

# **The Value of Volunteerism:** *Contributing to Your Community and Your Career*

DoD Spouse Education and Career  
Opportunities Program  
September 29, 2016



SPOUSE EDUCATION &  
CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

# Why I volunteer.

# Over the next 45 minutes

- **Why volunteering?**
- **How to leverage volunteerism into a career**
- **Available volunteer opportunities**
  - National Military Family Association
  - Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors
  - Hiring Our Heroes/In Gear Career
  - Military Spouse eMentor Leadership Program
  - Association of the United States Army
  - Air Force Association
  - Military Spouse Advocacy Network
  - Blue Star Families
- **Questions?**
- **Resources**



# Value of Volunteerism

Empowerment  
Support Capacity building  
Giving Rewarding Networking  
Impact Experience Resource  
Service Learning Passion Valuable  
Mutually beneficial Skill building  
Self-actualization Engagement  
Community building  
Possibility

# Value of Volunteerism

## Why volunteer?

- ✓ New to an area
- ✓ Curious about a career path
- ✓ Refresh or learn new skills
- ✓ Undecided about your career path

## Benefits of volunteering

- ✓ Skill-building
- ✓ Professional experience
- ✓ Enhances your resume
- ✓ Personal satisfaction

# SECO Career Counseling Center

Provide comprehensive counseling services across the SECO career lifecycle

## **Military OneSource SECO Career Center**

Call: 800-342-9647

MySECO: <https://myseco.militaryonesource.mil>

## **How counselors support military spouses**

- ✓ Work one-on-one with military spouses
- ✓ Create and customize individual career plans or training and education plans
- ✓ Offer career support for each lifecycle stage
- ✓ Maintain professional career counseling certifications
  - ✓ All counselors have a master's degree



# Spouse Ambassador Network

Educate, empower and mentor military spouses to encourage career fulfillment

Networks that connect with like-minded partners in a spouse's community

## **How the Spouse Ambassador Network supports spouses**

Network organizations offer access to key education and career resources and information to spouses in the communities where they reside.

- ✓ 19 organizations currently in network
- ✓ Network organizations support the Military Spouse Employment Partnership mission



# Why I volunteer.

# Ways to Share Your Talent with NMFA!



- ***Target your community outreach in a particular field of interest, such as education, health care, employment, or write blogs!***
- ***Promote our programs and services in your local military and civilian communities.***
- ***Market and promote information and resources by being an active participant in our social media campaigns.***
- ***Be the first touch point of NMFA with a new volunteer applicant.***
- ***Donation Representatives – help us with fundraising!***
- ***Operation Purple® Camp Visitor***
- ***Work with various departments to provide feedback and evaluation of applications for Association programs.***
- ***Capture, organize, and develop a historical processing system to preserve our Association's history.***

***<http://www.militaryfamily.org/get-involved/volunteer/>***



# TAPS Volunteer Opportunities



## Event Support

- Event Staffing, Service Projects
- Someone who meets whatever needs we have nationwide, serving in the TAPS office, at events or remotely as a virtual volunteer. Most of these duties include setting up, staffing, tearing down events and taking care of various tasks as needed.



## Skill Based

- Pro-bono Service, providing professional or academic skills to TAPS for free.
- Someone who brings their professional expertise to the support of TAPS, either in the office, for Casework and / or Grief and Bereavement assistance, or at events.

TAPS Volunteer opportunities vary based on location, time of year, and position type. On-site and remote opportunities are available. Contact [volunteer@taps.org](mailto:volunteer@taps.org) for more information and to register as an Active TAPS Volunteer.



U.S. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
F O U N D A T I O N



- 
- Assist with Hiring Our Heroes events when they come to your area:
    - Transition Summits
    - Hiring Fairs
    - Military Spouse Networking Events
  - In Gear Career Chapter Leadership
    - Start or lead a chapter in your area
    - Assist current lead with event planning, booking speakers, managing after action requirements, communications etc.
    - Bring your expertise as a speaker to one of our chapters!

Website: [www.hiringourheroes.org](http://www.hiringourheroes.org)  
[hiringourheroes@uschamber.com](mailto:hiringourheroes@uschamber.com) or [ingearcareer@uschamber.com](mailto:ingearcareer@uschamber.com)



Connect. Share. Excel.

## Volunteer Opportunities

**Mentoring:** Help another spouse figure out his/her career while you are taking a break from or looking for ways to advance yours.

The majority of mentors report positive personal and professional outcomes from the work they do helping a protégé with his or her goals.

**Pro Bono Work:** Whether you are currently working or not, if you're a professional, chances are we could really use your help. Designer? Copywriter? Financial Analyst? Event Planner? Project Manager? Fundraiser? Grant-writer?

Let us know your skills, or skills you want to sharpen, and let's create a project plan for you that will help bolster your resume or portfolio.

**Contact** eMentor Director, Erica Hartless, at [hartless@ementorprogram.org](mailto:hartless@ementorprogram.org) or 210.454.1669 to discuss these volunteer opportunities.

# Association of the United States Army

---

119 Chapters worldwide

Many opportunities to volunteer

Young Professionals Group

Corporate Sponsors make for GREAT networking opportunities  
when you join AUSA

<http://www.ause.org>





## Air Force Association's Value of Volunteerism

*There are many ways to volunteer with AFA, the range is wide! Since AFA has chapters throughout the country, the networking and involvement can help when they're searching for jobs at their local base or next location!*

- \*A spouse can help with family and spouse outreach at local bases, or help with social media presence.
- \*AFA's chapters hold many special social events to include; recognition ceremonies, air shows, Air Force balls, luncheons to name a few. These events never happen without valuable volunteers. For these events, setting up, tearing down, even helping during the event are great ways to meet more people and network. This is a simpler role, yet it may expose you to opportunities you didn't consider before, or lead you to an ideal job through someone you know.
- \*Many spouse volunteers have gone on to have leadership roles within chapters and have become chapter officers.
- \*To best support AFA as a volunteer, becoming a member and involvement with their local AFA Chapter is best.



***Military Spouse Advocacy Network's mission is to create stronger military families through education, empowerment and support.***

- MSAN Mentor- who is a military spouse professionally trained to welcome new military spouses to the military family, supports new military spouses during their first PCS, answers questions regarding benefits, military lifestyle, linking to other venues of support and much more. Mentoring new military spouses from day!
- MSAN Chapter Advocates- assigning Advocates at ALL military installations to support, guide and work with military leaders and supportive agencies to fill potential gaps that might prevent military spouses and their families from receiving the support they need. Our trained Advocates work as a team with military spouses, installation agencies, military leaders, and other organizations.



# BLUE STAR FAMILIES

**30  
Volunteer  
Led  
Chapters  
Worldwide**

**Volunteer  
Leadership  
Teams**

1. Chapter Director
2. Program & Event Manager
3. Social Media Manager

**Currently  
Recruiting:**

JBLM  
Fort Bragg  
Colorado Springs  
Camp Pendleton  
Jacksonville, FL  
Chicago, IL  
D.C.  
Hawaii  
Albuquerque, NM



# Connect with Us

<https://myseco.militaryonesource.mil>



<https://www.facebook.com/DoDMilSpouse>



<https://twitter.com/DoDMilSpouse>



<http://www.linkedin.com/groups/Military-Spouse-Employment-Partnership-MSEP-4159976>



SPOUSE EDUCATION &  
CAREER OPPORTUNITIES