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Chamber Report Reveals Employment Trends of Today's Military Veterans in San Diego County

San Diego number one destination for veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan

SAN DIEGO (January 16, 2013) – As the third largest county in the nation for veteran residents and the most popular destination for new veterans returning home, San Diego County plays a tremendous role in helping young veterans find employment opportunities and integrate into civilian life. This and more found in a comprehensive, new report – [Military Employment in San Diego](#) - released today by the [San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce](#).

The report finds that San Diego County's veterans stand out in terms of age and service era. In addition to being one of the largest counties with veteran residents, San Diego is the number one destination in the nation for newly returning veterans. With more and more veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan, this means that San Diego veterans are comparatively young. The report also shows that, demographically, San Diego County veterans are also better educated and earn higher incomes compared to national averages.

“This is an important report for the San Diego region, in particular, the business community,” said Bill Holman, vice president of external affairs for the San Diego Chamber. “Regional businesses must do their part to help returning veterans – whether it's through employment opportunities, informational interviews, professional recommendations or other resources. It is imperative that we show these young men and women the same service and dedication that they have shown for our country.”

Other report highlights include:

- Approximately 73% of the county's veteran population lives in City of San Diego and 20% live in the Oceanside-Escondido area.
- San Diego County veterans that are between the ages of eighteen and thirty-five are almost double that of national figures.
- San Diego veterans make up 8.3% of the total local labor force between the ages of 18 and 64.
- As of 2007, 13.5% of San Diego County firms were either veteran-owned or joint veteran/non-veteran owned.

- More resources are needed to help veterans overcome common barriers of entry to the workforce, including: 1) Translating military experience to civilian work; 2) Lack of resume, job search and interview experience; 3) Time needed to “decompress”; and, 4) Health issues from military service.

Click [here to view the full Chamber report](#). Other Chamber economic reports can be found [here](#). The report is a joint project between the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce and the County of San Diego. Report compiled by Export Access Group.

About The San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce

Founded in 1870, the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce is a nonprofit membership organization that helps provide a strong voice for San Diego businesses through advocacy, member-to-member connections and professional development. Representing nearly 3,000 businesses and more than 450,000 member business’ employees, the Chamber is committed to organizing the business community to help make San Diego the best place to do business. For more information, please visit www.sdchamber.org or call 619/544-1300.

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