

Vet Employment Manual

Transitioning Now | More Than One Tour



Leaving the military is something everyone does at some point. If you're leaving after having served more than one tour there are some decisions that deserve research and thought before you transition to civilian life.

Your three main options are:

OPTION A

Get a Job

OPTION B

Go to School

OPTION C

Start a Business

Military.com

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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: Translate your skills and build a civilian resume.

- Use the [Military Skills Translator with Personality Assessment](#) to find out how your skills and interests match up with current job openings. To ensure the matching function is effective, provide as much information as possible like collateral duties, leadership functions.
- If you have an [active security clearance](#) you may be qualified for higher paying jobs.
- Build your resume by doing some research and asking fellow veterans to share their resumes with you. You can also [have your resume reviewed by Monster for free](#) as a veteran.

STEP 2: Research.

- Even if you are interested in the same general field you've been working in, you need to put some time in researching career options at your level and getting [advice](#) on interviewing again.
- Use the [Military Skills Translator with Personality Assessment](#) and pay close attention to the optional fields where you can put in your civilian work experience or any additional civilian accreditations you've earned since leaving the service.
- Use the personality assessment to discover if there are career paths you haven't thought of yet.
- Finally, if you have a [security clearance](#), look at employers who are specifically looking for those with active clearances.

STEP 3: Apply.

- Today's resume screening is automated so it's important to use the keywords from the job description in your online application.
- Second, a cover letter is still important, but you must personalize it to the job you are seeking and even [include details about the company you are trying to get hired by](#).
- Be patient and [follow up](#) if you want feedback but understand you won't always get it.

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OPTION B

Go to School

Whether you are earning your first degree or getting an advanced degree there are some basic steps to take to ensure you are prepared.



STEP 1: Figure out what type of degree you want and what school would be the best fit.

- Start by using a [school finder](#) to identify some options based on the kind of degree you are looking to get.
- Decide if you want to attend a traditional brick and mortar school or get your degree online while you continue to work.
- 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.

- Is this business a side venture you’re hoping to grow while working full time?
- Are you more comfortable as a sole business owner or will this venture be a partnership?
- These are the questions to ask yourself and do some research on to determine more than what business you will open, but rather what place it will occupy in your life.

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.

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OPTION A

Start a Business

Veteran entrepreneurs are becoming more common. As a retiree, you have a pension and that may help lessen the risk of opening your own business. Here are three steps to take if this is your path.



STEP 1: Solo or franchise?

- Do your [homework](#) to understand the risks and rewards of both options. Many franchises have a special discount for veterans who want to join their chains but buying to a franchise can be expensive. Understand ahead of time what is expected if you and what the success rate is for franchisees.
- 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: Decide how much time this business will take.

- Is this business a side venture you're hoping to grow while working full time?
- Are you more comfortable as a sole business owner or will this venture be a partnership?
- These are the questions to ask yourself and do some research on to determine more than what business you will open, but rather what place it will occupy in your life.

STEP 3: Make a business plan.

- Having a comprehensive business plan is essential. This will require research, [asking for other business owners advice](#) and an understanding of what to include in your business plan.
- 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.

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