### COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY SAN DIEGO MILITARY AND VETERANS ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

#### MEETING NOTICE: In Person North Central Live Well Center 5055 Ruffin Road, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room, San Diego CA 92123 Phone (858) 694-3222

#### **Public Video Viewing/Comment Option:**

https://sdcounty-ca-gov.zoom.us/j/84273398850

April 17, 2025 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

**AGENDA** 

	AGLINDA		
1:00 - 1:01	1. Call to Order		
1:01 - 1:02	2. Pledge of Allegiance		
1:02 - 1:03	3. Roll Call		
1:03 - 1:05	4. Action Item: Approval of February 20, 2025, Meeting Minutes		
PUBLIC COMMENTS			
1:05 - 1:15	5. Guidelines for Public Comment on Items not listed on the agenda:		
	<ul> <li>Members of the public may request to speak about any issue within the purview of the Board.</li> <li>Each speaker will be limited to three (3) minutes.</li> <li>Board members may not discuss or take action on issues raised during public comment unless the issue is listed in this Agenda.</li> </ul>		
PRESENTATIONS/DISCUSSION ITEMS			
1:15 – 1:25	Discussion Item: New Community Connections: SDMVAC Council Members share community events they had recently attended		
1:25 – 1:55	7. <b>Presentation Item:</b> Zero8hundred, Ashley Camac, CEO of Zero8hundred, Inc.		
1:55 – 2:25	8. <b>Presentation Item:</b> Work for Warriors, Chuck Callahan, Veteran Staffing Consultant of Work for Warriors		

Presentation Item: Afghanistan Evacuee Update, Shawn VanDiver, President and

2:25 - 2:35

9.

Chairman of #AfghanEvac

2:35 – 2:40	10.	Discussion Item: Committee Assignments and Charters; Chair Jude Litzenberger
2:40 - 2:45	11.	<b>Discussion Item:</b> DOD/VA Policy Changes Regarding Gender- Affirming Care and Fate of Trans Service Members, Chair Jude Litzenberger
2:45 - 2:50	12.	Discussion Item: Report from all Chairs County Boards Meeting, Chair Jude Litzenberger
2:50 – 3:00	13.	<b>Discussion Item:</b> Suggested topic for future meetings: All San Diego Military and Veterans Advisory Council Members

#### **ADJOURNMENT/ NEXT MEETING**

The next regular meeting will be held on June 19, 2025, 1:00 – 3:00 pm, at 5055 Ruffin Road, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room, San Diego, CA 92123.

#### ASSISTANCE FOR THE DISABLED:

Agendas and records are available in alternative formats upon request. Contact the San Diego Military and Veterans Advisory Council Meeting staff contact at (858) 694-3222 with questions or to request a disability-related accommodation. To the extent reasonably possible, requests for accommodation or assistance should be submitted at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting so that arrangements may be made. Additional information can be found on the San Diego Military and Veterans Advisory Council (SDMVAC) website:

https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/hhsa/programs/ssp/veterans advisory council.html

## COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY SAN DIEGO MILITARY AND VETERANS ADVISORY COUNCIL (SDMVAC)

#### Held In Person North Central Live Well Center 5055 Ruffin Road, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room, San Diego CA 92123 Phone (858) 694-3222

#### **Public Video Viewing/Comment Option:**

https://sdcounty-ca-gov.zoom.us/j/87287664632

#### SDMVAC Meeting Minutes February 20, 2025

Members Present
Danny Jackson
Jude Litzenberger
Philip Kendro
Mark Gracyk
Jaime Yslas
Paula Jansen

Staff Present

Alberto Banuelos, Asst. Director, Self-Sufficiency Services

Amy Klock, OMVA Ray Flores, OMVA

Guests

Sean Johnson – Assistant Deputy Secretary CalVet Guy McDermott – Commander of VFW, Solana Beach Stuart Gaiber – Behavioral Health Advisory Board

James Deloera Matthew Gordon Samantha Jenkins

#### **Members Absent**

Tony Teravainen

- 1. Meeting called to order at 1:00 pm by Jude Litzenberger, Chair
- 2. Pledge of Allegiance
- 3. Roll Call
  - SDMVAC present members noted above.
- 4. The December 19, 2024, meeting minutes were approved by all Council Members present.
- 5. Public Comments:
  - Stuart Gaiber, a member of the San Diego Behavioral Health Advisory Board, made a public comment addressing concerns about the VA. He emphasized issues with transparency, particularly regarding the comparison between the CMS (Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services) performance averages and the VA's internal strategic analysis and performance measurement methods. Mr. Gaiber recommended clearer communication to distinguish between CMS averages and the VA's internal metrics for performance improvement and learning.

#### SDMVAC Minutes February 20,2025 Page 2

- 6. **Discussion Item:** New Community Connections: SDMVAC Council members share community events they had recently attended. SDMVAC Council members share community events they had recently attended. The Council members share insights from their engagement at a recent Veteran's tribute event.
- 7. **Presentation Item:** California Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet). San Diego District Office, Sean Johnson, Assistant Deputy Secretary of California Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet). Sean Johnson, Assistant Deputy Secretary of CalVet, discussed programs supporting Veterans, including help with accessing benefits, mental health support, and homelessness. Key initiatives include the Veterans Support to Self-Reliance Pilot, the CVHI Mental Health Support Grant Program, and Permanent Supportive Housing for Veterans, all aimed at improving Veterans' independence and stability.

A public comment was made by Stuart Gaiber of the San Diego Behavioral Health Advisory Board, he highlighted differences between state and federal VA services and praised the Oceanside VSO.

- 8. Presentation Item: Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Solana Beach, Guy McDermott, Commander of Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Solana Beach. Guy McDermott, Commander of VFW Solana Beach, introduced Next Peak project, an initiative to turn Solana Beach VFW Post 5431 into a healing center for Veterans. The project aims to address the emotional and social challenges Veterans face post-service by offering holistic healing through fitness, alternative medicine, and social connection. It focuses on Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans while also supporting Vietnam-era Veterans and all service members. The program fosters community-based healing, engaging both Veterans and civilians in the process.
- 9. Discussion Item: Establishing and Organizing Ad Hoc Subcommittee to Address Key Issues Facing Veterans: Food Security, Housing, Education, Employment, Healthcare and Legislation. All San Diego Military and Veterans Advisory Council. Chair Jude Litzenberger requested that the Council create charters for the committees, allowing each member to choose which committee they would like to serve on. The goal is to present the Board of Supervisors with specific actions, based on current community activities, with the end goal of either resolving issues or reducing certain negative statistics in the community. The committees will also focus on identifying reliable data sources to support this effort.
- 10. **Discussion Item**: Suggested topic for future meetings: All San Diego Military and Veterans Advisory Council. OMVA Officer Ray Flores confirmed that the Chula Vista Veterans Home is interested in presenting at a future SDMVAC meeting. Chair Jude encouraged members to submit their preferred organizations to be featured in the presentation.

#### ADJOURNMENT/SET NEXT MEETING:

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m. The next regular meeting will be held on April 17, 2025.

# ITEM #6 New Community Connections: SDMVAC Council members share community events they had recently attended

All San Diego Military and Veterans Advisory Council Members



### ITEM #7 Zero8hundred

Ashley Camac, CEO of Zero8hundred





ASHLEY CAMAC CEO ZERO8HUNDRED





#### **Mission**

Zero8Hundred's mission is to offer compassionate, evidence-based support to service members and their families, helping them navigate the unique challenges of transitioning from active duty to civilian life through a peer-based social work model.

#### **Our Approach**

We aim to provide holistic support to our transitioning service members and their families, addressing the physical, emotional, and social needs. In the community we work to advocate for the needs of transitioning service members at local, state, and national level. We partner with community organizations, healthcare providers, and other stakeholders to provide comprehensive services. We provide proactive outreach, ensuring veterans are aware of and can access the support they need before, during, and after transition.





#### **YOU SERVED US NOW LET US SERVE YOU**

Our Mission is to offer Compassionate, Evidence-Based Support to Service Members and their Families, helping them Navigate the Unique Challenges of Transitioning from Active Duty to Civilian Life through a Peer-Based Social Work Model.

#### WHAT WE DO



- · Biopsychosocial Assessments
- · Counseling Referrals
- Med Management Referrals



#### EMPLOYMENT COUNSELING

- Resumes
- Training
- Networking
- Job Skill Translation



#### **BASIC NEEDS**

- · Housing / Shelter
- Care Packs
- Food Security



#### **EDUCATION**

- Explore VA Benefits
- Direct Connection to Universities
- Certifications
- Community Programs



#### **SOCIAL/COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS**

- Mentorships
- Community Engagement
- Family Support



#### **WELLNESS**

- Personal Development
- Self-Care
- Recreation
- · Health Care

#### **GET INVOLVED**



info@zero8hundred.org



4699 Murphy Canyon Road, Suite 104 San Diego, CA 92123









TRANSITION SUPPORT – CASE MANAGEMENT – SOCIAL WORK

12 - 18 MONTHS PRIOR TO SEPARATION – ENROLL

NO RANK RESTRICTION

NO DISCHARGE STATUS RESTRICTION

#### **ALL CLIENTS WILL:**

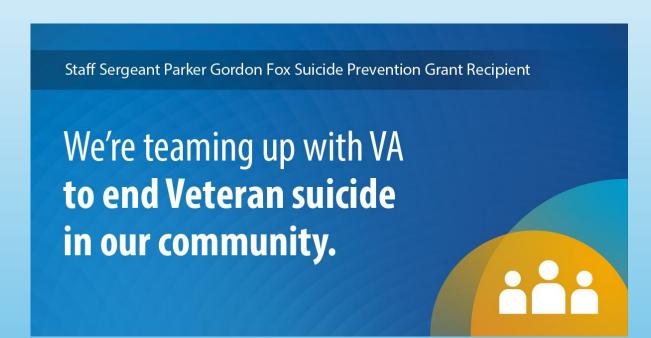
- BE ASSIGNED A CASE MANAGER SOCIAL WORKER
- GO THROUGH A COMPREHENSIVE NEEDS ASSESSMENT
- HAVE AN INDIVIDUAL TRANSITION PLAN CREATED
- HAVE THEIR GOALS REASSESSED REGULARLY
- **BE PROVIDED DIRECT REFERRALS**
- **GRADUATE THE PROGRAM**

**ENROLL TODAY: www.zero8hundred.org** 









SUICIDE PREVENTION SERVICES ARE PROVIDED TO ALL ZERO8HUNDRED CLIENTS.

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE VA – ZERO8HUNDRED CLIENTS WHO ARE ASSESSED AND HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED AS HAVING A NEED FOR MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT AND WANT TO BE SERVED UNDER OUR VA SUICIDE PREVENTION SERVICES WILL BE CONNECTED TO CLINICAL MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES WITHIN THE COMMUNITY TO INCLUDE THE DEPT OF VETERAN AFFAIRS.

ZERO8HUNDRED WILL CONTINUE TO PROVIDE DIRECT NON-CLINICAL CASE MANAGEMENT DURING THEIR TIME IN THE PROGRAM.

ALL CLIENTS AT ZERO8HUNDRED ARE SCREENED FOR MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES;
SERVICES AND DIRECT REFERRALS ARE BASED OFF INDIVIDUAL NEEDS.







#### **ZERO8HUNDRED**

#### **PARTNER OVERVIEW**

Zero8hundred offers free individualized support up to a full year prior to military separation up to one (1) year post-military. The zero8hundred team are trained Resource Specialists, with lived military experience themselves, who are committed to walking alongside zero8hundred program participants to help them design and execute the post-military journey they want

Zero8hundred provides personalized, early intervention partnership that connects transitioning service members, and their spouses, to the available services and opportunities best suited to their individual needs. In addition to providing referrals and resources, zero8hundred provides a comprehensive follow up to ensure need are met.

#### Mission

To offer compassionate, evidence based support to service members and their families, helping them navigate the unique challenges of transitioning from active duty to civilian life through a peer-based social work model.

X TALIA GAYTAN tgaytan@zero8hundred.org **▼ JOEY JEROME**, joey@zero8hundred.org

#### **PARTNER SERVICES**

#### **ELIGIBILITY**

**Duty Service Members** (including Reserve and National Guard)

Military Spouses

All Discharge Statuses

**SERVICE AREA** 



**VISIT Z8H ONLINE** 



ZERO8HUNDRED.ORG

Wrap Around Services

Transitioning Active-



#### **CONNECTING WITH THE PARTNER**

**ZERO8HUNDRED** 

Fill out the online enrollment form. Tell us a little about yourself and your military service so we can prepare to serve you better. It only takes 5-10 minutes to fill out our form.

Once you're enrolled, schedule an appointment. We have the flexibility of meeting with you by phone, inoffice, or video conference. Let us know your preferred date and time, and we'll pencil you in.

Connect with zero8hundred. You can expect to hear from one of our trained Resource Specialists for a preliminary assessment of your wants and needs. Our first point of contact is to learn about your immediate goals upon civilian re-entry.

Zero8hundred will connect you with 150+ vetted resources to suit your needs. You'll get first dibs on local job postings, educational opportunities, discounted wellness programs, and event invitations

#### TROUBLESHOOTING

Contact zero8hundred

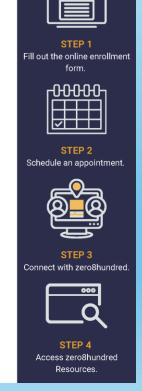
#### WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Zero8Hundred is proud to be a US Department of Labor partner. Zero8Hundred works with DOL ENPP, to support transitioning service members connected to employment and training organizations from the public and private sector.

#### WORKFORCE NETWORKING PARTNERS

**SDMAC** SD-VFC **VECA OPERATION CONNECT VETERANS BEER CLUB VETERAN HIRING WORKSHOPS RESUME WRITING RESOURCES DIRECT HIRING EVENTS** 

AND MORE.....







### Start Your Civilian Career in Data

Learn with flexibility. 2025 enrollment is now open.

Join Data Elevates' fully virtual 6-week project-based program with data skill-building workshops designed to upskill women-identifying veterans through real-world community service projects. For more information, visit:

www.veteransindata.org

**LEARN BY DOING** 

FLEXIBLE LEARNING SCHEDULE

**Program Partners** 













ZERO8HUNDRED PARTNERS WITH DATA ELEVATES AND THE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION TO INTRODUCE STEM CAREERS TO FEMALE VETERANS.

STIPEND - \$820 IN TOTAL

6 WEEK PROGRAM – VIRTUAL

CALIFORNIA VETERANS ONLY

INTEREST FORMS CAN BE COMPLETED ON THE ZERO8HUNDRED WEBSITE

NEXT COHORT BEGINS JULY 2025

WWW.ZERO8HUNDRED.ORG







#### **ZERO8HUNDRED FOCUS AREAS INCLUDE**

- √ WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
  - ✓ HIGHER EDUCATION
    - **✓** BASIC NEEDS
  - ✓ HEALTH & WELLNESS
- **✓ COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS (MORALE)**

#### **DATA ANALYSIS**

- ✓ Zero8Hundred Impact is Evaluated by a 3<sup>rd</sup> party Research Team.
- ✓ Data is Analyzed throughout the Year.
- Key findings and trends are shared with Stakeholders yearly.
- ✓ Data Analyzation Assists Zero8Hundred in consistently evolving services to meet the need of those we serve.





#### FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

JOEY@ZERO8HUNDRED.ORG

TGAYTAN@ZERO8HUNDRED.ORG

ACAMAC@ZERO8HUNDRED.ORG

858-944-0800 MAIN LINE

WWW.ZERO8HUNDRED.ORG

### THANK YOU FOR LEARNING MORE ABOUT THE ZERO8HUNDRED MISSION!



### **ITEM #8 Work for Warriors**

Chuck Callahan, Veterans Staffing Consultant of Work for Warriors







EXPERT EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE TO CALIFORNIA'S VETERANS



### Mission



• Provide expert employment assistance to Veterans, CalGuard members, Reservists, and their immediate family members.

#### Who is Eligible?

- California Guardsmen (Army, Air, State)
- Veterans and Retirees
- Transitioning Active Duty Service Members
- Reservists
- Immediate family members of all of the above





### How Can We Help?



We follow a Direct Placement model that mirrors a Corporate Staffing Firm



Resume Critique and Writing Tips

Interview Preparation and Practice





Recommendations and Referrals with our Partners





Industry Specific Workshops and Training

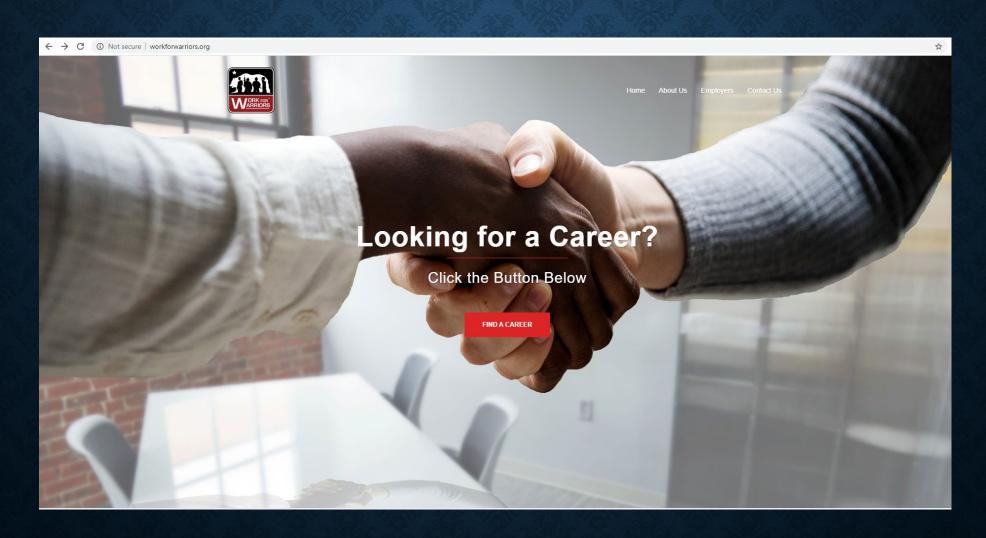




### Find A Job Now



www.workforwarriors.org

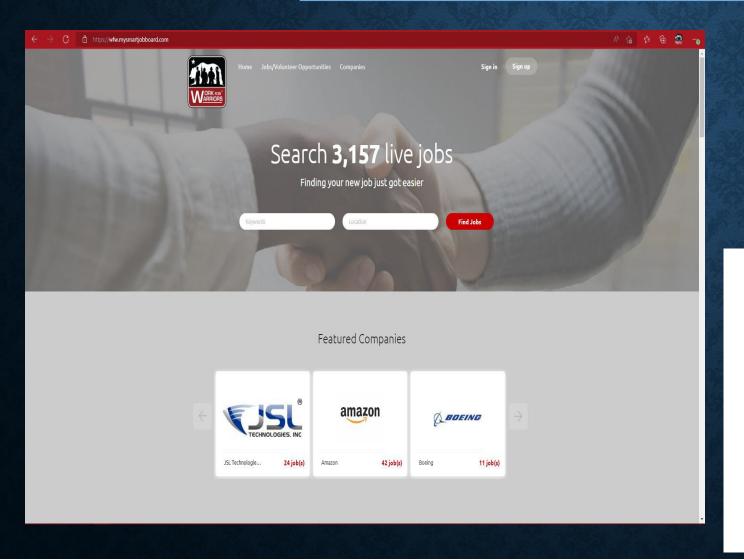


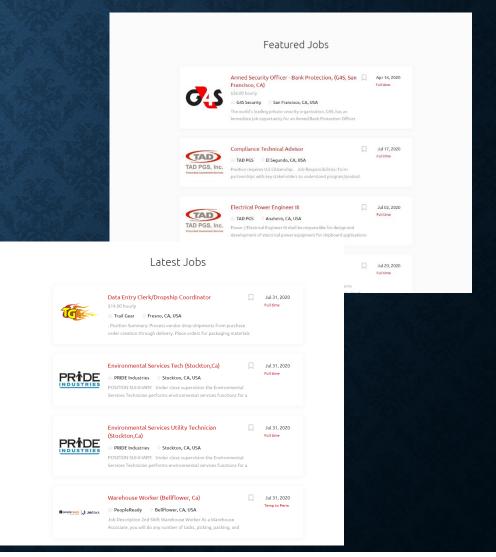


### Job Board



https://wfw.mysmartjobboard.com/

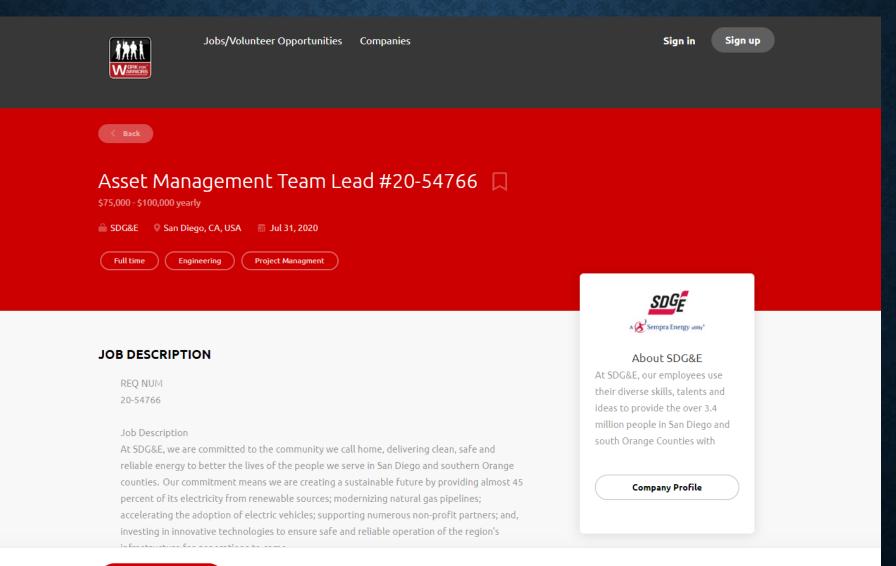






### Job Board Cont













### WFW Coverage



- WFW remotely/virtually assist across entire state
- WFW has 9 Veteran Staffing Consultants
  - (1) Sacramento (1) Fresno
  - (1) SF Bay Area (2) San Diego
  - (1) Modesto (3) Los Angeles/Orange County
- WFW has 3 staffed physical office locations

#### Sacramento Headquarters

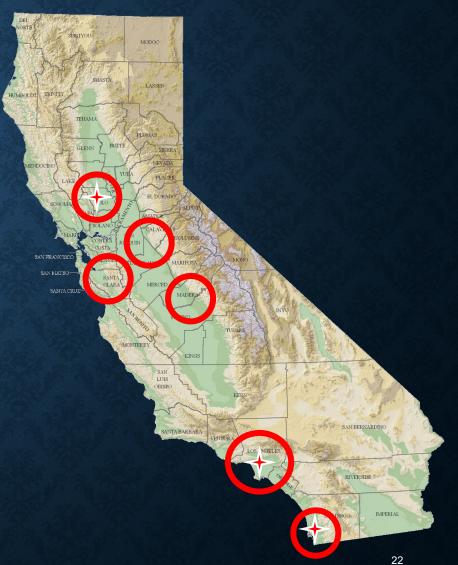
CHCO 10601 Bear Hollow Dr Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

#### San Diego Det.

CMD Kearny Mesa Armory 7401 Mesa College Drive San Diego, CA 92111

#### Los Alamitos Det.

JFTB Los Alamitos 11206 Lexington Dr, bldg. 4220

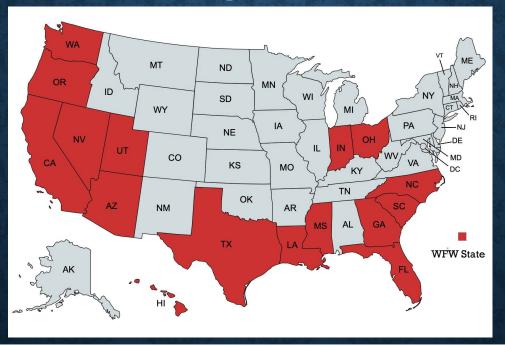




### WFW National Expansion



- WFW is currently partnered with Veteran Employment Assistance Programs of 15 states
- National Guard Bureau J1 Initiative to create a Federally Funded Program of Record
- WFW California in national leadership role



#### Current Partners

Arizona, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Indiana, Louisiana, Mississippi, Nevada, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, South Carolina, Texas, Utah, and Washington



### WFW Employer Partners

CONSTRUCTION



Booz | Allen | Hamilton















**WASTE MANAGEMENT** 

SPACEX











**Valley Water** 

glassdoor



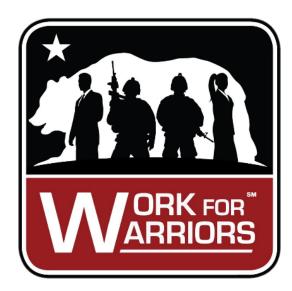


calottery

Caltrans









### **UNIQUE OPPORTUNITIES!**

- Task Force Rattlesnake
- Counter Drug
- California Military Department (CMD)
  - Work for the State of California
  - Get your Federal Rank Pay Rate & BAH (untaxed)
  - Opportunities throughout the State
  - Eligible for CalPERS benefits
  - Requires CMD membership
    - CA Army National Guard
    - CA Air National Guard
    - CA State Guard



### Connect with Us!





**a**TeamWFW



@workforwarriors



@workforwarriors

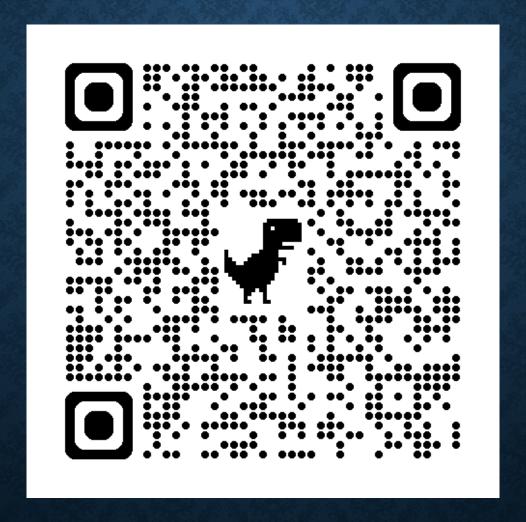


**(a)TeamWFW** 





### TAKE OUR SURVEY





### Find A Job Now





(916) 854-4426 www.workforwarriors.org apply@workforwarriors.org



### ITEM #9 Afghanistan Evacuee Update

Shawn VanDiver, President and Chairman of #AfghanEvac





**Supporter Update** 



An **organization** stood up during the withdrawal of U.S. and allied forces to un-silo information and assist with evacuations.

A **coalition** of 250+ organizations still working in the Afghan relocation & resettlement space alongside the U.S. government.

A **movement** to ensure that Afghan allies get the benefits they've earned and an opportunity to build new lives in the U.S.

#### Who we are

- Independent organization, managing a Coalition of 250+ private organizations involved in relocation with shared purpose, acting as added capacity
- Loosely organized, centered on Afghans and featuring experts spanning the relocation enterprise
- + Mechanism by which organizations in this space interact with the U.S. government
- A cross-section of America: Composed of veterans, frontline civilians, legislative & executive staff, private citizens, and others with a connection to Afghanistan
- + **Predominantly** US-based
- + Aggressively non-partisan



#### #AfghanEvac Team

- Coalition administrative infrastructure, enabling information sharing among organizations involved and sometimes the general public
  - + Manages USG relationship
  - + Runs meetings
  - + Tracks down and disseminates information
  - Convenes groups of stakeholders relevant to improving outcomes for Afghans
- + Often started as members of organizations but took on more global roles to help across the ecosystem
- + 501(c)3. No paid staff
- Does not report to, or take direction from, USG
- Not a source for funding
- Does not direct member organization operations or settle disputes within organizations

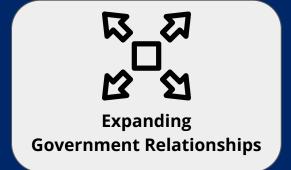


#AfghanEvac brings together organizations with a shared commitment to fulfilling the United States' duty to at-risk Afghans.



Facilitating Collaboration





#### What we do

#AfghanEvac provides the enabling infrastructure for members of the coalition.

#### **Coalition infrastructure**

- + USG Partnership
- + Collaboration and deconfliction
- + Self-service tools (TRAIN, website)
- + External communications
- + Advocacy
- + Community Ambassadors Program
- + Creative problem solving
- + Secure universal case management system
- + Afghan Welcome Fund
- Fundraising and donor advice
- Manifest consolidation and vetting
- + Resilience Duty Officer program
- + Third country immigration opportunities

Member organizations within the coalition provide services and support across the full spectrum of relocation and resettlement efforts.

#### Afghanistan

- + Secure transportation
- + Safe housing
- + Flight chartering
- + Flight manifesting
- Medical care
- Food aid
- + Emergency support dispatch

#### **Safe Havens / Ultimate Destination**

- Cultural acclimation
- Legal support
- + Resettlement services

#### Third Country / Lily pads

- + Emirates Humanitarian City
- Case escalation
- + Engagement of third country NGOs

#### **Overarching**

- + One-on-one communication with Afghan families
- + Case management
- + Immigration system navigation
- + Mental healthcare
- + Emergency support
- + Information dissemination / rumor control



# #AfghanEvac is guided by three primary tenets



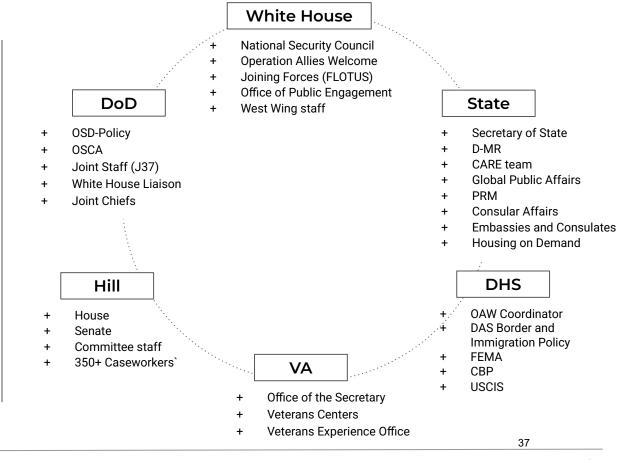




**Faster & More** 

#### How we work

A subset of the coalition meets with operational and policy leaders from across the full enterprise of USG agencies and entities working on Afghan relocation and resettlement



#### How we work

A consistent and representative group of our orgs meet regularly with government officials. The following criteria inform who attends:

- By Name Request from Government
- Existing relationships
- Lived experience
- Professional experience
- Population served
- Influence

#### DoD

- + Task Force Antal
- Operation Sacred Promise
- + Allied Airlift 21
- + AMPAA
- + RAWN
- + Honor the Promise
- + No One Left Behind
- Moral Compass Federation
- + SOAA
- + WEF Global Shapers

#### Hill

- Evacuate our Allies
- + Ad hoc meetings

#### **NSC**

- + Allied Airlift 21
- + Afghan American Foundation
- + Honor the Promise
- + Evacuate Our Allies
- + Human Rights First
- + Immigrant Arc
- + Task Force Diablo
- + Task Force Antal
- + No One Left Behind

#### **FLOTUS**

- + Operation Sacred Promise
- + Honor our Promise
- + TF Pineapple
- + OpReco
- + AMPAA

#### State

- Afghan American Foundation
- World Hazara Council
- Team Spirit
- Immigrant Arc
- + Allied Airlift 21
- + No One Left Behind
- Evacuate our Allies
- Transit Initiatives
- + Human Rights First
- Team America Relief
- Task Force Antal
- + Task Force Diablo
- + WEF Global Shapers

DHS / VA

Ad hoc meetings



#### Enduring Welcome | Relocation Preparation Process

#### > APPLICANT

Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) applicants and eligible family



SIV principal applicants who are COMapproved and documentarily complete, with spouse and unmarried children under the age of 21 at time of petition\*

U.S. Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP) applicants and eligible family



P1 cases that are referred to USRAP with spouse and unmarried children under 21: P2 cases that are referred to USRAP with spouse and children of any age, whether married or unmarried. Note: Afghans cannot apply for USRAP directly; they require a referral



Applicant emails National Visa Center (NVC) to apply for an SIV

Refugee referrals are submitted

to the Department of State by

an eligible referring agency

or organization



Applicant submits a complete Chief of Mission (COM) application



If approved, applicant receives COM and petition approval notification



Applicant works with the NVC to complete a visa application

If accepted, applicant receives (and must respond to) confirmation email with Afghan Referral Record (ARR) number



Applicant will receive an initial screening call from U.S. government-funded staff (IOM or CARE) for an interview (with potential follow up) to prepare the case

**CASE SENT** TO CARE



Immigrant Visa (IV) applicants, which include eligible family of U.S. Citizens & certain Lawful Permanent Residents (LPRs)



Family of U.S. Citizens: spouse, unmarried children under the age of 21, and parents of a U.S. citizen, with approved I-130 petitions and documentarily complete IV cases

Family of LPRs: spouse, unmarried children under the age of 21, with approved I-130 petitions and documentarily complete IV case with current priority date\*\*

**Family of Parolees** 



Spouse and unmarried children under the age of 21 as of August 14, 2021 of current parolees or parolees who were granted Temporary Protected Status (TPS)

Family of Refugees and Asylees



Spouse and unmarried children under the age of 21 of a principal Asylee or Refugee



Petitioner completes an I-130 petition with USCIS



If petition is approved, petitioner will receive an approval notice from USCIS



The NVC creates an IV case, sends a welcome letter, and requests applicants to complete an IV application



Parolee completes a DS-4317 to request family reunification



Prinicipal Asylee or Refugee completes an I-730 petition with USCIS





Upon validation of Parolee status, parolee will be contacted to validate family relationship



If petition is approved, petitioner will receive an approval notice from USCIS



Applicant will receive a phone call from a U.S. government representative for an interview to prepare the case file





For Refugees Only: Applicant will receive a phone call from a U.S. government representative for an interview to prepare the case file

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#AfghanEvac

#### Enduring Welcome | CARE Relocation Process

Travelers in all immigration pathways will experience the same processing steps while

their case is with CARE for processing

#### >> TRAVELER



Upon receipt of case, CARE will send travelers an Intro email confirming the continued processing of their case and explaining coming steps.

CARE will then contact the

traveler, again via email, to request specific information including verifying the identity of the principal applicant, confirming location, confirming eligible family members, and requesting scans of documents needed for potential travel

- Cases must pass certain reviews prior to first contact from CARE Contact Center
- CARE case managers are available to speak in English, Dari, and Pashto
- Travelers may contact CARE to provide updates or ask questions:
   Via phone at +1 (833-839-0375)
   Via WhatsApp at +1 (678-916-5522)

Please Note: Calling the CARE Contact Center will not expedite a case processing and the case manager has no information regarding the timing of next steps



 When a case is ready for relocation, travelers will receive a call from a U.S. phone number to coordinate pre-travel logistics

Please Note: The time between Steps 3 and 4 in this process can vary widely based on individual factors



If CARE cannot contact via email, a phone call will be made in an attempt to reach the traveler and begin the information and document collection process

- CARE Case Managers are available to speak in English, Dari, and Pashto
- Travelers may contact CARE to provide updates or ask questions via phone or WhatsApp (see Step 1)

Please Note: Calling the CARE Contact Center will not expedite the relocation of a case and the case manager has no information regarding the timing or status of relocation



Individuals work with CARE to begin pre-travel requirements. Passports will be collected, medical exams will be conducted, and other guidance will be shared

- Travelers should carry medications and relevant documentation with them
- Each traveler is permitted one piece of luggage, maximum weight of 23kg



Travel out of Afghanistan to a CARE platform for further in-person case processing

 The ultimate destination for processing is based on a wide variety of factors, including eligibility type and the space capacity at each location



Travelers send documents and information to CareTravelData@state.gov for review and verification

- CARE case managers do not have information about the status or timing next steps for case processing.
- If there are any issues with the documents sent or further documents are needed, travelers will receive an email requesting new scans or copies of the documents (i.e., visas, tazkiras, marriage certificates, etc.)



U.S. Department of State

Office of the Coordinator for Afghan Relocation Efforts (SCA/CARE)

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The amount of

time to complete

each step in this

process is different

for each case.

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#### Enduring Welcome | CARE Platforms Process

Guests will experience different processing steps based on their immigration pathway type, but all guests will have access to the same services on the platforms.

















Document Issuances: Visas or refugee letters are issued upon completion of the immigration process



Departure: Information on U.S. resources and laws are shared with guests. Pre-flight medical checks and platform check-outs are completed. Flights are booked

Preparation for



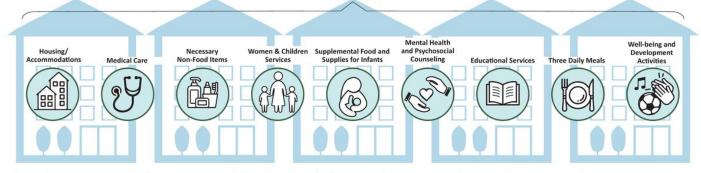
The amount of time to complete

each step in this



departure

#### Services Provided at the Platform Throughout Processing







U.S. Department of State

Office of the Coordinator for Afghan Relocation Efforts (SCA/CARE)

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#### Impact to Date - Executive Branch (not-comprehensive)

#### **West Wing**

- Appoint Special Assistant to the President responsible for Afghan relocations and resettlement
- Direct relocation of allies as a priority to the interagency
- + Support relevant legislation to help Afghans (AAPA, AAA, etc)
- + Public acknowledgement of work remaining, private efforts

#### **Department of State**

- + Approve use of Ariana and/or Kam Airlines
- + Scale-up CA for S/IV processing globally
- + Coordinate Whole of Government communications alignment
- + Establish multiple reliable and redundant processing sites globally
- + Begin USRAP processing in Pakistan
- + Offer education and cultural integration courses at processing sites
- + Scale up pre-travel processing capability to increase throughput and case reliability
- + Establish CARE as permanent part of Department structure

#### HHS / VA / FLOTUS

+ Implement federally-funded, locally-administered mental health access for Afghans and volunteers

#### **Department of Treasury**

+ Release General Licenses to enable legal humanitarian work in Afg

#### **National Security Council**

- + Increase throughput capacity to thousands per month
- Develop and communicate end-to-end multi-year plan, with redundancy – Enduring Welcome
- + Mandate whole of government communications alignment
- Approve relocation of accepted USRAP P1/P2 referrals

#### **Department of Homeland Security: CBP / USCIS**

- + Increase vetting capacity at CAS through longer-term deployments
- + Expedite SIV pre-processing for SIV applicants known to be in third-country locations (e.g., CAS, EHC, Islamabad, Tirana, etc.)
- + Scale-up refugee processing (circuit rides)
- + Maintain option of (limited) Port Parole
- + Improve inter-agency HP-IV communications
- Revise HP denial letters
- + Establish Re-parole program
- + Establish exemptions to TRIG that reflect reality and nuance

#### **Department of Defense**

- + Rapid communications with active duty military and veterans
- + Communicate family member relocation policy to entire force
- + Continue interagency pressure for family reunification policy

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#### Impact to Date - Legislative and Internal (not comprehensive)

#### **U.S. Congress**

- + Increase SIV cap by 12,000 visas and extend program to 2026 50,000 additional visas needed (estimated)
- + Confirm Ambassador to Qatar
- + Establish stand-alone CARE financial account in budget
- Provide supplemental funding enabling relocation and resettlement of Afghans

#### **AfghanEvac Public Products**

- + Infographics simplifying complex issues / processes
- + Flight Manifest Eligibility Chart
- + Family Reunification Form FAQ
- + Caseworker Best Practices Toolkit
- + Tools and Resources for Afghans in Need (TRAIN)
- + Tri-lingual Passports Information Guide
- + USRAP P1/P2 Information Guide
- + Webinars and Public Speaking
- + Resettlement Guide
- + Interview Ready Guide
- + Flight Charter Checklist
- + Relocation Process Map
- + Welcome Corps Information
- + Frequently Asked Questions

#### **AfghanEvac Internal Products**

- + Executive Advisory Team
- + Code of Conduct
- Trust Form and Program
- + Questions form
- Comprehensive meetings notes from USG since inception
- + Shout Outs

#### **AfghanEvac External Programs**

- + Afghan Community Ambassadors Program
- + Afghan Welcome Fund (partnership with Globally)
- + American Ingenuity Award (partnership with Popvox Foundation)
- + Resilience Program
- + Gratitude from Government Program
- + Oral History
- + Third Country Advocacy

#### AfghanEvac Non-Public Resources

- Pre-Travel Toolkit
- + Hill staff briefings (bi-weekly)
- + Case Inquiry



## Awards and Recognition

- State of California
  - 2024 Non-Profit of the Year
- American University of Afghanistan (AUAF)
  - 2023 International Public Service Award
- Truman National Security Project
  - 2022 Lead Award
- Candid (formerly Guidestar)
  - 2021 Platinum
  - 2022 Platinum
  - 2023 Platinum
  - 2024 Platinum



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Q&A





## ITEM #10 Committee Assignments and Charters

Jude Litzenberger, Chair of San Diego Military and Veterans Advisory Council



# ITEM #11 DOD/VA Policy Changes Regarding Gender-Affirming Care and Fate of Trans Service Members

Jude Litzenberger, Chair of San Diego Military and Veterans Advisory Council



# ITEM #12 Report from all Chairs County Boards Meeting

Jude Litzenberger, Chair of San Diego Military and Veterans Advisory Council



### ITEM #13 Suggested topic for future meetings

All San Diego Military and Veterans Advisory Council Members

