

PREFACE

In recognition of the contributions patriotic men and women have made by volunteering to serve our country, the Department of Defense (DoD) extends its heartfelt gratitude to each of you and thanks you for your service to our Nation.

This guide, a product of the Transition Assistance Program (TAP), provides information on the many services and benefits available to you. You will be presented with information that will provide you with options, and help you make informed decision about the choices for you and your family.

If you have not already made an appointment and visited your Transition/ACAP Office or Command career Counselor, you should do so immediately. You can start the transition process 12 months prior to separation or 24 months prior to retirement. The sooner you start the better. There is a lot of information to absorb and you need time to plan and decide what is in the best interest for yourself and your family. A dedicated and highly trained transition staff is available to assist you. Use the *Pre-Separation Guide* as a ready reference to guide you as you begin the process of transitioning back into the civilian community.

The Transition Assistance Program demonstrates the Department of Defense, the Department of Labor, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and the Department of Homeland Security's continued commitment to our men and women in uniform.

Special transition benefits information, employment workshops, automated employment job-hunting tools and job banks, veteran benefits information, disabled veterans benefits information and many other types of transition and other related information is available to you. AND IT'S ALL FREE. Take full advantage of TAP and all it has to offer.

Start by reading the guide. It is designed to familiarize you with the scope of the many transition resources accessible to you.

Get connected with the Transition Assistance Program – It's the smart thing to do.

For additional information on transition, go to <http://www.TurboTAP.org>.