



MC&FP FACT SHEET

Military Spouse Appreciation Day

Background

Military Spouse Appreciation Day, held this year on May 10, 2013, is an annual observance encouraging Americans to honor the more than one million military spouses who contribute at all levels — locally, statewide, across the nation and around the world — to keeping our military personnel strong, ready and committed to national security. Because the readiness of our military depends on the well-being of spouses and families, First Lady Michelle Obama and Dr. Jill Biden launched the Joining Forces initiative to establish a coordinated and comprehensive approach to supporting military families, which includes a commitment to develop career and educational opportunities for military spouses.

Highlights

The Spouse Education and Career Opportunities, or SECO, program at the Department of Defense recognizes the service and sacrifice of military spouses. The program offers spouses everything from initial career exploration to education and training to employment readiness to career connections:

- Certified career counselors are accessible through Military OneSource by calling 800-342-9647.
- Military spouses can access job opportunities through the online Military Spouse Employment Partnership Career Portal.
- The My Career Advancement Account Scholarship is a workforce development program that provides up to \$4,000 of financial assistance to eligible military spouses who are pursuing a license, certification or associate's degree in a portable career field.
- The Defense Department, through its USA4MilitaryFamilies initiative, has ongoing dialogue with state policymakers to promote adoption and implementation of best practices that help streamline professional licensing processes and facilitate licensure portability for military spouses.

Data



The SECO program is committed to reducing the 26 percent unemployment rate for military spouses and closing the 25 percent wage gap for military wives when compared to their civilian counterparts.

Additional Information

Spouse Education and Career Opportunities

www.militaryonesource.mil/seco

Military Spouse Employment Partnership

<https://msepjobs.militaryonesource.mil>

MyCAA Scholarship

<https://aiportal.acc.af.mil/mycaa/default.aspx>

Hiring Our Heroes

www.uschamber.com/hiringourheroes

USA4MilitaryFamilies

www.usa4militaryfamilies.dod.mil/pls

