



Veterans Empowerment Team

Meeting Minutes

Meet Your Army Luncheon with Brigadier General Ling

Thursday, May 24, 2018, 11:30 p.m. 12:30 p.m.

Rose Conference Room, City Hall

- 1) Brigadier General Ling met with members of the VET team and city employees for a Meet Your Army event. He presented some facts and figures:
 - a. No major military base in or near Portland
 - b. Major theme: Veterans (Soldiers for Life)
 - c. Approximately 1 million soldiers (which includes 400,000 on active duty)
 - d. “Right Size Army”, which means recruitment is meant to replenish troop levels as members retire or enlistment expires.
 - e. U.S. Army spends \$58 million in Portland; \$310 million in Oregon
- 2) Purpose of Army: To fight and win nation’s war
 - a. Avoiding war through having a credible military force that can act if necessary
 - b. Train for potential future conflicts
- 3) Age demographic is getting older, more high-tech / skilled soldiers
 - a. Technology increasing in importance
 - b. Cyber warfare
 - c. Deployable drones in backpacks
 - d. Satellite equipment drones
 - e. Drones with emergency equipment / first responder
- 4) Priorities:
 - a. Readiness – can we go to battle and win?
 - b. High quality soldiers – mature, physical fitness, mental agility
 - c. Modernization – ongoing process
 - d. Reform
 - i. Acquisition reform
 - ii. Way we deal with families
 - iii. Personal physical fitness plan

- e. Accountability
 - i. Stewardship
 - ii. Best value for dollar on contracts / purchases
 - f. People – includes veterans
 - g. Allies and partners – International and local governments and organizations
- 5) Jobs Program – PAYS Program
- a. Link with local business partner for post-enlistment jobs
 - b. Public / private partnership
 - c. Job placement help for veterans
 - i. Includes third party credentials for translatable skills such as paramedics, truck driving, electricians, and other jobs that require license / certifications
- 6) Soldiers for Life – Maintain relevance
- 7) A discussion led by City of Portland personnel regarding interviews of veterans.
- a. Use of military acronyms / jargon in resume / interview
 - b. Use of term “Commander’s Intent”, which interviewers often hear but do not understand (it was translated as “Department goals”)
 - c. Need to display independent thinking (veterans often speak in terms of “we” or following orders of superiors)
 - d. How to translate military skills into civilian terms that are applicable to the job’s listed knowledge and skills
 - e. Revise awareness program at BHR regarding the interviewing of veterans
 - f. The importance of “asking the right questions” and “telling the right stories”.
- 8) Acknowledgements:
- a. Special thanks to HOTLIPS pizza for donating a delicious lunch.