



DUTY CALLS - WE DELIVER



How VetJobs, AVG, and KKR are Connecting Veterans to Meaningful Careers

For veterans leaving military service, the challenge is rarely a lack of skill, leadership, or adaptability, it is access. Access to employers who understand military experience, recognize the value veterans bring to the workforce, and provide clear pathways into meaningful civilian careers.

That is where partnerships between VetJobs, American Veterans Group (AVG), and KKR are making a measurable impact. Together, these organizations are helping veterans translate military experience into long term career success by creating direct connections between military-affiliated talent and employers committed to hiring veterans.

Together, AVG and VetJobs have expanded the scale and reach of veteran hiring initiatives by combining AVG's employer and investment community relationships with VetJobs' extensive military-affiliated talent network and career services expertise.

This collaboration found an even broader platform through a partnership with KKR, a leading global investment firm that has demonstrated a strong commitment to supporting veterans across both its corporate workforce and portfolio companies.

Through internal advocacy and a shared commitment to veteran employment, AVG, VetJobs, and KKR aligned around a common goal: creating scalable pathways to employment for military talent across a broad portfolio of companies and industries. By leveraging KKR's expansive portfolio network, the partnership has created access to opportunities that many veterans may never have otherwise discovered.

"AVG understands the value veterans bring to the workforce and provides access to meaningful careers," said Sean Gallagher, Principal at KKR. "KKR is proud to support this pipeline for veterans who may be interested in working at one of our portfolio companies."

Since the partnership began, we have worked together to connect veterans with career opportunities throughout KKR's portfolio companies, helping military-affiliated candidates secure meaningful employment and long-term career growth opportunities.

"When you work with private equity firms and their portfolio companies, the impact becomes exponential," said Angie Fair, SR Director of Strategic Partnerships at VetJobs. "Through our partnership with KKR, we are able to scale employer connections and introduce military-affiliated talent to opportunities they may never have realized existed."

In November, AVG partnered with KKR and its Vets at Work initiative alongside VetJobs to co-host a virtual VetJobs Career Fair designed specifically to connect veteran talent with employers across KKR's portfolio network. The event created a dynamic environment where military-affiliated candidates could engage directly with hiring leaders, learn about career opportunities, and build meaningful professional relationships.

Ten KKR portfolio companies participated in private breakout sessions and connected directly with more than 229 military-affiliated attendees during the live event. In total, nearly 900 veterans registered for the fair, many of whom continue to receive ongoing career support and guidance through VetJobs.

"Many in the military community don't realize how many opportunities exist outside of federal jobs or traditional defense contractors," Fair said. "This event helped broaden perspectives and showcase roles where veterans can excel because of their military experience. Candidates were highly engaged because KKR's portfolio companies span such a wide range of industries, and we saw significant follow-up after the event."

Among the veterans participating was Laurie Jones, a 20-year Air Force veteran. Through the event, Jones connected with hiring managers at CIRCOR and later accepted a position as Senior Supply Chain Expeditor at Leslie Controls, a global valve manufacturer based in Tampa, Florida.

"Everyone here feels and acts like an owner," said Hannah Ennessy, CIRCOR's Talent Acquisition Manager who first connected with Jones. "We look for people who take ownership of their role and are empowered to lead, regardless of level. That ownership mindset translates exceptionally well from military service."

"Right from the beginning," she added, "Laurie demonstrated initiative, following up after the event, researching the company, connecting with hiring managers, and continuing the conversation. That level of ownership stood out immediately."

Ennessy also credited the collaboration between KKR, AVG and VetJobs as instrumental in helping facilitate strong candidate connections and creating a seamless experience for employers.

"What was incredibly valuable was how integrated the partnership felt from the beginning," Ennessy said. "KKR did a great job bringing portfolio companies into the process early, and the collaboration with VetJobs and AVG created a very effective hiring experience."

Stories like Laurie's demonstrate the tangible impact that intentional partnerships can have on veteran employment outcomes. By combining employer engagement, workforce expertise, and scalable networks, AVG, VetJobs, and KKR are helping veterans successfully transition into civilian careers where they can continue to lead and grow.

The partnership also provides a broader blueprint for how private equity firms can support veteran hiring at scale. Through internal advocacy, strategic partnerships, and sustained employer engagement, firms like KKR can create meaningful employment pathways across entire portfolio ecosystems.

As VetJobs continues expanding these efforts throughout the private equity landscape, the focus remains consistent: transforming access into opportunity and ensuring veterans are connected to careers where their leadership, experience, and skills are fully valued.



WRITTEN BY ANGIE FAIR

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Career Fair May 28th, 2026 at 1 PM CT

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