeled after the Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program that he developed during the Reagan administration. It is veterans helping veterans. TVLP has provided assistance to over 9,200 veterans of Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom, and Operation New Dawn.

Resource and referral services provided through TVLP to Veterans upon their return from active duty include:

- Job-search and employment assistance
- Education and training resources
- Federal and state programs
- Services from community organizations

Veterans Resource and Referral Specialists

TWC oversees 28 local workforce development boards across Texas. Each board is staffed with a Veterans Resource and Referral Specialist (VRRS) who actively reaches out to returning veterans. VRRSs work closely with Workforce Solutions staff, government agencies, community organizations, faith-based organizations, and veterans service organizations.

“We have an obligation to honor the hard work and sacrifice of the men and women who have so courageously served our country in Iraq and Afghanistan. The Texas Veterans Leadership Program is a network of veterans helping veterans to find opportunities to successfully transition to civilian life and work.” TWC Chairman Andres Alcantar
Veterans by the Numbers

- **2.3 Million** Iraq and Afghanistan veterans in the U.S.
- **More than 156,000** Iraq and Afghanistan veterans in Texas
- **25,000** Operation Iraqi Freedom/Operation New Dawn/Operation Enduring Freedom veterans separate from the service and return to Texas annually

State of Texas Soldier Employment Initiative

TWC is a major partner in a pilot project with the Department of the Army, the Department of Labor, employers, and several other state agencies. The purpose of this project is for the Texas Workforce System to be integrated into the soldiers transition into the civilian workforce. The goal is to increase employment of soldiers by 40 percent within 60 days of leaving the Army.

Job-Search Assistance

For Army Master Sgt. Randall Thompson of Lubbock, job-search efforts didn’t start out smoothly. “I started looking for a job a year before I retired from the Army, but no one wanted to talk to me until I was out,” according to Thompson, who says he applied for 60 jobs before getting his first offer. With assistance from the VRSS in Workforce Solutions South Plains, the TWC initiative made good on its promise of putting his service to work. Skills in the safety field that Thompson obtained during his two decades in the military resulted in a job with Federated Insurance Co. in Lubbock.

“The Texas Veterans Leadership Program helps our veterans return to their civilian lives with the tools they need to be successful in the workforce. Veterans can receive job-search assistance, access to training opportunities and more through TVLP’s resources.”

TWC Commissioner Representing Labor Ronny Congleton
Other Valuable Resources for Veterans

- U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (www.va.gov)
- Texas Veterans Commission (www.tvc.state.tx.us)
- Texas Veterans Land Board (www.glo.texas.gov/vlb/)
- TWC Unemployment Insurance Division (Tele-Center: 800-939-6631)
- Veterans of Foreign Wars (www.texasvfw.org/)
- American Legion (txlegion.org)
- Dial 2-1-1 Texas Information and Referral Network (www.211texas.org/211/)

For additional information on the Texas Veterans Leadership Program visit vets.texasworkforce.org or call 888-VET-TEX1 (838-8391)

Texas Workforce Commission
101 E. 15th St.
Austin, TX 78778-0001

www.texasworkforce.org

Equal Opportunity Employer/Program
Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.
Relay Texas: 800-735-2989 (TTY) and 711 (Voice).

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Coordination with Community Organizations

Although Army veteran Jorge Aviles of El Paso already had secured a job driving for United Parcel Service, he was struggling with the financial pressure of the transition to civilian life. The VRRS in Workforce Solutions in Upper Rio Grande referred Aviles to the VFW, as well as Reserved Aid for assistance. Both agencies helped the veteran, and Aviles was able to keep his home and vehicle, buy groceries for his family, and keep all his utilities on until he began earning income from his new job.

Assistance with Federal Agencies

Troy Hererra enrolled in the Navarro Police Academy in Waxahachie after completing 3½ years of active duty in the Army. After starting his academy training, he learned that the Veterans Administration had denied his claim for benefits, stating he was “not eligible for the GI Bill because he was never enrolled in the GI Bill program at the time of enlistment.” After some research, the VRRS in Workforce Solutions North Central Texas was able to obtain Hererra’s original enlistment contract showing he paid his $1,200 into the GI Bill program, which resulted in Hererra’s approval for GI Bill benefits.

“Texas should serve as the model for the nation in welcoming our veterans home the right way as they return to civilian life. The best means of thanking them for the sacrifices they have made for our state and nation is to put in place a road map for their successful re-integration into civilian life.”

TWC Commissioner Representing Employers Tom Pauken
Texas Workforce Commission, in partnership with 28 local workforce development boards, forms Texas Workforce Solutions, providing innovative services to support employers and workers statewide. Texas Veterans Leadership Program Veterans Resource and Referral Specialists are located in local workforce centers across Texas.
The Texas Veterans Leadership Program is a comprehensive resource and referral network designed to help connect returning veterans with the tools and resources they need for a successful transition in returning to civilian life. Texas employers can benefit from hiring veterans and may qualify for federal business income tax credits if they hire from among three categories of veterans: unemployed veterans, disabled veterans and veterans receiving SNAP benefits.

Why hire a veteran?

- **Leadership**: Veterans are trained to be leaders and managers — no additional seminars required.
- **Professionalism**: Veterans know the importance of integrity and respect, which will give your team the winning edge.
- **Responsibility**: Veterans know what it means to be accountable for valuable human and material resources.
- **Mission-critical skills**: Veterans undergo trade-related and technical training that often relates directly to civilian jobs.
- **Physical conditioning**: Veterans know the value of being in top physical condition and drug-free.
- **Can-do attitude**: Veterans carry and apply a positive attitude to get the job done.

vets.texasworkforce.org
888-VET-TEX1 (838-8391)

TEXAS WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS
Work Opportunity Tax Credits

The federal Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC) offers tax savings to employers who hire from among three categories of veterans. Hiring unemployed veterans, disabled veterans and veterans receiving SNAP benefits can result in direct savings on federal business income or payroll taxes.

These veterans are among WOTC-eligible groups. Employers who hire multiple WOTC-eligible employees can see an even larger reduction in their federal taxes.

For more information and a list of eligible groups, contact TWC’s WOTC unit at 800-695-6879 or visit us online at www.texasworkforce.org/svcs/wotc/wotc.html.

Employers: How to file for the tax credit

- Complete IRS Form 8850 (Prescreening Notice and Certification Request) and ETA Form 9061 (Individual Characteristics Form) or

- Complete IRS Form 8850 and ETA Form 9062 (Conditional Certification Form) provided to the job seeker by TWC or a participating agency.

Mail the two forms to:
Texas Workforce Commission WOTC Unit
101 E. 15th St., Room 202T
Austin, Texas 78778-0001

Forms must be postmarked within 28 days of the employee’s start date.

View a brief video online and learn how TVLP can help you!