

**NINETY-EIGHTH NATIONAL CONVENTION
OF
THE AMERICAN LEGION
Cincinnati, Ohio
August 30, 31, September 1, 2016**

Resolution No. 70: Improve Transition Assistance Program

Origin: Texas

**Submitted by: Convention Committee on Veterans Employment & Education
(As amended)**

WHEREAS, The goal of the Transition Assistance Program (TAP) is to ease the adjustment of separating servicemembers during the difficult transition from active-duty into civilian life by offering job search assistance, medical/health services, the advising of available benefits, and other related counseling; and

WHEREAS, TAP pre-separation counseling was not always integrated into the Military Separation process for servicemembers, and not all military bases allowed nationally accredited service organizations to participate in the pre-separation or TAP briefings; and

WHEREAS, The Veterans Opportunity to Work (VOW) to Hire Heroes Act mandated TAP participation in 2011 thanks to advocacy from The American Legion in response to Government Accountability Reports emphasizing the need for all eligible servicemembers to attend TAP prior to discharge; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Cincinnati, Ohio, August 30, 31, September 1, 2016, That The American Legion request that the Department of Defense expand and standardize their existing pre-separation counseling policies to ensure that separating servicemembers receive information regarding federal and private sector employment opportunities, GI Bill and vocational rehabilitation and employment programs; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion urge Congress to require that the Department of Labor thoroughly review the new Transition Assistance Program (TAP) for maximum effectiveness in helping servicemembers transition to civilian life and find gainful employment, while encouraging cooperation and inclusion of nationally accredited service organizations in their program; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That The American Legion urge Congress to require that all TAP curricula include presentations by the Local Veterans' Employment Staff and the local workforce center staff.