

**NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE FUTURE OF THE ARMY**  
**July 9, 2015**

**General Thurman and members of the Commission, thank you for the opportunity to speak. I am Susan Kamas, Executive Director of Workforce Solutions of Central Texas. We are a 501©(3) non-profit corporation with a business-led Board of Directors. We administer all public workforce funds for the Central Texas region. Our mission is to provide quality education, training and labor market services that gives employers and residents of the region a competitive advantage in today's global economy.**

**SERVICES TO ASSIST VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES**

**My remarks today are specific to Fort Hood and the services we provide to assist veterans and their families. The Killeen Workforce Center is a full-service 40,000 sq. ft. facility located 5 minutes from the main gate of Fort Hood. It has approximately 100,000 customer visits a year and provides the following services:**

- **Connection to Local Jobs - the state of Texas maintains an internet job matching system. It is localized for Central Texas, but also has statewide job data and connects to other national internet job matching sites. All job postings are open to veterans only for the first forty-eight hours. Employers are often onsite in our Killeen Workforce Center to recruit and interview prospects, the majority being veterans or military family members.**
- **Labor Market Information – current, relevant labor market information is available to job seekers and employers. Our employers are always interested and eager to hire veterans.**
- **Transition Assistance and Employment Preparation Assistance – is guidance with resumes, translating MOS to civilian jobs, support with job matching through Work in Texas, and a variety of workshops to prepare job seekers with skills. Examples of workshops include: How Do You Look on Paper? Perfecting your Application; Resumes that Get Interviews; Soft Skills-The New Tie Breaker.**
- **Vocational Training Support – provides funding for college tuition, books and fees for income-eligible job seekers and workers who were laid off**

from previous jobs. Spouses who leave employment to come to Fort Hood with soldiers are generally eligible for vocational training scholarships.

- **One-on-One Guidance** – for those customers that benefit from having professional assistance when developing an individualized plan.
- **Childcare and Transportation Subsidies** are available for income-eligible job seekers who are working or in training. These services are especially important for young military families.

#### **OUR SERVICE OUTCOMES FOR MILITARY SPOUSES**

- **4000 Military Spouses Served**
- **3,328 (83.2%) Entered Employment**

#### **OUR 2014 SERVICE OUTCOMES FOR VETERANS**

- **9,124 Veterans Served**
- **1,973 Disabled Veterans Served**
- **84.54% Veterans Retained Employment**
- **85.75% Disabled Veterans Retained Employment**

#### **Slide Two**

**PARTNERSHIPS TO ASSIST VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES** are valuable in Central Texas. We highlight two today that are unique only to Fort Hood.

- **Veterans Inventory** – is a survey of soldiers exiting the military from Fort Hood. The survey assesses the intentions, educational levels, skills, employment interests and suggestions to improve the Fort Hood region’s “quality of place” for soldiers. The survey began in 2007 and is supported by Workforce, the Heart of Texas Defense Alliance, Greater Killeen Chamber of Commerce, Texas Veterans Commission, and the Soldier for life Transition Assistance Program.
- **Business Resource Center** – is a joint initiative supported by Workforce, Central Texas College and the Greater Killeen Chamber of Commerce. It is located at the Killeen Workforce Center. Job seekers and exiting military have direct access to start-up business guidance and tools. In 2014 the BRC assisted 1,150 individuals and conducted 87 workshops.

**Approximately 75% of the customers are veterans. Services are provided with no or minimal costs to customers.**

- **The Business Resource Center sponsors and organizes an annual conference focused on Government Contracting for Emerging and Small Businesses.**

#### **RESOURCES TO ASSIST EMPLOYEES IMPACTED BY DOWNSIZING**

- **\$2.36M is available through a U. S. Department of Labor grant that provides services (listed on the first slide) for impacted Fort Hood Personnel. Those individuals include**
  - **Civil Service Employees**
  - **Federal Contractors**
  - **Soldiers Impacted by Downsizing**
  
- **Soldier for Life Internships - we are a referral source for the Microsoft suite, General Motors automotive, and the apprenticeship program for veterans in piping. All training is conducted on post. Certifications from the training will ensure high wage jobs for exiting soldiers.**
  
- **Army Community Service Employment Readiness Branch Partnership - Military spouses often begin their job search on Fort Hood at Army Community Service. In an effort to expand their service options and help them become familiar with the local community area, Workforce Solutions of Central Texas provides space for Employment Preparation Workshops at the Workforce Center in Killeen.**
  
- **\$3m – Dedicated to Workforce Services Addressing BRAC Impact**
  - **530 impacted civilians, military spouses, and veterans served**
  - **261 received vocational training/skills upgrades**
  - **408 (77%) entered employment**

**Slide Three**

#### **QUALITY CHILD CARE INITIATIVES ASSISTING VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES**

**The National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) Accreditation for local Child Care Centers was identified as a BRAC criteria priority in early 2012. Since that time, local and state Workforce funds have been dedicated to encouraging local child care providers to pursue accreditation with Workforce Solutions of Central Texas staff assisting the Centers' efforts to complete the rigorous requirements. You see the Results today.**

- **In 2005 there were 3 NAEYC Child Care Centers**
- **Today there are 39 NAEYC Child Care Centers (5 on post)**
- **Plus 10 Child Care Centers in the Process of Receiving Certification**

**In the past 18 months: \$826,500 has been invested in Local Child Care Quality Improvements.**

**We also have Collaborations with Nature Explore and Army Child Care in Your Neighborhood.**

**In summary, Workforce Solutions of Central Texas and many other community organizations greatly value our soldiers and military families, we are committed, and we stand ready to assist them in all phases of their service and lives. Central Texas has the relationships, partnerships, demonstrated experience, and results to back this statement up. Through extraordinary community support the "Best Costs Less" but really the best is....."priceless"! Thank you for your attention and consideration.**