

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.



ADVICE FOR A SUCCESSFUL TRANSITION

START EARLY

INVEST THE TIME AND EFFORT TO BE SUCCESSFUL

- Start thinking about what's next
- Visit mynextmove.org for ideas
- Speak with family and friends
- Explore your true interests
- Focus on transition as your mission
- Establish a LinkedIn profile
- Join online discussions
- Read books and articles
- Listen to podcasts
- Begin a transition journal

HAVE A PLAN

YOU CAN'T HIT A TARGET THAT DOESN'T EXIST

- Consider all options: Employment | Education | Entrepreneurship
- Research areas of interest using resources such as: Military-Transition.org | IVMF.syracuse.edu | StudentVeterans.org
- Identify career and life goals, then start your transition plan of attack
- Update and improve your plan while networking and translating skills

NETWORK

WHO YOU KNOW AND WHO KNOWS YOU ARE IMPORTANT

- Contact friends and veterans who have transitioned
- Connect with and learn from mentors, coaches, and advisors
- Engage with organizations such as: ACP-usa.org | Veterati.com | HiringOurHeroes.org | FourBlock.org | USO.org | Vets2Industry.com
- Build contacts online and through in-person events

TRANSLATE YOUR SKILLS

THE HARDEST PART OF A SUCCESSFUL TRANSITION

- Develop targeted resumes and practice interviewing skills
- Practice interviewing again and constantly update your resume
- Discuss with your network and ask for help
- Listen as others discuss organizations, roles, schools, and training
- Obtain certifications and refresher skills

BE PATIENT

SUCCESSFUL TRANSITIONS DON'T HAPPEN OVERNIGHT

- Continue researching, learning, and journaling
- Always seek feedback and improve your plan
- Enhance current skills while adding new ones
- Attend workshops, career fairs, and social events
- Explore DoDSkillbridge.com and other hands-on programs