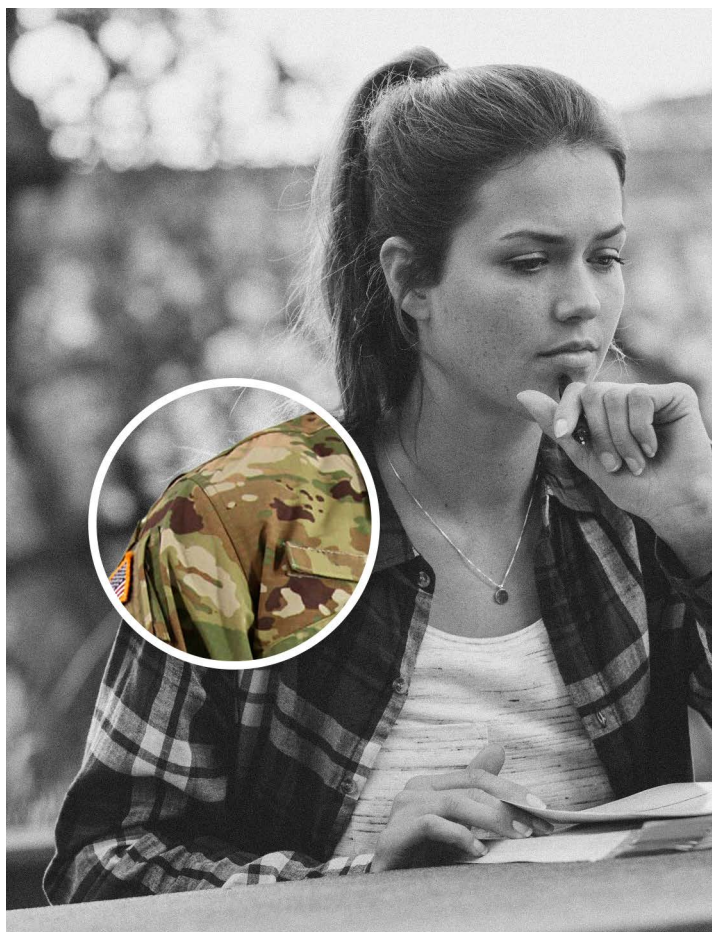


Vet Employment Manual

Transitioning Now | One Tour



If you are just getting out of the military after one tour, your major decision to make is about what comes next and that comes down to three main options: get a job, go to school, stay in the service.

Your three main options are:

OPTION A

Get a Job

OPTION B

Go to School

OPTION C

**Re-enlist, Go Reserves,
or National Guard**

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OPTION A

Get a Job

If you plan to move from the military right into a civilian job there are some steps you should take to be competitive.



STEP 1: Align your expectations with your skill set and experience level.

- Are you getting a job to pay the bills while you decide what the long-term future holds? Or, are you expecting to build a career right away? Either way give some thought to what that first job means for your future.
- Use the [Military Skills Translator with personality assessment](#) to find out how your skills and interests match up with current job openings.
- Keep in mind, if you have an [active security clearance](#) you may be qualified for higher paying jobs.

STEP 2: Build your resume.

- [Translating military skills to civilian equivalents](#) isn't always easy but doing a little research and asking fellow veterans to share their resumes with you can help.
- You can also have your [resume reviewed by Monster for free](#) as a veteran.

OPTION B

Go to School

Going back to school is a popular option for many who have served one tour. If you didn't get your degree while in the service, your GI bill benefits means you can earn one with little or no cost to yourself.



STEP 1: Research.

- Start by researching [what types of schools](#) are out there, and find out the answers to [commonly asked questions](#) about how to use your GI Bill benefit.
- Use a [school finder](#) to identify some options based on the kind of degree you are looking to get.
- Beware of “diploma mills” that promise a quick education but leave you with a degree that is less than desirable to employers.

STEP 2: Find out how much of your [education benefits](#) will apply to your degree.

- Whether or not you are using your GI Bill benefits, it's important to make a financial plan and understand where you may need to make up a difference with a part time job or possibly a work-study job with your college or university.
- You may have to cut back on spending or living expenses if you aren't working full time; and if you are still working full time, take into account any school related expenses you may not have had before in your budget.

STEP 3: Make a [financial plan](#).

- Whether or not you are using your GI Bill benefits, it's important to make a financial plan and understand where you may need to make up a difference with a [part time job](#) or possibly a work-study job with your college or university.
- This plan should also include a financial plan, estimates of start-up costs, realistic expectation of when you may see a profit and timeline and requirements for any permits, licenses, or other legal to-do items to begin your business.

OPTION C

Re-enlist, Go Reserves, or National Guard

Staying in the service may seem contrary to your transition mindset, but if you haven't yet signed off on getting out, it's something to weigh against the other two choices.



STEP 1: Find out if you are eligible for any re-enlistment bonuses.

- [Re-enlistment bonuses or incentives](#) may be available to you based on time in service, shortages in your career field or because you had a stellar record of service. • If you are starting your business solo, know what your financing options are and consult with a professional about how to properly set up your business to protect your assets.

STEP 2: Consider a new MOS.

- If you were considering getting out because you were unhappy in your current field, find out if an MOS change or advanced schooling options are a possibility.
- If you stay in and further build your skill set with a new MOS, you may have an even better chance of landing a job that leads to a career when you get out.

STEP 1: Find out if you are eligible for any re-enlistment bonuses.

- This allows you to continue your military service but still work in the civilian sector, or go to school.
- The added income is a positive and the continuing skills development will add to your resume.
- Many companies and organizations have reserve and National Guard friendly employment policies. Research will help you identify some employers that may be a good fit if you are still serving as a [Guard member or reservist](#).