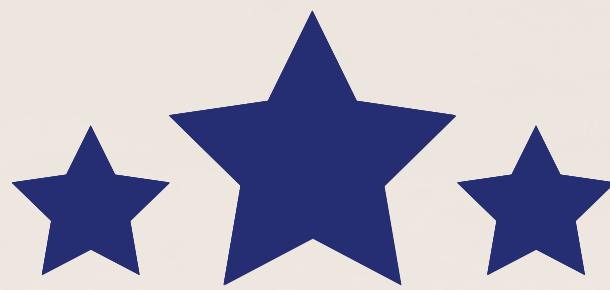

**Central Texas Council of Governments,
Texas Veterans Commission, and
Workforce Solutions of Central Texas
Present**

VETERAN EMPLOYER SUMMIT

FOR EMPLOYERS

Best Practices for Hiring and Retaining
Veteran Talent



CENTRAL TEXAS COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

MAY 17TH • 9AM TO 12PM

2180 N. MAIN ST. BELTON, TX 76153

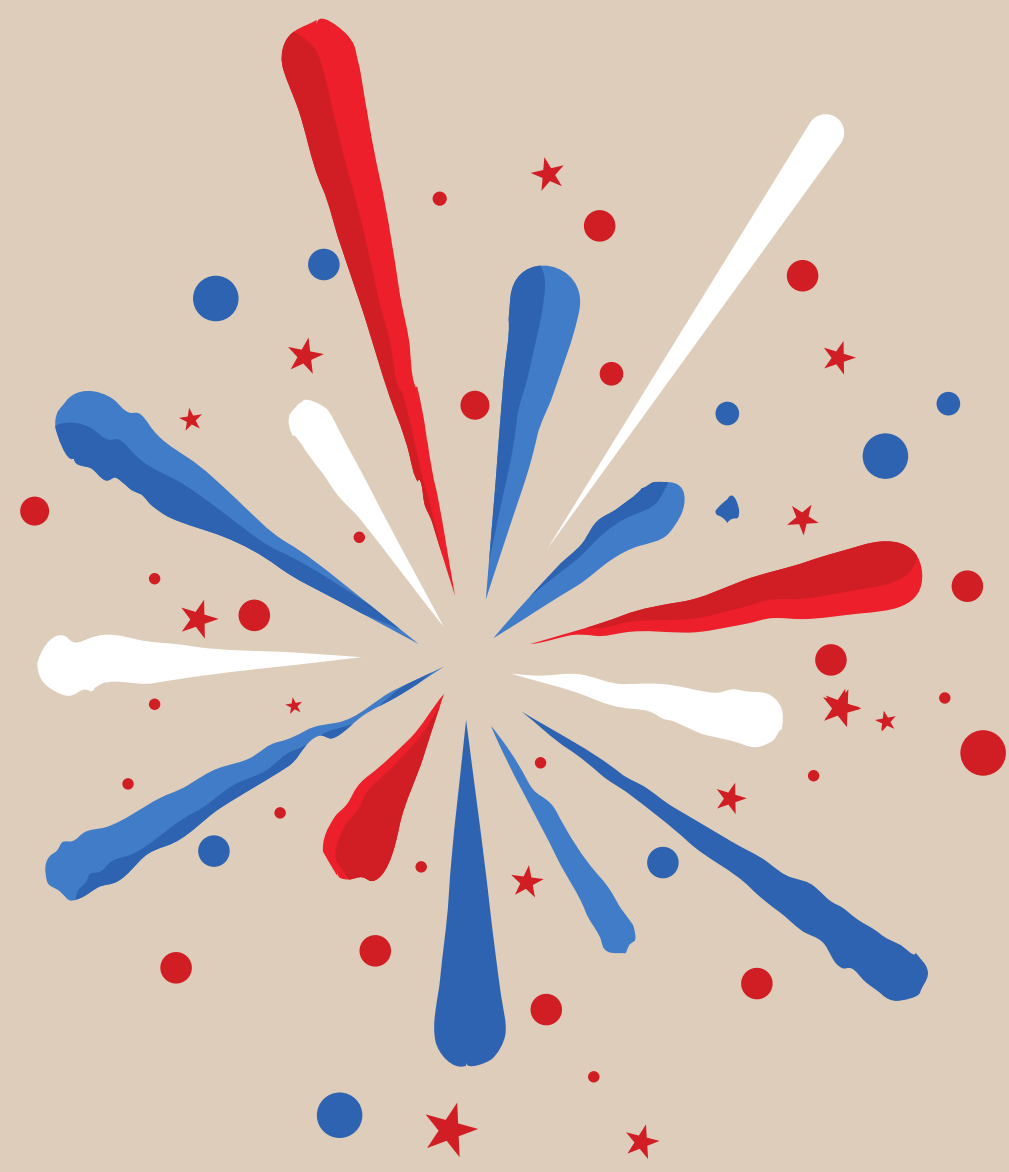


**TEXAS VETERANS
COMMISSION**
"Helping Veterans Start Here"



Veteran Employer Summit
Best Practices for Hiring and Retaining Veteran Talent
Tuesday, May 17, 2022
Location: Central Texas Council of Governments
2180 North Main, Belton, Texas 76513

9:00am – 9:05am	Welcome and Updates <i>Connie Quinto, Assistant Director of Planning, CTCOG (5 min)</i>
9:05am – 9:45am	Economic Panel: The Business Case for Hiring Veterans (40 min) <i>Mandy Walsh, Lampasas Economic Development Corporation</i> <i>Cynthia Hernandez, Belton Economic Development Corporation</i> <i>Kerry Phillip, Nolanville Economic Development Corporation</i> <i>Fred Welch, Copperas Cove Economic Development Corporation</i> <i>Dalton Rice, City Manager, City of Morgan's Point Resort</i> <i>Moderator: Mayor Wilkerson, City of Kempner</i>
9:45am – 10:00am	Texas Veterans Commission – Employment Services <i>Jerald Gould: TVC Veterans Employer Liaison, Central Texas District – North (15 min)</i>
10:00am – 10:30am	Workforce Solutions of Central Texas – National Dislocated Worker (NDW) Program <i>Alan Wedding: Military Transition Liaison (30 min)</i>
10:30am – 10:45am	Break/Networking (15 min)
10:45am – 11:45am	Employer Resources for Veteran Engagement (60 min) <i>Jerry Hernandez, Fort Hood Transition Assistance Program</i> <i>Eric Putt, Hiring Our Heroes</i> <i>Marvin Branch, Heroes Make America</i> <i>Mari Perez, Workforce Solutions of Central Texas, Business Services – WorkinTexas.com (WIT)</i>
11:45am – 12:00pm	Acknowledgements/Wrap-Up <i>Dominic Elizondo, Regional Planner, CTCOG (15 min)</i>



MEET OUR SPEAKERS

ECONOMIC PANEL



Mandy Walsh

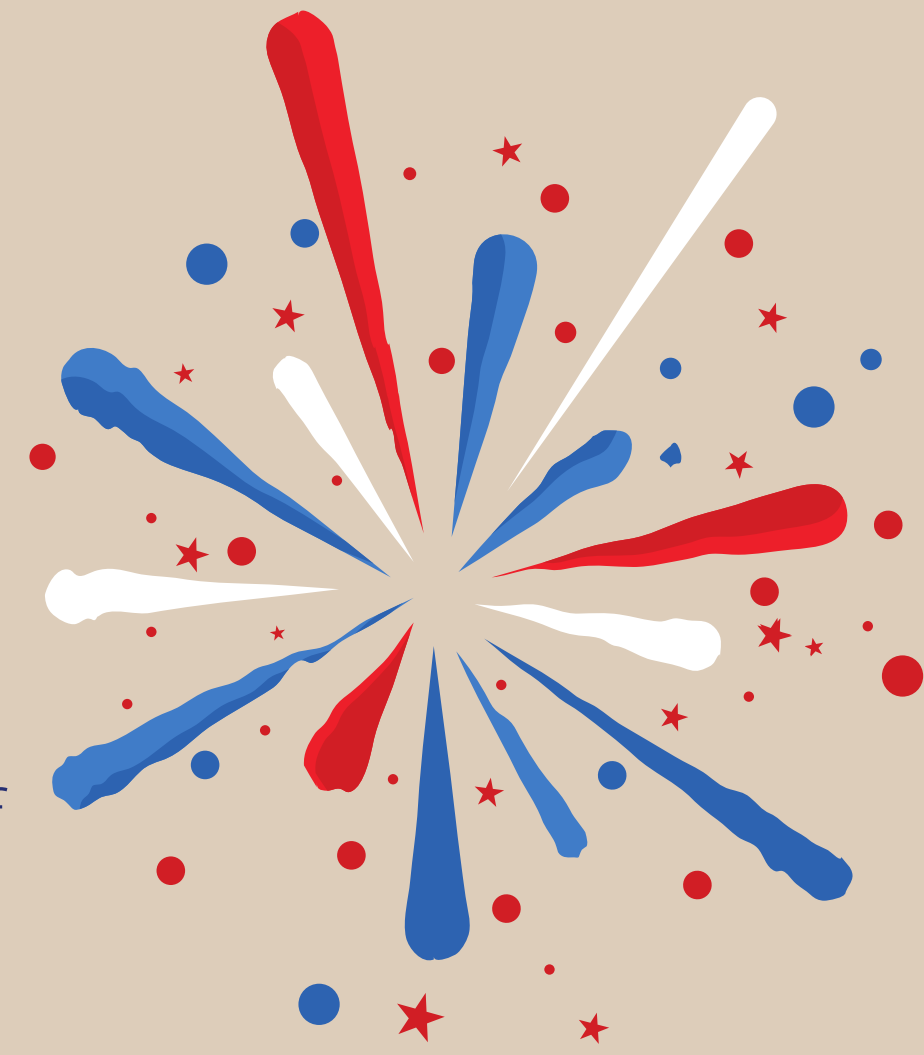
Mandy Walsh was born and raised in Lampasas, TX. She graduated from Texas Tech in 2004 with a Bachelor in Public Relations Degree. Upon graduating she spent 11 years in Houston handling sports and entertainment marketing and media relations for various organizations including the WNBA Houston Comets, NBA Houston Rockets, the Toyota Center, the Texas Renaissance Festival, Sam Houston Race Park and The Showgrounds concert venue. In February 2017, she accepted the Economic Development position for the City of Lampasas and is embarking on one of the largest projects in the City's history, the development of the 150-acre Lampasas Business Park.



Cynthia Hernandez

Cynthia Hernandez was appointed as the Executive Director for the Belton Economic Development Corporation in September 2011, after having served as the Associate Executive Director since 2009. Ms. Hernandez has over 18 years of economic development experience at both the local and regional level, including her time at the Central Texas Council of Governments (CTCOG) where she was instrumental in obtaining the EDA's designation as an Economic Development District for the seven-county region served by CTCOG. Hernandez is a graduate of the Economic Development Institute of the University of Oklahoma. She is a member of the Belton Rotary Club and is active in various boards and committees within Belton and the region to include serving on the Board of Directors for the Workforce Solutions of Central Texas and the Board of Governors for AUSA Central Texas – Fort Hood Chapter. Mrs. Hernandez lives in Holland, Texas, with her husband and four children, and serves on the School Board for Holland ISD.

ECONOMIC PANEL



Kerry Fillip

Kerry Fillip works in economic development for the City of Nolanville and comes from a long line of veterans going all the way back to the American Revolution. She is a big proponent of assisting veterans and their families to remain in our area after they separate from Fort Hood by ensuring employment opportunities. Kerry holds a Master in Administrative Leadership Degree from the University of Oklahoma and lives in Salado with her four rescue dogs.



Fred Welch

Fred Welch is the Executive Director for the Copperas Cove Economic Development Corporation. Retired Army (Reserve) he has been active in attraction and retention of business projects in the Houston region for over 29 years. He recently relocated to Copperas Cove to lead their economic development program. Fred and his team are happy and honored to assist any veteran with information on employment and business opportunities for those who want to start their own business.

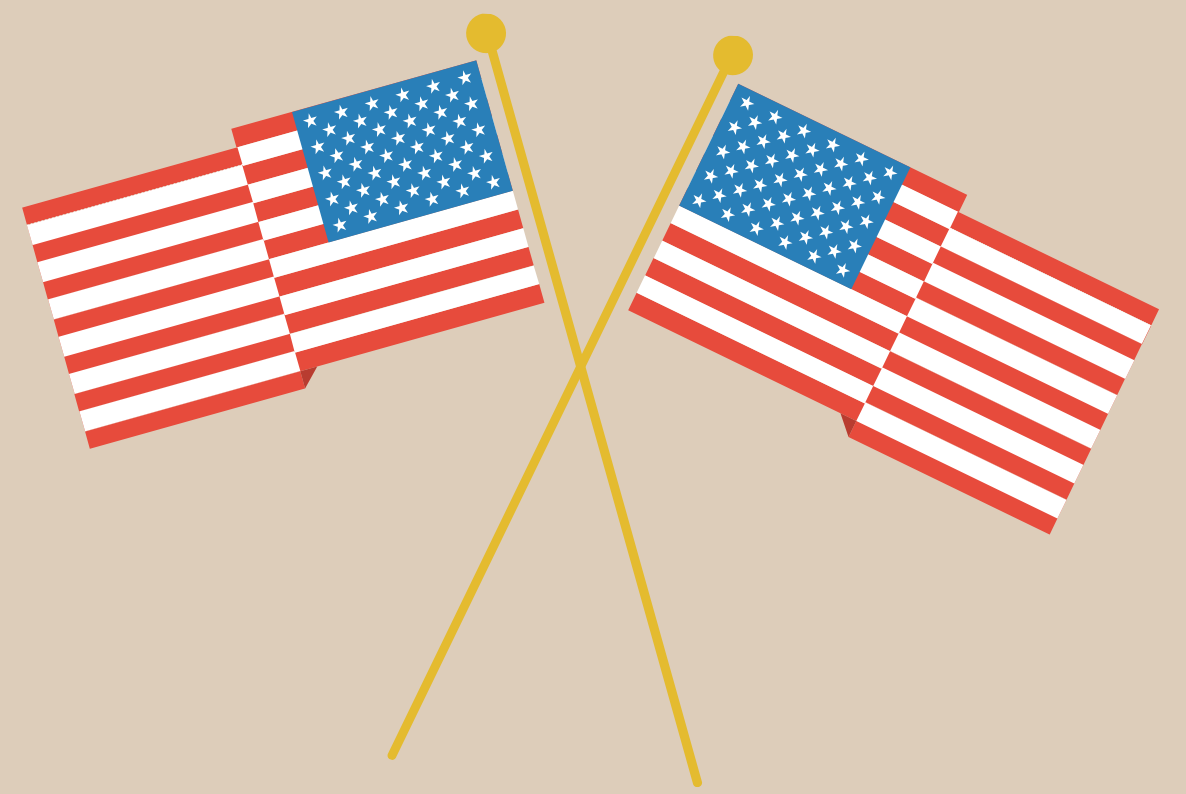


Dalton Rice

Dalton Rice is the City Manager for the City of Morgan's Point Resort. His 13 years in the United States Army includes moving beyond basic infantryman to become one of our elite Special Forces soldiers, a "Green Beret." Deploying throughout the Middle East, Africa, and Europe, service included conducting operational and strategic medical planning throughout the world, building, and maintaining relationships with various governmental, nongovernmental, and foreign entities in achieving our objectives. During his transition into civilian life, Dalton pursued his Bachelor of Science in Business Administration and Law, then his Master of Science in Health Sciences, all while working full time, serving in the National Guard, and raising a family.

ECONOMIC PANEL

MODERATOR



John Wilkerson

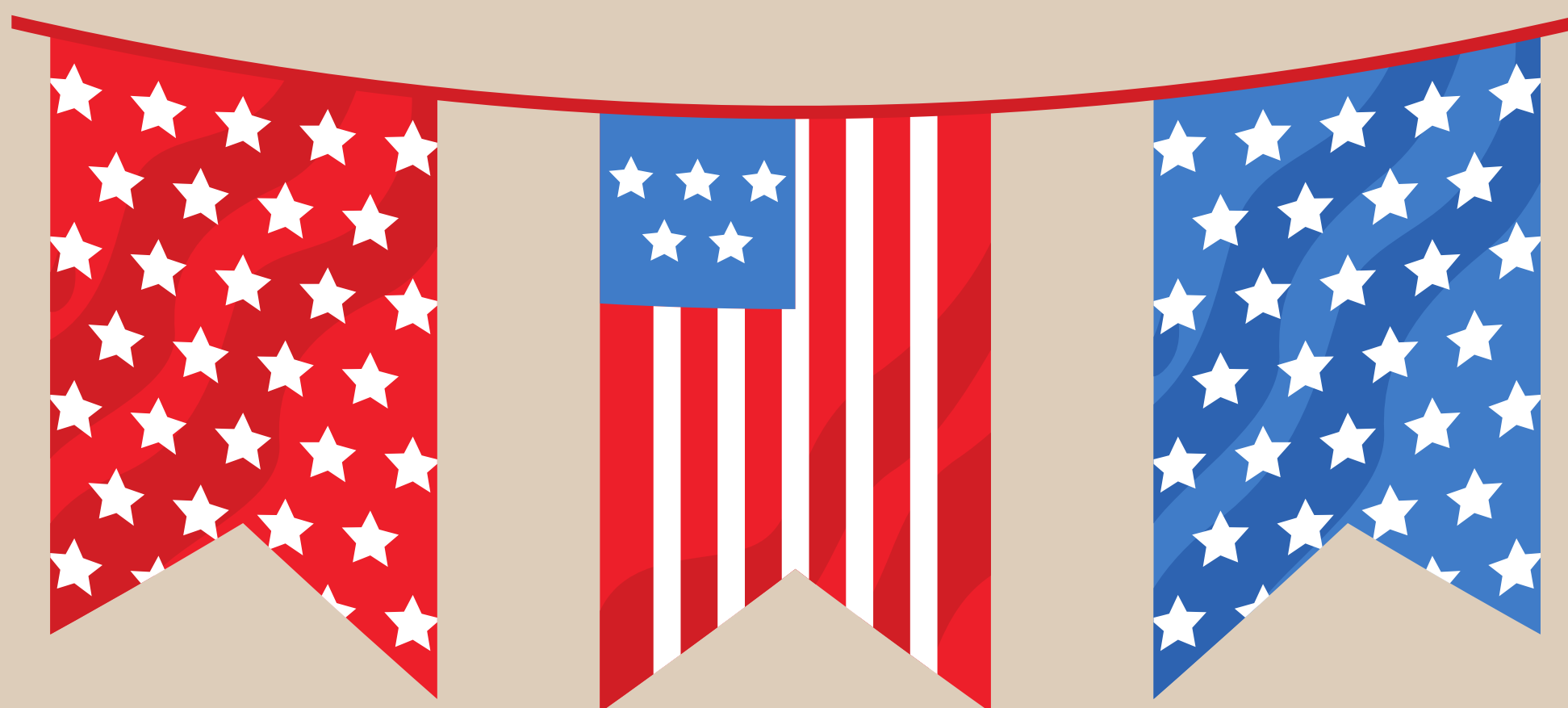
John Wilkerson (JW) is an Army Veteran who departed active duty to enter law enforcement. JW served as a full-time peace officer from 2004 to 2012, then serving peace officers across Texas as a representative of the State's largest Police Officers Association. In this role JW has served as a police instructor, field representative and currently works as a Legislative Liaison with the Government Affairs team. JW continues to serve as a Reserve Deputy Sheriff with the Bell County Sheriff's Office, Adjunct Instructor with the Central Texas College Police Academy and is the Mayor of Kempner. JW is married to his wife, Sarah, and together they have 5 children.

TEXAS VETERANS COMMISSION



Jerald Gould

Jerald Gould retired from the U.S. Army as a Master Sergeant after 30 years and has been with the Texas Veterans Commission for almost 10 years and currently serves as a Veteran Employer Liaison. He enjoys being able to help veterans find employment and seeing the commitment from employers to give back to veterans. He has been married for 38 years and has three children, and ten grandchildren with another on the way in July 2022.



WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS OF CENTRAL TEXAS

NATIONAL DISLOCATED WORKER (NDW) PROGRAM

Alan Wedding

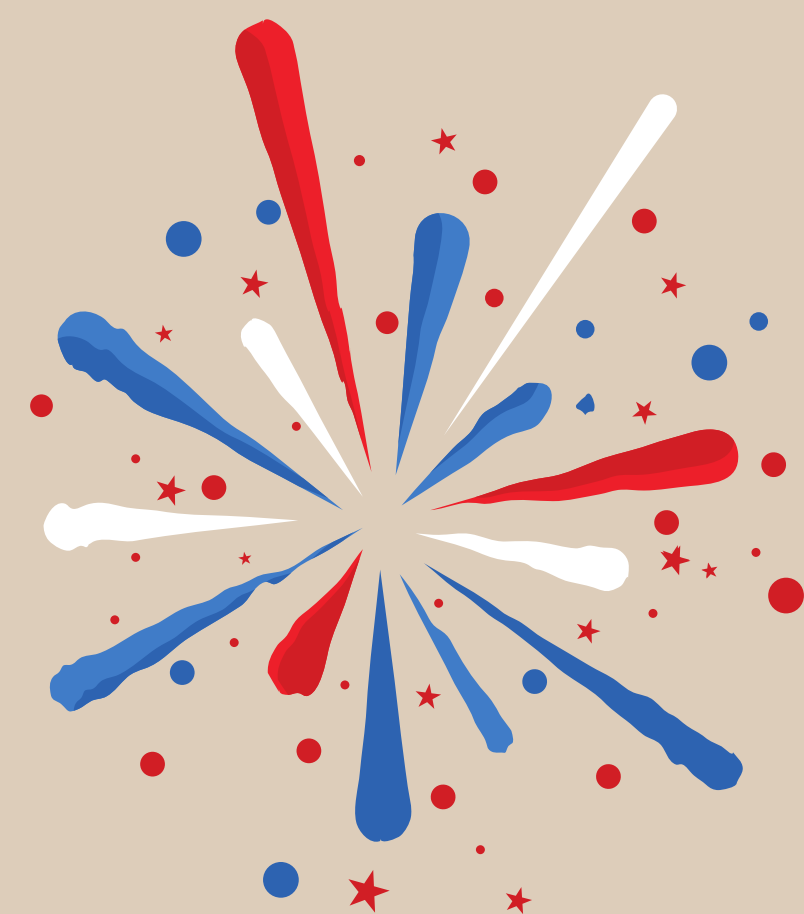
Alan Wedding served in the U.S. Marine Corps for 26 years with 22 of those years being a recruiter who impacted over 60,000 lives of Marines. He has been married to his wife Joi for 20 years and has three kids ranging from ages 15 to 24 years old. Alan currently resides in Gatesville and has been a Military Transition Liaison for two years helping men and women transition from the military into their next chapter of their careers.



EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

Mari Perez

Mari Perez is the current Business Services & Career Center Supervisor for Workforce Solutions of Central Texas in Killeen. She has over eight years of experience in human resources management, education, and administration. Throughout her work experience, she has ensured employee retention, training, and development in Japan, China, and USA. Mari obtained her Master's degree in International Studies, which opened opportunities for her to live, study, and work abroad. She is passionate about serving the community by bringing people and jobs together.



FORT HOOD TRANSITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM



Jerry Hernandez

Jerry A. Hernandez is a Transition Services Specialist and Marketing Coordinator with the Transition Assistance Program (TAP), located on Fort Hood, Texas. He assists service members and their eligible family members by coordinating career fairs and employer events to find career opportunities for military personnel as they transition into the civilian workforce or continued government service. Jerry is a U.S. Army Veteran and served for 32 years.

HIRING OUR HEROES



Eric Putt

Eric Putt retired from Fort Hood, TX, in 2016, after 20 years of service, and participated in the pilot cohort of the HOH Corporate Fellowship Program with Workforce Solutions of Central Texas. He has since worked closely with the military community to promote hiring initiatives for the Veterans, Military Spouses, and Transitioning Service Members located around Fort Hood. Since his time at the Workforce, Eric has worked as a Veteran Employer Liaison with the Texas Veterans Commission and is now the program manager of the HOH Corporate Fellowship Program, where he started his transition into the civilian career space.



HEROES MAKE AMERICA



Marvin Branch

Marvin Branch serves as the Program Manager for Heroes MAKE America Program at Fort Hood, Texas. He joined the Manufacturing Institute in 2020 as a Military Veteran and Alumni of the Heroes MAKE America Program. Marvin is a retired Army Major with 28 years of experience in the areas of Operations, Logistics, and Training and Development and has received numerous leadership awards and decorations, which include the Bronze Star and Purple Heart. Marvin lives in the Killeen/ Fort Hood area with his wife of 15 years and three children. He holds a Master's degree in Environmental Management, and a bachelor's degree in business administration.

