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NEW WEB SITE HELPS EMPLOYERS 'TRANSLATE' MILITARY SKILLS TO CIVILIAN JOBS

RALEIGH — Over the next five years, thousands of military personnel are expected to transition to civilian life from North Carolina-based military installations. These men and women possess valuable skills for North Carolina employers, but those employers may not be able to “translate” the military experience into civilian job descriptions.

A new Web site developed by the **N.C. Military Foundation** (Foundation) and the **N.C. Military Business Center** (NCMBC) hopes to solve that problem by providing a free database that catalogues and analyzes the skills and abilities typical of transitioning military personnel and identifies their equivalent civilian-sector jobs. The database uses historical data from North Carolina's Army and Marine Corps bases and links to a powerful “skills crosswalk” tool provided to the public by the **Employment Security Commission of N.C.** (NCESC).

"This initiative will assist our military personnel and bolster our economy," said **Lt. Governor Bev Perdue**, who led the state's successful campaign to secure its military installations during the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC). "Our military men and women serve our country with pride, and they have great training and skills to offer businesses across North Carolina when they leave active duty service."

Users can access the database by going to www.ncmbc.us and clicking on **Transitioning Military Personnel**. Keyword searches provide information on annualized transitions within a skill or job category. The entries also reflect the pay grade and rank of the service personnel who transitioned. Clicking on “view” for any of these entries yields more detailed data, including the number of transitions, civilian occupational equivalents and civilian job titles.

“North Carolina is home to more than 100,000 active-duty military personnel. Each year, thousands of these skilled, educated and disciplined individuals transition to the civilian sector,” said **Foundation executive director Will Austin**. “Until now, the North Carolina economic development community has not had much detail on the diversity and quality of this potential workforce.”

The data identify the typical skill sets of military personnel that have transitioned from Army (Fort Bragg) and Marine Corps (Camp Lejeune, Marine Corps Air Station at New River and Marine Corps Air Station at Cherry Point) installations in North Carolina. The database presents historical data; not a pool of presently available workers. Through links to **O-Net**, a tool provided to the public by the NCESC, it also provides users information on the typical knowledge, skills, abilities and education of military personnel in each military occupational specialty.

“These data are a strong indicator of the quality and diversity of active duty personnel that we can expect to transition from the military to the private sector. It has real practical value to businesses and economic developers,” said **Scott Dorney, NCMBC executive director**. “A

trained, highly motivated and dependable workforce is critical to growing North Carolina's economy."

For example, in 2006, 147 heavy equipment operators, 325 avionics technicians, and 542 automotive mechanics transitioned from N.C.-based Marine Corps installations. Businesses and recruiters using this new economic development tool will now have a better sense of the strengths of this potential workforce.

"We all realize the tremendous benefits that accrue when we keep our talented military members here in North Carolina," said **Major General Robert C. Dickerson**. "Giving potential employers access to the skill sets typically possessed by our state's pool of transitioning military service members will help open up new opportunities—both for job seekers and for North Carolina's economic development community."

Employers, Veterans and their families can also visit their local **JobLink Career Center** for employment and job training assistance. "Through the federal Workforce Investment Act, Veterans receive priority assistance in seeking job training or employment, again showing North Carolina's commitment to making North Carolina the Nation's most military-friendly state," said **Tom White, N.C. Department of Commerce, Director of Business Services**.

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The **North Carolina Military Foundation** supports the growth of the state's \$18 billion defense and security industry. Led by some of the nation's most respected military leaders—including Gen. (Ret.) Buck Kernan, a former Supreme Allied Commander, Atlantic and Commander, U.S. Joint Forces Command—and the state's pre-eminent business leaders, the Foundation is a non-partisan, non-profit organization funded solely by the private sector. Visit www.ncmilitary.org or call Will Austin at (919) 755- 8193 for more information.

The **North Carolina Military Business Center** is a collaborative effort between North Carolina business and industry and the North Carolina Community College System to leverage the presence of the military in North Carolina to promote economic development and quality of life for all. The NCMBC operates under the supervision of Fayetteville Technical Community College. Visit www.ncmbc.us or call Scott Dorney at (910) 323-4824 for more information.

Visit <http://www.nccommerce.com/en/WorkforceServices/FindInformationForIndividuals/JobLinkCareerCenters/> for more information about the **JobLink Career Center**.

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