

Feature

NASBP

Annual Meeting Speakers

Veterans can benefit private sector, but need help finding jobs

THE SURETY INDUSTRY shares several values with those who have served in the U.S. military, and it can provide valuable opportunities to troops making the transition to private-sector employment, according to speakers at the 2015 NASBP Annual Meeting & Expo in San Diego.

“We both underwrite security – that’s the bottom line,” said retired

Navy Vice Admiral David Buss, who served as the Naval aviation’s sixth “air boss” and was the keynote speaker at Monday’s general session.

Both the surety industry and the military also stress the importance of professional education and training to ensure future success, and they “provide a level of comfort to those who we’re charged to protect” and

build “covenants” based on the trust and confidence of those being protected, Buss said.

The nation has a closer bond to those who have served in the military than it did during certain periods in the past, such as the Vietnam War era, and that connection extends to initiatives helping the private sector help veterans, he said.



Highlights from the NASBP Annual Meeting in Pictures. For additional pictures of the Annual Meeting, visit www.nasbp.org or go to <https://www.flickr.com/photos/133411151@N07/sets/72157652788564009/>

A. From left, speakers retired U.S. Navy Vice Admiral David Buss, retired U.S. Marine Corps Sergeant Major Frank Pulley, Tom Padilla and Mark McCallum. B. Program Committee Co-Chairs Matt Cashion, center, and Don Appleby, right, spoke with Hiring Our Heroes Advisor Frank Pulley, left. C. Doug Bauldwin, second from left, spoke about the success of PTS treatment. He is pictured with from left Jeffrey Hecker, William Martin, and retired Navy Rear Admiral Denny Wisely, a representative of the Blue Angels Foundation. D. Larry McMahon, far left, and Tom Padilla, far right, presented Tiger Trust awards to, second from left, Stan Halliday, Jacob Fulmer, and Mary Alice McNamara of Travelers Bond and John Bustard of King & Neel.



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E. From left, Mike Ito, Stephanie Ito, Tom Padilla Jr., Todd Loehnert, Tom Padilla, and Kimberly Padilla enjoyed the reception. F. NASBP helped raise money for the Blue Angels Foundation PTS Program, from left Denny Wisely, Jeffrey Hecker, Kathy Murphy, Carl Dohn and Tom Padilla. G. Retired U.S. Navy Admiral David Buss was the Keynote Speaker. H. Todd Loehnert, left, received the President's Award from Tom Padilla, right. I. Susan-Hecker, far right, presented a plaque to Tom and Kimberly Padilla for Tom's service as NASBP President this past year. J. Gary Dunbar, left, accepted the Bruce T. Wallace Award from Tom Padilla, right.

"It really is a symbiotic relationship that I think is really important for our future," he said in an interview.

One of those initiatives is Hiring Our Heroes, which was established by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation in 2011. Frank Pulley is a retired Marine Corps sergeant major who serves as a consultant and adviser for the program. He said that his company, Military Veteran Solutions, has been able to assist even more people since affiliating with the initiative.

In fact, Hiring Our Heroes has held more than 900 events in the U.S. and overseas and has confirmed that 25,000 veterans and their spouses have been hired as a result of such events, Pulley said.

One resource is the foundation's Employer Roadmap, a digital tool that identifies veterans and whether they

might meet the experience requirements for a particular job, he said. Such efforts aim to bridge the gap that exists between veterans and civilian companies as less than 1% of people in the U.S. have served in the military.

"There's a rhythm, a cycle, a structure" in the military, "and then you get out and you're dealing with civilian employers. Even though we're speaking English, there's a language barrier," he said.

Pulley and Buss both suggested that businesses can assign mentors to veterans they hire, ideally if the mentor is also a veteran, in order to maintain the teamwork and personal bonds that veterans know from their military service. Buss hopes that, after NASBP's Annual Meeting, members who attended will return home and make efforts to help

veterans find jobs, even if they are not hiring directly.

"This is a very broad group, very representative of every part of the country," he said of NASBP.

Pulley said the ultimate goal is to reduce unemployment, underemployment and homelessness among veterans to avoid not just an economic problem, but also a national security concern. The military is an all-volunteer force, and the reason it has been successful is that the country has helped care for soldiers after their service concludes, he said.

"What we're really talking about here is giving our veterans a hand up and not a handout," he said.

For more information about Hiring Our Heroes, visit <http://www.uschamberfoundation.org/hiring-our-heroes>.