HHS Panel Discussion: Navigating Federal Employment as a Veteran

November 8, 2023
1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. ET

There are speakers’ comments in the slide notes.
Welcome Remarks

Kimberly A. Steide, DPA
(she, her, hers)
Associate Deputy Assistant Secretary – Human Capital

Parastou Bannourah
(she, her, hers)
HHS Veterans Employment Program Officer (VEPO)

Matthew Merritt, MPH
(he, him, his)
HHS Recruitment Program Specialist
(Webinar Host)

Drew Sullivan
(he, him, his)
Public Affairs Specialist
Special Programs Division
The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ (HHS) mission is to enhance the health and well-being of all Americans by providing for effective health and human services and by fostering sound, sustained advances in the sciences underlying medicine, public health, and social services.
Organizational Chart

- HHS has 12 Operating Divisions (OpDivs)
HHS HAS 16 STAFF DIVISIONS (STAFFDIVS)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Division</th>
<th>Assistant Secretary/Office Name</th>
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<td>Office of the Assistant Secretary for Administration (ASA)</td>
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<td>Departmental Appeals Board (DAB)</td>
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<td>Office of Global Affairs (OGA)</td>
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<td>Assistant Secretary for Financial Resources (ASFR)</td>
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<td>HHS Chief Information Officer</td>
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<td>Office of the General Counsel (OGC)</td>
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<td>Office of the Assistant Secretary for Legislation (ASL)</td>
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<td>Office of Intergovernmental and External Affairs (IEA)</td>
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<td>Office of the Inspector General (OIG)</td>
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<td>Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs (ASPA)</td>
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<td>Immediate Office of the Secretary (IOS)</td>
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<td>Office of Medicare Hearings and Appeals (OMHA)</td>
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<td>Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (ASPE)</td>
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<td>Assistant Secretary for Health Organization (OASH)</td>
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<td>Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC)</td>
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<td>Office for Civil Rights (OCR)</td>
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<td>Immediate Office of the Secretary (IOS)</td>
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VETERANS’ HIRING AUTHORITIES
RECRUITMENT OF VETERANS: VETERANS’ PREFERENCE

- Certain veterans with qualifying service
- Veterans with a service-connected disability

Preference Categories
Veterans Recruitment Appointment

30% or more disabled

Veterans Employment Opportunities Act

VA Training Programs
Panelist Introductions

Melissa Wilson
She/Her/Hers
U.S. Army
Management Analyst
National Institutes of Health (NIH)

Ted Oja
He/Him/His
U.S. Coast Guard
Management and Program Analyst
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)

Darian Lewis
He/Him/His
U.S. Marine Corps
Lead IT Cybersecurity Specialist
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
MELISSA WILSON
(SHE, HER, HERS)

Management Analyst in the Office of Management and Policy Analysis (OMPA), National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK), National Institutes of Health (NIH)

History of Military Service:
Served in the U.S. Army
(January 1997 to April 2018)
Enlisted 1997-2010
Officer 2010-2018

Career Path at HHS:
Management Analyst (343)

Previous Experience:
Walmart- Retention and Development Manager/Logistics Manager

United States Army- Logistics Management/Chemical Operations

Educational Background:
- Bachelors in Sociology
- Master of Business Administration
THEODORE “TED” OJA
(HE, HIM, HIS)

Management and Program Analyst in the Division of Acute Care (DAC), Hospital and Ambulatory Policy Group (HAPG), Center for Medicare, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)

History of Military Service:
Served in the U.S. Coast Guard
(May 2016 to May 2021)

Career Path at HHS:
Management and Program Analyst (343)

Previous Experience:
United States Coast Guard- Avionics Electronics Technician and MH-60T Helicopter Aircrew

Educational Background:
- Bachelors in Molecular and Cellular Biology
- Master of Bioethics
DARIAN J. LEWIS
(HE, HIM, HIS)

Lead IT Cybersecurity Specialist,
Office of the Chief Information
Officer (OCIO), Centers for Disease
Control and Prevention (CDC)

History of Military Service:
Served in the U.S. Marine Corps
(May 1998 to July 2020)

Career Path at HHS:
Information Technology - 2210 (InfoSec)

Previous Experience:
Agile Defense Inc. – Business Operations Analyst
United States Marine Corps - Communications Chief

Educational Background:
- Bachelors in Management
QUESTIONS FOR PANELISTS

- What has been the most rewarding aspect of working at HHS as a veteran?
- What, if any, obstacles have you faced as a veteran employee at HHS?
- How did you leverage your military service into gaining HHS employment?
- What is some advice you wish you had known when you started your federal career?
WHERE TO GET HELP?

Office of Personnel Management (www.opm.gov)

- The Vet Guide
- Reasonable Accommodations
- Veterans Employment Training
- OPM Veterans Services
ADDITIONAL FEDERAL RESOURCES

• Department of Defense
  ➢ SkillBridge-https://skillbridge.osd.mil/

• Department of Labor
  ➢ Veterans.gov

• Department of Veteran Affairs
  ➢ VA Acquisition Academy
    https://www.acquisitionacademy.va.gov/
  ➢ VA VR&E
    https://www.benefits.va.gov/vocarehab/employers.asp
  ➢ Center for Minority Veterans
    https://www.va.gov/centerforminorityveterans/

• Chamber of Commerce Hiring Our Heroes (HOH)
  ➢ https://www.uschamberfoundation.org/hiring-our-heroes

• USAJOBS (Veterans)
Provides Noncompetitive Civil Service Appointments of Military Spouses

Appointing Authority allows agencies to appoint certain military spouses without using traditional competitive examining

Military Spouses possess the mission critical skills needed by the Federal Government

Agencies can appoint noncompetitively:

- The spouse of a member of the armed forces on active duty
- The spouse of a 100 percent disabled member of the armed forces
- The spouse of a deceased member of the armed forces
CONNECT WITH OUR TEAM

Parastou Bannourah
Veterans Employment Program Officer
Office of Human Resources
Assistant Secretary for Administration
vets@hhs.gov
Veterans Day

We salute our veterans today and always. Thank you for your service.