



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

KEYNOTE SPEECH

AGENDA

HHS Mission Statement

Organizational Chart

Veteran's Hiring Authorities

Panelist Introductions

Q&A

Resources for Veterans

Connecting with our team

MISSION STATEMENT

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

National Institutes of Health logo

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) logo

- ❖ HHS has 12 Operating Divisions (OpDivs)



HHS HAS 16 STAFF DIVISIONS (STAFFDIVS)

Office of the
Assistant Secretary
for Administration
(ASA)

Departmental
Appeals Board
(DAB)

Office of Global
Affairs (OGA)

Assistant Secretary
for Financial
Resources (ASFR)

HHS Chief
Information Officer

Office of the General
Counsel (OGC)

Office of the
Assistant Secretary
for Legislation (ASL)

Office of
Intergovernmental
and External Affairs
(IEA)

Office of the
Inspector General
(OIG)

Assistant Secretary
for Public Affairs
(ASPA)

Immediate Office of
the Secretary (IOS)

Office of Medicare
Hearings and
Appeals (OMHA)

Assistant Secretary
for Planning and
Evaluation (ASPE)

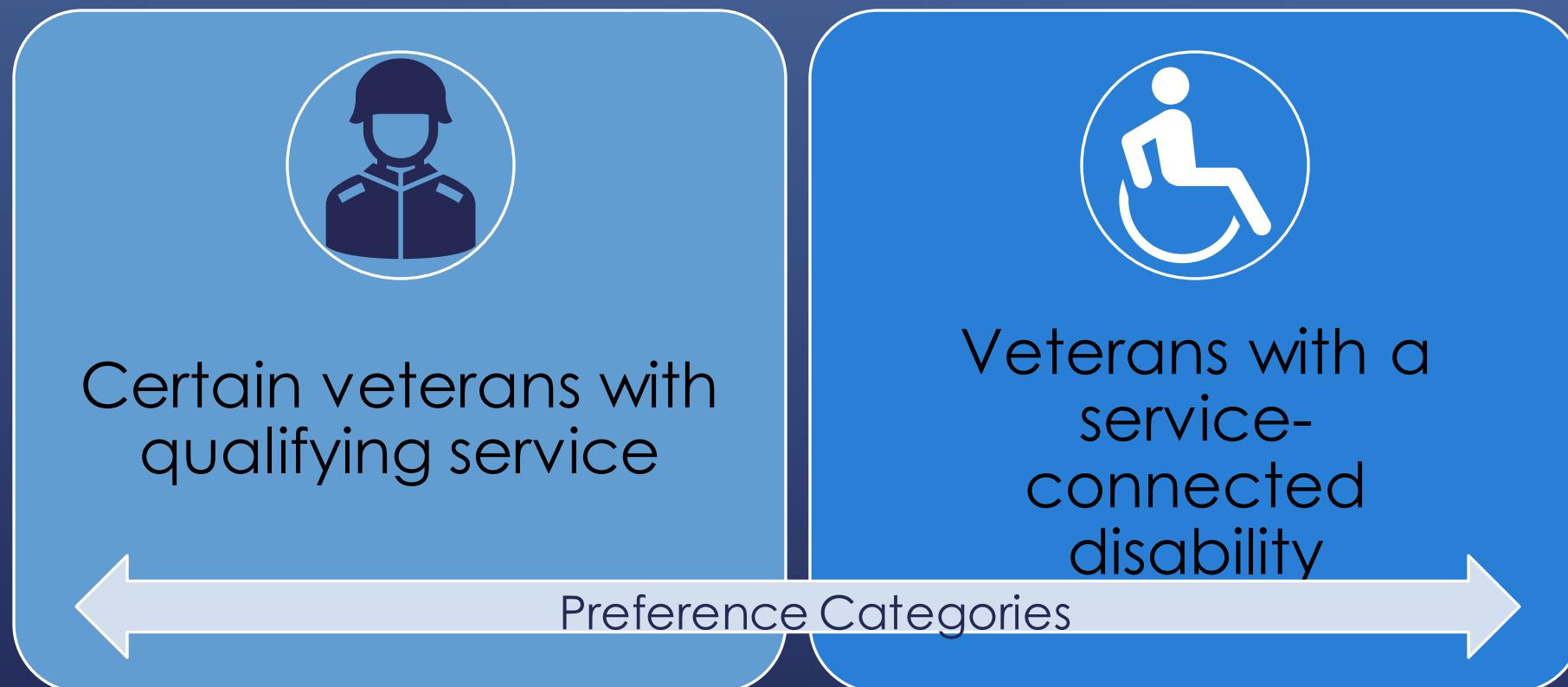
Assistant Secretary
for Health
Organization (OASH)

Office of the
National Coordinator
for Health
Information
Technology (ONC)

Office for Civil Rights
(OCR)

VETERANS' HIRING AUTHORITIES

RECRUITMENT OF VETERANS: VETERANS' PREFERENCE



Veterans Recruitment Appointment

30% or more disabled

Veterans Employment Opportunities Act

VA Training Programs

STRATEGIC RECRUITMENT OF VETERANS
SPECIAL HIRING AUTHORITIES

PANELISTS

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

Q&A



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?**

RESOURCES

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**](https://www.veterans.gov)
- ❖ **Department of Veteran Affairs**
 - **VA Acquisition Academy**
<https://www.acquisitionacademy.va.gov/>
 - **VA VR&E**
<https://www.benefits.va.gov/vocrehab/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)**
 - <https://www.usajobs.gov/Help/working-in-government/unique-hiring-paths/veterans/>

MILITARY SPOUSES EXECUTIVE ORDER 13832

- ❖ 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

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CONNECT WITH OUR TEAM

Parastou Bannourah

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

OFFICE
OF **HUMAN
RESOURCES**





Veterans Day

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

HHS.gov