

# MSEJ

## Military Services Employment Journal



# NGEN

## National Guard Employment Network

### NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU AWARDS VETJOBS



# Table of Contents

**3. BOARD MEMBER HIGHLIGHT**

**4. NATIONAL GUARD LEADERS**

**5. NATIONAL GUARD EMPLOYMENT NETWORK**

**6. SINCE 2018 NGEN ON-BOARDED 50 STATES & TERRITORIES & CUSTOM-CREATED 36 STATES WEBSITES**

**7. NGEN INFORMATION**

**8. & 9. NGEN EANGUS CONFERENCE IN DC AND TRAINING AT CAMP MURRAY, WA**

**10. HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO THE NGEN AND LOVE CAMPAIGN!**

**12. WHATS LOVE GOT TO DO WITH IT?**

**13. NGEN- NATIONAL GUARD EMPLOYMENT COUNCIL**

**14. NATIONAL GUARD & RESERVE CAREER SPECIALISTS**

**15. WELL DONE, BRANDY SULEWSKI**

**16. NATIONAL GUARD SUCCESS STORY**

**17. NATIONAL GUARD SPOUSE SUCCESS STORY**

**18. SALUTE TO INDUSTRY**

**19. EMPLOYER PARTNER HIGHLIGHT -CRANE NUCLEAR**

**20. NON PROFIT PARTNER HIGHLIGHT HIRING OUR HEROES CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

**21. VET JOBS IMPACT STATEMENT**

**22. MILITARY SPOUSE IMPACT STATEMENT**

**23. \$2,000 MONTHLY MSEJ SPONSORSHIP**

**24. THANK YOU TO OUR FUNDERS AND SUPPORTERS**

# Board Member Highlight

Major General Richard Hayes.  
Commander, Illinois National  
Guard (ret), Vice President,  
Middough Inc.



## Board Member, VetJobs & Military Spouse Jobs

Commander of the Illinois National Guard. Served as a member of the Governor's Cabinet and principal advisor on military matters. Senior officer for both the Illinois Army and Air National Guard. Responsible for leading the operations of the Illinois National Guard consisting of 13,000 men and women in uniform (2,200 full time) and 230 civilian employees in the Illinois Department of Military Affairs. Responsible for executing a 500MM annual budget in support of operations around the world. Lead instructor for senior officer program on Cyber Warfare and Critical Infrastructure - US Northern Command.

Middough is a full-service engineering, architecture, procurement, and construction management firm that has been providing value-added project solutions to clients for over 70 years.

Businesses and organizations in the Energy, Pharma/Biotech, Manufacturing, Metals, and Chemical industries have trusted Middough with projects that are critical to their success. With offices in seven locations, Middough delivers the solutions of a global EPCM firm with the flexibility and customer focus of a local service provider.

Safety and Quality are at the core of Middough's culture. Our commitment to safety and quality starts with our leadership and team members through observations, data, training and continuous improvement. As a result of our programs and our dedication to cultivating relationships with our clients, Middough proudly delivers Performance You Trust™.

# NGEN Leaders and Master Trainers



Danielle Trosclair  
VetJobs  
Military Spouse Jobs  
NGEN  
Chief Operations Officer

---



Danette Hayse  
National Guard and Reserves  
Senior Program Manager

---



Linda Lucas  
NGEN Partnership  
Program Manager

---



Kelli Hogan  
Career Corps Program  
Manager  
Training Department  
Master Trainer



# National Guard Employment Network (NGEN)

VetJobs & Military Spouse Jobs work hand-in-hand with the National Guard In the states, which request our assistance per our National Guard Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)



## Your One-Stop, NG Employment & Career Readiness Resource

Personalized Career Readiness and Job Placement Assistance



NGEN is here to help you overcome hiring obstacles and secure employment.

Through NGEN, Guard Members, Veterans, Spouses, and even Dependents, can connect with specialized support based on each individual's career readiness needs.

Career Development and Credentialing Opportunities



Live Job Readiness training, self-paced career development courses, and industry specific credentialing opportunities; our Ingenuity training platform has it all. Explore this 3-tiered training platform designed to help you hone new skills, amplify your resume, and empower your career goals.

Connect with Employers through the OCEAN Job Network



The One Central Employment and Advancement Network (OCEAN) connects you to OVER 4-Million career opportunities across all industries and experience levels. With dedicated jobs boards and a Recruiter Connect team ready to assist, your dream career is just a click away!



[National Guard Job Seeking Families Register Here](#)

# Since 2018 NGEN on-boarded 50 States and Territories and Custom-Created 36 States Websites

## NGEN statistics from our 2022 Snapshot:

- Over 87,000 NG candidates registered
- 82% are ARNG affiliated
- 83% are from our Enlisted Ranks
- 17% are Spouse, Dependent, Caregiver, Widow/Widower

## **We have over 27,000 Job Placements and here's a quick hit of our 2022 Placement Data:**

- Top Industry is IT
- 15% of those placed were a NG Spouse, dependent or caregiver
- 78% from the Enlisted Ranks
- 32% are female

## **Our training platform has over 172 Training Partners that provide training, credentialing and certifications to our registered candidates. In 2022 a quick look at the NG numbers shows that:**

- 80% are Guard affiliated candidates participating in training
- 1% of participants are dependents
- Top Training Platform is Coursera
- Top Certification Requested is IT/Cyber

---

## 24/7 Assistance for our National Guard Families.

One of the best features of the NGEN program is to create each state an Employment Focused website that acts as a 24/7 assistant to our National Guard members and families who are searching for jobs/career/additional training. Emily Dale, our newest team member, has been tasked with working with each state to build these custom websites. Danette Hayes and Linda Lucas were recently at EANGUS to showcase this wonderful program and were able to connect with several new states in order to offer services to more service members and their families. The new and improved websites, mobile friendly, were a huge hit.

Check out the state websites by going to <https://casy4vets.org/NG/> and selecting a state from the menu.

# NGEN Provides Each State National Guard Command our Full Employment Support, Career Development Pieces for them to Implement, and Sustain Employment Programs within their Individual States.

---

Training at the state and national level includes not only technology training but also career development best practice training. Customized training is specific to the audience. Content varies based on state needs, resource usage, and role i.e - if the audience is leadership, individuals in the field providing assistance, or military-affiliated jobseekers receiving assistance.

The purpose of NGEN is to provide each state National Guard Command with employment support and development pieces for them to utilize as they plan, implement, and sustain employment programs within their state that help manage employment issues that their Service Members are facing. There are many support and development tools available within NGEN; all are offered at NO-COST to the states.

Full services include:

Use of BrassRing applicant tracking and case management technology.

Build out of a customized registration portal and connection to the State's NG website.

Development of customized reporting metrics needed by the state regarding their military and family members.

Technology training and support for the state NG's employment team

Each state determines who will be given access to support their mission on the ground; if no team is present to manage individual job seekers in the system, then VetJobs takes responsibility for all registered candidates and reports back hires, etc. to the state when requested.

# 2023 EANGUS Conference in Washington, DC



## NGEN Will Always Dedicate its Purpose to the National Guard



Dick Smith  
Linda Lucas  
Danette Hayes  
Diane Loh  
Trisha Callahan



Linda Lucas  
Danette Hayes  
Diane Loh



On February 21, 2023 the VetJobs and Military Spouse Jobs' Master Training Team for our National Guard Employment Network (NGEN) traveled to Camp Murray, WA to train the new Work For Warriors Employment Counselors on our Infinite Technology. They also had the opportunity to share the full benefits of the NGEN Program. Linda Lucas, NGEN Partnership Assistant Program Manager and Danette Hayes, National Guard and Reserves Sr Program Manager, provided one on one training on the technology platform with the Employment Counselors. Dohn Rondeau, Vet Jobs and Military Spouse Jobs Career Specialist, provided professional development training on a "Day In the Life of a Career Specialist (CS)" where he and the employment counselors were able to share best practices and their exceptional experiences.





5 Years!

Happy Anniversary to the NGEC and LOVE Campaign!



In April 2018, the National Guard Employment Council was officially launched in coordination with the NGEN Program. Now under the care of Mrs. Kelly Hokanson and Mrs. Dianne Loh, the NGEC has been pivotal in the growth of the National Guard Employment Network under VetJobs. Previously launched under the LOVE acronym, Leveraging Opportunities, Vocations and Employment, the LOVE campaign focuses the NGEC on the tools necessary for our members to be job and career ready.

Who is the NGEC? The National Guard Employment Council is composed of senior leader spouses, inclusive of Enlisted and Officer ranks, who care and are committed to support the national guard service member and their families in their employment journey. Council members are advocates for the NGEN Program using their professional and civilian networks to grow outreach and educate the public on the issues impacting our NG as it applies to employment.

In 2020, the NGEC added a Board of Advisors that helps guide the mission and education for the NGEN Program. Our Board of Advisors are involved and dedicated to outreach efforts and the NGEN Program. Business Advisor Dick Smith with USAA and a retired Command Chief with the Air National Guard is one of our loudest supporters. Dick loves sharing NGEN wherever he goes. He said "As a former Senior Military Leader, I continue my calling to take care of Military Members and their families by assisting them in their civilian careers with a high quality and professional organization like the National Guard Employment Network (NGEN) It's an honor to be a part of such an organization that shares the same goals that I have. Dick Smith, 9th Command Chief of the Air National Guard.



“As a former Senior Military Leader, I continue my calling to take care of Military Members and their families by assisting them in their civilian careers with a high quality and professional organization like the National Guard Employment Network (NGEN) It’s an honor to be a part of such an organization that shares the same goals that I have”.

Dick Smith

9th Command Chief of the Air National Guard

When asked what motivates you to be a business advisor to the NGEC, Tricia Callahan, VP of Sales with PowerFlare said this; “Upon meeting Danette and learning about NGEN a few years ago, I became passionate about helping this worthy group meet its goals. Helping Guards people, their spouses and children find meaningful employment – thus helping sustain our Guard families – is something I feel strongly about. I am happy to do what I can as I travel the country for my work with PowerFlare.”

The council tries to meet at least 4 times a year and most of that has been virtual since 2020. Our kick off meeting in November 2019 was a collective effort with guard and reserve spouses to share their concerns about their own employment journey as a guard spouse as the op-tempo of the NG has been unprecedented since WWII. The impact on guard families has been a retention issue as guard families grapple with continuing their service or focusing on their civilian career. This also applies to the spouse. Our commitment to NGB and the National Guard community is to offer employment options that provide for their financial security, training opportunities at no cost that allow them to build their professional resume while their military training is accelerated and have a committed resource through our Career Specialists to help guide them throughout their career – at NO COST.

The National Guard Employment Network works with each state to personalize their own employment resource via a dedicated website that supports their families with 24/7 employment resources. It not only connects our service members with resources but also our employers. All at no cost to the states. <http://casy4vets.org/NG/>

NGEN has a dedicated Employment Coordinator that vets and onboards our employers who come through the NGEN portal to hire our National Guardsmen and families. We also work with those companies to prepare them for “military ready” and connect them directly with local ESGR. For every employer we onboard to the NGEN Job Board, we connect them directly to the state chair of ESGR for that employer. It’s not just about jobs, it’s about providing our employers the access and tools they need and ESGR is a great resource for our employers hiring our National Guard service members.



## WHAT'S LOVE GOT TO DO WITH IT?

---

LOVE is a mission, a campaign, a movement; all rolled into one amazing Advisory Council. It shines a light on the real employment and career readiness challenges facing National Guard families.

It educates the communities that our National Guard families live in, and let's them know why the TOTAL National Guard family is an amazing workforce.

It is NOT a cookie cutter solution to 54 very differing scenarios, but shines a light on the unique needs of the National Guard community as a whole, as well as how those needs differ by individual community. By increasing awareness of the NGEN program, the council spreads the LOVE!

Leveraging Opportunities and Vocations towards  
Employment for  
National Guard Families

# NGEC

## NATIONAL GUARD EMPLOYMENT COUNCIL



Kelly Hokanson



Diane Loh



Trisha Callahan



Richard Smith



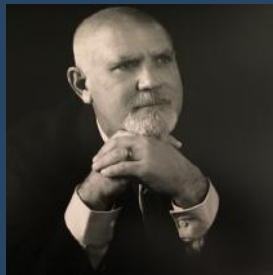
Dana Hampton



Jennifer Perez



Marianne Watson



Darin Gilderoy



Andrea Teff



Mary Lathrop

“The Guard has a multitude of programs for our Guard Members and their families. The National Guard Employment Network is the white glove service of employment programs. They are responsive, educated, passionate and uniquely managed by guard spouses who truly understand the issues of our National Guard families’ service to our Nation.”

Mrs Dianne Loh, Senior Military Spouse

# National Guard & Reserve Career Specialists

*Our Guard and Reserve Career Specialists, like our Career Specialists on the active component side, are passionate about helping the military community. They provide the candidates the white glove treatment we are known for and they meet them where they are on their employment journey. VetJobs and Military Spouse Jobs have created customized pipelines for our candidates to help them receive the personalized treatment they deserve. These Career Specialists serve all candidates that come to us through the Guard and Reserve pipeline.*



Melissa Hein  
Director of Team Production  
and Compliance



This team of career specialists understands the nuances that come with working with the Guard and Reserve candidates, as well as the partnerships that we have with the Guard and Reserve. Through this pipeline they also work with the ReC3on (Reserve Component) candidates, referrals from training partners, referrals from our Veteran Services Organization (VSO) partners, and candidates from the active component side that may need extra hands-on assistance.

We are grateful to have such a dedicated team of Career Specialists supporting our Guard and Reserve candidates.

# Well Done, Brandy Sulewski!

Career Specialists have a vital role at VetJobs and Military Spouse Jobs. They assist our military affiliated job seekers with resume assistance, LinkedIn optimization, interview preparation, job search strategies, and referrals to the training department.



Today we would like to celebrate one of our fabulous and talented Career Specialists, Brandy Sulewski. Brandy hails from the great state of Georgia and is an Army spouse (now retired). She had hoped to volunteer with our organization in 2018, but with an upcoming PCS move and her spouse's retirement from active duty, she made the decision to pursue a position in human resources with a behavioral health firm and also obtain her Master's Degree. Brandy gained a lot of great skills in behavior from this opportunity.

In 2020 Brandy saw an open position for a Career Specialist at VetJobs and Military Spouse Jobs and she eagerly applied. This position has given her the opportunity to utilize her knowledge, experience, and skills to assist hundreds, if not thousands of military members, veterans, and spouses with their career goals.

Brandy loves assisting our military members and their families, she loves to give back to her military community and she is always willing to help out the team. Brandy sets personal goals to go above and beyond the expectations given to her and she has influenced others on the team to set their own personal goals to exceed expectations as well. She is passionate about her work and is also very knowledgeable in Excel which has earned her the nickname "Excel queen" by her team members. Brandy is an asset to VetJobs and Military Spouse Jobs and we are thankful that she took the leap to work with us! Congratulations Brandy, you are our top performer for the 4th quarter!

# NGEN Candidate Success Story



Troy T  
National Guard Youth



## We Help Guard Youth Too!

Troy connected to our team while in college. He was looking for a part time job while in school. He had no work experience and needed help translating his volunteerism and school accomplishments. Not only did the team help him develop a resume that helped him land a paid apprenticeship, but Troy returned after graduation for assistance in revising his resume and LinkedIn profile, as well as interview preparation. He was so excited to tell his CS when he got the call that he had been selected for a pilot position, that his CS sent him a “Best Pilot Ever Mug” to celebrate!

# NGEN Spouse Candidate!



Jean Harris  
Gold Star Mom  
National Guard



“Kelli and I hit it off from the get-go, she is always so upbeat and wants to know about you; what you're looking for, your passions, etc. I'm sure this helped her in guiding me with my resume verbiage and job search. I had a lot going on in my life and was getting frustrated, she would always cheer me up, and help me refocus on the tasks ahead as I rewrote my resume and applied for a federal position. The help in writing the resume, filling out the applications was very appreciated. It was the extra support and encouragement that I received that were even more valuable to me, and I am sure it will be that way to others who reach out for their services. They are passionate about the people they work with and it shows in the dedicated work they provide.”



VetJobs and Military Spouse Jobs have created a series to highlight our Employer Partners. The Salute2Industry video series is a way for us to promote our vetted employers and share their opportunities with our candidates. We understand the difficulties our transitioning veterans and military spouses face while trying to find the right career path. We hope this series becomes a good resource to help keep them moving forward on their employment journey.

Follow us on social media for our latest episodes and check out our website for a look at all the available videos.

[www.vetjobs.org](http://www.vetjobs.org) and [www.militaryspousejobs.org](http://www.militaryspousejobs.org)

The Salute2Industry videos are also available on our [YouTube channel](#)

# Crane Nuclear

## ABOUT CRANE NUCLEAR

Crane Nuclear is a leading provider of valves, valve services, valve diagnostic equipment, valve testing, and training to nuclear utilities worldwide. Supporting the industry since 1956, Crane Nuclear is trusted to solve the nuclear industry's toughest valve challenges.

As a valve services partner to our customers, Crane Nuclear applies a scope-based, process driven approach, measuring success in terms of safety, quality, delivery, and cost. As the industry's most trusted OEM of valves and valve parts, Crane Nuclear provides superior quality and reliability. As a pioneer in valve testing systems and sensors, Crane Nuclear provides not just a solution – they provide the best possible solution.

Since Crane Nuclear's first nuclear valve was manufactured in 1952, our commitment to superior technology, product development, and strategic alliances has made us a leader in the nuclear power industry. Crane Nuclear employs some of the industry's brightest minds who continually offer innovative and reliable solutions for the production and maintenance of nuclear valves and valve testing equipment.

For additional information please visit [Crane Nuclear's website](#).

## Hiring Our Heroes Chamber of Commerce

Hiring Our Heroes is a nationwide initiative to help veterans, transitioning service members, and military spouses find meaningful employment opportunities.

Since their launch in March 2011, HOH has worked to connect the military community with meaningful employment opportunities.

They connect the military community with civilian companies to create economic opportunity and a strong and diversified workforce.

Hiring Our Heroes works with the U.S. Chamber's vast network of state and local chambers and strategic partners from the public, private, and nonprofit sectors to bridge the civilian-military divide within the business community.

Their goal is to ensure veterans, transitioning service members, and military spouses are able to utilize their resources to connect with employers no matter where they are in the world.

For more information please visit [their website](#).

# VetJobs Impact Statement



ACCREDITED  
CHARITY



CORPORATE AMERICA SUPPORTS YOU



## MILITARY COMMUNITY IMPACT STATEMENT

2021



[www.vetjobs.org](http://www.vetjobs.org) 1-877-696-7226

[Click Here for our  
VetJobs Impact Statement](#)

[DONATE](#)



# Military Spouse Jobs Impact Statement



ACCREDITED  
CHARITY



MILITARY SPOUSE CORPORATE CAREER NETWORK



MILITARY SPOUSES  
IN THE WORKFORCE

- 2021 IMPACT STATEMENT -

MILITARYSPOUSEJOBS.ORG

[Click Here for our  
MSJ Impact Statement](#)

[DONATE](#)



# \$2,000 Monthly MSEJ Sponsorship



Over 1M  
Readership  
since 2004



VETJOBS  
& MILITARY  
SPOUSE JOBS

MSEJ

Military Service  
Employment Journal  
Veterans Transition Edition

The Largest  
Reader Audience  
in our Military  
Community

Contact Deb Kloeppe  
636.357.7524  
[president@casymccn.org](mailto:president@casymccn.org)

# Thank you for your support!



Pernod Ricard



**Deloitte.**



DirectEmployers



BOB WOODRUFF FOUNDATION



Prudential

MSCCN's accreditation



**ACCREDITED CHARITY**

CASY's accreditation

19-year 501C(3) Public Charity in Good Standing

Rear Admiral (ret) Dan Kloeppe, USN

314.749.9099

[dan.kloeppe@vetjobs.org](mailto:dan.kloeppe@vetjobs.org)