



# Fact Sheet

## Spouse Ambassador Network

The Spouse Ambassador Network is a committed group of organizations within MSEP that have community networks and will leverage these networks to broaden knowledge about military spouse career resources in communities where military spouses live and work. The network creates awareness about the challenges related to military spouse employment and work with community organizations to increase military spouse career opportunities and advancement.

### Network highlights

- ✓ *“With the strong collaboration of our MSEP partners, the Spouse Ambassador Network will facilitate networking and information sharing in communities across the country and around the world where military spouses reside.”*  
— Meg O’Grady, program manager for the Department of Defense Spouse Education and Career Opportunities program
- ✓ *As of January 2014, 13 organizations are members of the Spouse Ambassador Network.*



### Spouse Ambassador Network

Military Spouses are highly skilled and dedicated employees in the American workforce. Of the 700,000 plus active-duty military spouses, more than 50 percent are 31 years old or younger<sup>1</sup>. They are tech-savvy, more educated than their civilian counterparts and are resilient and adaptable as they live the mobile military life. Military families relocate, on average, every two to three years, meaning military spouses are often unable to maintain their employment status or establish career tenure, resulting in a 25 percent unemployment rate<sup>2</sup> and 25 percent wage gap<sup>3</sup>. These employment setbacks adversely affect the readiness, retention and well-being of the military community.

Members of the Spouse Ambassador Network are part of a like-minded community of organizations that belong to and support the mission of MSEP. The partnership connects military spouses with more than 220 partner employers who have pledged to recruit, hire, promote and retain military spouses in portable careers. This partnership helps military spouses find employment, build on their education and experience and achieve their career and personal goals.



As a Department of Defense Spouse Education and Career Opportunities initiative, the mission of the Spouse Ambassador Network is to educate, empower and mentor military spouses to encourage career fulfillment by promoting and sharing resources while facilitating effective relationships with local and national stakeholders.

<sup>1</sup> 2011 Demographics, Profile of the Military Community, November 2012, Military OneSource.mil, [http://militaryonesource.mil/12038/MOS/Reports/2011\\_Demographics\\_Report.pdf](http://militaryonesource.mil/12038/MOS/Reports/2011_Demographics_Report.pdf).

<sup>2</sup> 2012 Demographics Report, Profile of the Military Community, Military OneSource.mil, [http://militaryonesource.mil/12038/MOS/Reports/2012\\_Demographics\\_Report.pdf](http://militaryonesource.mil/12038/MOS/Reports/2012_Demographics_Report.pdf).

<sup>3</sup> Kniskern, M.K., & Segal, D.R. (2010), Mean Wage Differences between Civilian and Military Wives, College Park, MD: Center for Research on Military Organization, University of Maryland, College Park, Military OneSource.mil, [http://militaryonesource.mil/12038/MOS/Reports/FY2012\\_Report\\_MilitaryFamilyReadinessPrograms.pdf](http://militaryonesource.mil/12038/MOS/Reports/FY2012_Report_MilitaryFamilyReadinessPrograms.pdf).

## Community of support

The Spouse Ambassador Network brings a system of support to the communities where spouses live and work. It allows local and national stakeholders to connect with other like-minded groups to form effective relationships and further strengthen the system of support for spouses.

To participate in the Spouse Ambassador Network, an organization must first become an MSEP partner. The MSEP partner [application process](#) details the eligibility requirements in six simple steps. Partners can then explore the opportunity to join the network.

## The Network: Educate — Empower — Mentor

Providing support to military spouses is a coordinated effort involving three key players. Each group plays a part to educate, empower and mentor spouses and provides a variety of tools, information and resources.



### Find out more

For more information about the Spouse Ambassador Network, MSEP or SECO, visit our websites.

**MySECO** — This website provides military spouses with 24/7 access to online education and career information, resources, tools and assessments. Using the tools and assessments, spouses can begin to explore their interests, skills, passions and personality type to determine the best fit for education and career choices and start to build a portable and meaningful career path. <https://myseco.militaryonesource.mil/>

**MSEP Career Portal** — This website houses information for companies interested in becoming an MSEP partner, resources for existing partners and a Spouse Career Resource Center, which includes job postings, resume and interview support and social media and media resources. <https://msejobs.militaryonesource.mil/>

**Spouse Ambassador Network resource page** — This resource page provides information regarding the SECO program and the Spouse Ambassador Network. <https://msejobs.militaryonesource.mil/page/spouse-ambassador-network>

The Spouse Education and Career Opportunities program provides expert education and career guidance to military spouses worldwide. For more information, visit MySECO at <https://myseco.militaryonesource.mil>.