

MILITARY-TRANSITION.ORG

ADVICE FOR A SUCCESSFUL TRANSITION

Based upon surveys and interviews with thousands of veterans over the past two decades, we compiled the five most important elements of a successful transition to civilian life.

1 START PREPARING EARLY

There's nothing unpatriotic about preparing for life after the military. Everyone must undergo the transition and research shows that starting early helps members understand and navigate the process.



2 HAVE A TRANSITION PLAN

It doesn't have to be complex, but you should have a written plan with goals, enabling activities, and timelines. Start learning about the civilian workforce, education and training programs. Think about what interests you, where you might enjoy living, and start connecting with mentors.



3 BUILD YOUR NETWORK

This is the most recommended element of a successful transition. Get active on LinkedIn and other digital forums, participate in community groups, and build contacts through face-to-face networking. Engage with other military members, veterans, and civilians to understand their career experiences, education, and training programs.



4 LEARN TO TRANSLATE YOUR SKILLS

Translating your skills requires effort but results in a strong resume, good interviewing skills, and the ability to demonstrate your value to an employer. Practice is essential and we recommend asking your network for assistance and feedback.



5 BE PATIENT

Adapting to the military lifestyle didn't happen overnight and reintegrating with civilian life requires time. Patience and persistence are enablers throughout the transition process.

