



OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE  
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20511

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## NEWS RELEASE

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### **IC OFFERS JOB OPPORTUNITIES TO WOUNDED SERVICE MEMBERS** *Outreach Effort Illustrates Commitment to Warfighters and Workplace Diversity*

The Intelligence Community attracted nearly 200 wounded service men and women yesterday to its first Community-wide job fair for them – emphasizing how their work ethic, resilience and team spirit are needed to further promote IC reform.

“The Intelligence Community is an exciting and challenging place to work,” Principal Deputy Director of National Intelligence David C. Gompert said at the event, held at the National Reconnaissance Office in Chantilly. The IC, he added, has “great capabilities, but we need to do better in many ways. Sitting in this room is a lot of talent that can help us do better,” especially in areas such as analysis, security and information sharing with military personnel in the field.

The ODNI created the Intelligence Community Wounded Warrior Program in June to consolidate similar efforts across the IC, boost the number of permanent and temporary job opportunities for wounded service people, and raise awareness. The IC Wounded Warrior Career/Internship Fair was an outgrowth of that program, and it featured recruiters from 20 IC and Defense Department components. Over the past three years, many IC organizations – including the ODNI, NRO, National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, Central Intelligence Agency and the Defense Intelligence Agency – have individually supported the Defense Department’s Operation Warfighter Program, which helps service members who are recuperating at military facilities to land temporary assignments in the federal government.

Moments before the event started, hundreds of NRO employees and others loudly cheered, applauded and waved small U.S. flags as the service men and women, some accompanied by family members, passed through a hallway that led to the meeting room. Many of the warfighters walked with noticeable impairments, or were in wheelchairs.

Such job fairs are critical, one participant said in an interview. The man, an Army sergeant, suffered numerous injuries to his head and limbs two years ago, when the Humvee he was riding in hit a roadside bomb in Iraq. “This opportunity lets soldiers know that there are other ways they can serve,” he explained, adding that he completed in September an internship in the ODNI’s Policy, Plans and Requirements section – and recently accepted an offer for a permanent position in an ODNI center. He also praised the fact that it took only about two months for him to receive a top secret security clearance.

That is the kind of smooth transition that should be the norm, said Ronald Sanders, the IC’s chief human capital officer. “Words can be cheap,” he told the audience. “What really matters are tangible actions and tangible results.” To date, the Community has provided more than 150 internship opportunities and permanently hired

about two dozen wounded service members, he noted. The NRO and NGA in particular have been leaders in this area.

The IC's efforts complement the administration's plan to increase the hiring of veterans across the federal government. Last week President Barack Obama signed an executive order that created a new Veterans Employment Initiative, which Joseph S. Kennedy, a deputy associate director in the Office of Personnel Management, discussed at Tuesday's event. "We still need you to take care of some business for us," he told participants.

Brig. Gen. Jeffrey C. Horne, who leads the Army's Human Resources Policy Directorate, urged the group to strongly consider IC careers. "We've all been through difficult times and life-changing events," he said in remarks that were alternately humorous and motivational. "The question now is, 'How are you going to use it for the future?'"

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