

Senior Spouse Update Summary

Current as of June 25, 2025



On June 25, 2025, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Military Community and Family Policy Stephen B. Simmons presented a quarterly briefing to 80 senior military spouses, detailing the latest activities of these two Defense Department programs:

- Spouse Education and Career Opportunities, or SECO
- The Military Spouse Career Accelerator Pilot, or MSCAP

SECO provides education and career guidance to military spouses worldwide and offers comprehensive resources and tools for all stages of your career progression. MSCAP is a competitive, multiyear initiative that provides career-ready spouses of active-duty service members with 12-week paid fellowships at employers across various industries and locations.

The next Senior Spouse Quarterly Update meeting will occur in September 2025.

Bruce Moody, with the office of Military Community and Family Policy, began the meeting by introducing Principal Director of Military Community & Family Policy Lee Kelley.

Ms. Kelley gave brief opening remarks welcoming senior spouses before quickly introducing Ms. Josie Beets, program manager for SECO.

Ms. Beets provided a detailed explanation of MSCAP, which exists within the SECO program in MC&FP. She explained that military spouses play a critical role in the overall economic security of military families. And unfortunately, despite routinely possessing higher levels of education than their civilian counterparts, they face an unemployment rate of 20%.

Ms. Beets added that the DOD established MSCAP, as authorized by the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2022, to combat the readiness and retention challenges associated with military spouse unemployment and underemployment. Congress authorized MSCAP as a program of record in the NDAA for Fiscal Year 2025.

MSCAP is a paid 12-week fellowship program for spouses of currently serving active duty, National Guard and Reserve service members in any status. Spouses are matched with employers across a variety of industries and undergo on-the-job trainings, mentoring, and networking throughout the fellowship.

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Ms. Beets revealed that since MSCAP's inception, 966 fellowships have been completed with 85% of the spouses receiving job offers, including 304 direct hires. She reminded the audience that spouses can pursue these additional career and education support opportunities that SECO offers:

- Find a job:
 - Search for jobs on the MSEP jobs board
 - Join a virtual hiring fair to connect with MSEP employers
 - Get free access to FlexJobs remote work job board
- Get career advice:
 - Meet one-on-one with a career coach through the SECO Career Center
 - Receive an on-demand resume review
 - Attend a SECO Spotlight for career microlearning
 - Learn to leverage LinkedIn through spouse-specific training
- Explore education:
 - Leverage MyCAA financial assistance for workforce development
 - Find higher education funding with the SECO Scholarship Finder
 - Gain free access to Udemy online courses

Ms. Beets closed her remarks by reminding everyone about the SECO events happening the rest of the summer, urging spouses to share information about these events with their network:

- June 26, 2025, "From Spark to Startup: Ignite Your Idea to Spark Small Business Success"
 - Register for "From Spark to Startup: Ignite Your Idea to Spark Small Business Success":
<https://myseco.militaryonesource.mil/portal/events/from-spark-to-startup-series>
- July 10, 2025, "SECO Spotlight: Pack Up for a PCS: Portable Job Opportunities"
 - Register here: <https://myseco.militaryonesource.mil/portal/events>
- Aug. 6, 2025, "Virtual Hiring Fair: Remote Work Opportunities" (includes a variety of employers who have remote opportunities available)
 - Registration for the Virtual Hiring Fair will open mid-July and will be found here: <https://myseco.militaryonesource.mil/portal/events>

Ms. Beets turned the meeting over to Ms. Kelley, who introduced the new Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for MC&FP Stephen B. Simmons.

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Mr. Simmons explained that through his 17 years of service as a Marine he learned the pride, purpose and sacrifice that families experience in military life. He also acknowledged the challenges that come with frequent moves and finding employment. He highlighted key aspects of SECO support such as guidance from career coaches, programs that offer scholarship funds for qualified spouses, like My Career Advancement Account, and MSEP, that help place spouses with employers.

Mr. Simmons turned the meeting over to Mr. Moody, who thanked everyone for attending and reminded them there will be another quarterly meeting in the fall (date to be determined) and closed the meeting.

Links discussed by DASD Simmons:

- SECO: <https://myseco.militaryonesource.mil/portal/>
- MyCAA Scholarship Program: <https://mycaa.militaryonesource.mil/mycaa/>
- Military Spouse Career Accelerator Pilot:
<https://myseco.militaryonesource.mil/portal/article/military-spouse-career-accelerator-pilot>
- MSEP: <https://msepjobs.militaryonesource.mil/msep/>

Links discussed by SECO program manager Josie Beets:

- MSEP job board: <https://myseco.militaryonesource.mil/portal/msep/jobs>
- Free FlexJobs membership:
<https://myseco.militaryonesource.mil/portal/initiatives/flexjobs>
- SECO Career Coaching support:
<https://myseco.militaryonesource.mil/portal/article/seco-career-coaching-services>
- SECO's on-demand resume review:
<https://myseco.militaryonesource.mil/portal/article/resume-review-and-job-search-navigator>
- Upcoming events, including SECO Spotlights:
<https://myseco.militaryonesource.mil/portal/events>
- Free LinkedIn Premium upgrade:
<https://myseco.militaryonesource.mil/portal/article/linkedin-premium-for-military-spouses>
- SECO Scholarship Finder:
<https://myseco.militaryonesource.mil/portal/scholarships>
- Free online courses through Udemy:
<https://myseco.militaryonesource.mil/portal/initiatives/udemy>



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Check out the Military OneSource webpage developed just for the Senior Spouse Roundtable updates: <https://www.militaryonesource.mil/leaders-service-providers/senior-spouse-quarterly-meeting/>. You'll find links to all the resources discussed in the webinar, as well as other spouse resources you can share with your key spouse groups and installation spouses.