



Guard and Reserve: **Newsletter Special Edition**

2026: A Landmark Year of Growth and Reflection from the Guard and Reserve Program Team

The past year marked a transformative milestone for the VetJobs National Guard and Reserve program. As we look ahead, we are already preparing for our 2027 Guard and Reserve Summit, an event that will gather dedicated leaders, military stakeholders, and corporate allies to advance our shared mission: delivering zero-cost, high-impact employment support to Guard and Reserve service members, veterans, and their families.

This month, we also paused to reflect on the 25th anniversary of 9/11, a pivotal moment that reshaped our nation and transformed our Guard and Reserve from a strategic reserve into a fully operational force. A powerful testament to this reality occurred just days before the anniversary, when the Vermont National Guard's 158th Fighter Squadron returned from a nine-month deployment, twice the length of a standard rotation. Flying F-35s across multiple theaters, these airmen demonstrated that the Guard remains *Always Ready, Always There*, and vital to our national security.

Our Strategic Framework

Our path forward is anchored by a precise, three-pillar framework designed to drive sustainable candidate success:

Building Partnerships:

Establishing trusted connections across state commands, unit leadership, and federal entities.

Sustaining Engagement:

Delivering continuous, high-touch support to help military partners meet recruitment and force-readiness goals.

Optimizing Pathways:

Streamlining transition pipelines so candidates move smoothly into meaningful, full-time civilian careers.

Program History & Nationwide Impact

Founded in 2010 in direct response to an Army National Guard call to address peak unemployment, our program has connected over 38,000 service members and spouses with high-quality civilian roles.

What began as a targeted relief effort has evolved into a nationwide initiative spanning all 54 states and territories. Today, VetJobs actively partners with 36 states while continuing outreach across every region.

To meet varying local needs, we offer three flexible partnership tiers:

VJ Guard & Reserve Partnership Tiers

Active Referral: Directs service members and spouses to VetJobs through customized digital and print marketing.

Full Use: Empowers state employment teams to manage and track talent pipelines directly via our BrassRing platform.

Training Gateways: Delivers direct access to thousands of sponsored skill-development and certification courses.



Impact in Action: Restoring Financial Stability

The true strength of our framework is best reflected in individual lives transformed. When a traditional drilling National Guard member faced underemployment following a deployment, balancing civilian financial strains with drill obligations became overwhelming.

Paired with a dedicated 1-on-1 recruiter through VetJobs, the service member received tailored resume revision, interview preparation, and direct corporate introductions. Within six weeks, they secured a full-time operations position with flexible drill accommodations, restoring household financial stability while keeping a trained leader in uniform.

Current Reach

Below represents our active state partnership that our Guard and Reserve Program has. We currently have presence in **36** states, displayed in the following graphic:



Expanding Our Footprint

Building on this momentum, VetJobs is actively expanding coverage across every military formation:

- **Closing the State Gap:** Connecting with leadership across the remaining 18 states and territories to establish tailored support models.
- **Deepening Reserve Integration:** Expanding direct engagement into Major Subordinate Commands, wings, and brigades across all Reserve components alongside the U.S. Army Reserve Private Public Partnership Office (P3O).
- **Ensuring Candidate Success:** Combining local command relationships with centralized RecruiterConnect guidance from initial intake to verified hiring.

Meet the Team

Our leadership team brings together decades of military experience, academic expertise, and hands-on outreach:



Major General (Ret.) David May, PhD

Vice President of Military Partnerships, VetJobs

A 30-year veteran whose service includes leadership roles at the Pentagon, U.S. Transportation Command, Air Force Cyber Command, Volk Field ANGB, and as Wisconsin's 32nd Adjutant General. Holding a PhD in Human Resource Management, Gen. May guides the strategic expansion of our nationwide partnerships.

Kaitlyn Smith

Military Partnerships Manager, VetJobs

Navy spouse and military family member who oversees operational execution across state and component partnerships, streamlining integration for Active Referral, Full Use, and Training frameworks.



Chief Master Sergeant (Ret.) John Harris

Outreach Specialist, VetJobs

Leads grassroots unit engagement, connecting directly with commanders, service members, and family readiness groups to introduce zero-cost resources well before transition challenges arise.



September 10th, 2026 - David May addresses graduates and family of OTS Class 26-27.

Parting Words

Speaking to the graduates of Air Force Officer Training School Class 26-17 on September 10th, Maj Gen May shared a perspective that drives our entire organization:

"Your sacrifices are real, often underappreciated, and essential to our nation's security. Work-life balance will sometimes feel elusive... But you have joined this effort—standing watch at home and abroad so our security can endure. For that, I thank you, along with countless others who deeply appreciate you."

Our team remains energized to expand our reach, building a transparent, sustainable, and adaptive program for those who serve.



Written by David May

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