

America's Housing Market (Cont'd)

increase 6.5 percent to 1.4 million by 1996. However, as housing prices increase further and mortgage interest rates continue to fluctuate, the future of the housing market in America is anything but certain.

About the Author . . .

Lisa Boulware works in the Labor Market Information Division of the South Carolina Employment Security Commission and holds a bachelors degree in Math from Columbia College.

MILITARY DUTY TO CIVILIAN LIFE: EASING THE TRANSTION

by Lorraine Faulds

Recent developments on the international political scene, such as the fall of Communism in the former Soviet Union, have a great impact on the American armed forces. With the threat of war between the world's super powers lessening, the need for a large arsenal of military personnel is diminished. In response, the U.S. Department of Defense is reducing America's military force.

Downsizing by involuntary separation will involve approximately 70,000 soldiers, with early retirement and the decision to not re-enlist cutting another 300,000 from the U.S. Army personnel pool alone. The other branches plan downsizing but in smaller proportions. These individuals will leave the Armed Forces and enter the civilian job market perhaps the best candidates for employment. Former soldiers are drug-free, dependable, have initiative, have leadership ability and have at least a high school diploma. However, some types of military experience do not translate well into civilian fields. In those cases, additional training may be needed.

To help those leaving the military, a partnership has been formed between the Department of Defense, the Department of Veteran Affairs, and the Department of Labor to obtain and provide training and employment information. The Transition Assistance Program (TAP), and its sister program, the Disabled Transition Assistance Program (DTAP), will assist soldiers making the switch from military to civilian life. The programs provide labor market information, as well as three-day workshops on career decision-making and the job search

process. The DTAP includes an additional four-hour session to evaluate the special needs of the disabled. The workshops will take place at military installations nationwide with instructors from the military, the Department of Labor, and state employment services.

In South Carolina, an agreement has been made between the U.S. Army and the State of South Carolina to provide this and other related services, with the Employment Security Commission as the lead agency. Workshops are held once a month at several military installations in the state. The transition process also includes information on VA benefits, reserve component service, additional training, higher education, and information on veterans' support groups such as the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars. The agreement between the Army and South Carolina is administered by the South Carolina Military Assistance Council under the chairmanship of the Employment Security Commission's Executive Director, Robert E. "Jack" David.

It is hoped that many technical and professional job openings in South Carolina, especially in the electronics, communications and health care fields which sometimes lack qualified applicants, will be filled by these recently separated, specially-trained veterans. The logical connector between these soldiers and the world of work is the state's Job Service system. There is a job matching system already in place with programs specially developed for veterans and disabled veterans. Veterans using the South Carolina Job Service are given

Military Duty to Civilian Life (cont'd)

preference and qualify for testing, counseling, and training. Specific information on veterans using the South Carolina Job Service will soon be available in the Employment Security Commission's publication, *Veterans in South Carolina*. Copies of this publication may be obtained by writing to the Employment Security Commission.

About the Author . . .

Lorraine Faulds works in the Labor Market Information Division of the South Carolina Employment Security Commission and holds an associate degree in Journalism from the State University of New York at Morrisville.

• Publication Updates •

Several of the publications listed have been recently updated by the Labor Market Information Division of the South Carolina Employment Security Commission. Some publications will now require payment to receive a copy. Copies may be obtained by calling (803) 737-2660 or by completing the LMI Publication Request Form. You may send payment with your order (check made payable to the S.C. Employment Security Commission), or we will send a bill with your request. Please return the request form to the following address:

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