

# FGGM SFL-TAP IMPORTANCE

## Importance of SFL-TAP

According to current U.S. Department of Labor data, there are 3.4 million job openings in the United States. Yet, many employers are finding that workers do not have the skills or training necessary for many positions.

There are nearly 900,000 unemployed Veterans in the United States and the latest Department of Labor unemployment report shows that the average unemployment rate among Veterans was 4.5% and 12.1% for Veterans younger than 24 years old. Unemployment is a challenging issue that causes high levels of stress and leads to depression and homelessness. Veterans between the ages of 35 and 64, the group with the highest financial obligations and the fewest available VA education and training options, make up nearly two-thirds of all unemployed Veterans.

In addition to giving vital direction to one's transition, Preseparation planning, TAP is congressionally mandated by Public Law 112-56, The Vow to Hire Heroes Act of 2011, stipulates that all separating Soldiers that completed 180 consecutive days on Active Duty, regardless of rank, are required to receive Preseparation Counselling, not later than 12 months prior to ETS/retirement, attend the Dept of Labor Employment Workshop (NLT 9 months prior), and the Veteran Affairs (VA) Benefits Briefings I and II (NLT 6 months prior).

Installation clearance requirement: A completed DD Form 2648, which you will receive from your supporting TAP Center, is your proof that you have received the required counselling; and the DD Form 2958, which must be signed by Soldiers' company commander/designee, TAP Counselor and the Soldier, denoting awareness of the Soldiers meeting the VOW/CRS standards prior to separation/retirement. Soldiers cannot clear Fort Meade without these checklists. Retiring Soldiers can begin using TAP two years prior to retirement and Soldiers who are separating can begin using TAP 18 months prior to ETS, but NLT 12 months prior to separating/retirement. Soldiers being considered for Chapters/Medical discharges, must begin TAP as soon as the case is initiated. The Army has a real stake in your success as a transitioning Soldier. Your success is an affirmation of the Army's value as a "great place to start" and your successful transition is a living advertisement for Army service.