



SC Department of Employment and Workforce

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Gov. Nikki Haley, S.C. National Guard and DEW Announce Operation Palmetto Employment

Supporting Our Military Men and Women Through Employment

COLUMBIA, S.C. – Governor Nikki Haley today joined representatives from the South Carolina National Guard and the South Carolina Department of Employment and Workforce (DEW) in officially launching Operation Palmetto Employment (OPE) – a statewide military employment initiative aimed at reducing the unemployment rate among South Carolina’s military community.

OPE is designed to streamline the process through which military men and women are able to find jobs as well as educating the business community on the value of military hires.

“I want us to be the most military friendly state in this country and Operation Palmetto Employment is the type of program that shows our military men and women and their families how much we appreciate the sacrifices they make,” said Gov. Nikki Haley. “This program benefits everybody involved – hard-working South Carolinians will find jobs and the businesses hiring them are getting the best employees around.”

“Our unemployment rate for veterans is already well below the national average, but every time I see Governor Haley, she wants to know how we’re going to get it down to zero,” said DEW Director Cheryl Stanton. “Operation Palmetto Employment is a huge step in continuing to improve our military men and women’s contribution to South Carolina’s strong workforce.”

Veteran service teams will be comprised of representatives from various organizations including DEW, S.C. National Guard, S.C. Department of Social Services, and Veteran Affairs, and will be organized into regions to quickly connect military job seekers with resources and employers looking to hire.

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“Making Operation Palmetto Employment happen has been a great team effort involving Governor Haley, the Department of Employment and Workforce, and the National Guard and it proves that South Carolina is dedicated to helping our military members from all branches and services,” said Major General Lester D. Eisner, Deputy Adjutant General.

“Boeing currently employs 24,000 veterans, almost 15 percent of our work force, and we greatly value programs like Operation Palmetto Employment and find it to be closely aligned with our workforce strategy,” said Mark Fava, Chief Counsel Boeing South Carolina. “Of course, The Boeing Company would not be here today without Governor Haley’s leadership, vision and unwavering commitment to creating jobs.”

Many of these efforts will take place through the OPE website, which will serve as a platform to connect potential employers with job seekers: www.operationpalmettoemployment.sc.gov

Additional information about the South Carolina National Guard can be found here: www.scguard.com.

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