

Helping Utah Veterans Start Businesses



Brian Garrett, Chair, Utah Veterans Owned Business Partnership
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Background

- Initial discussions began in 2012
- Informal group started meeting in 2013
- Utah Veterans Owned Business Partnership formally started in 2014
- Survey hosted on UDVMA website (400+ responded)
- Business resources listed on UDVMA website
 - www.veterans.utah.gov/business
 - Education & Training, Access to Business Loans, Mentorship, Procurement, etc.,
- Annual Veteran Owned Business Summit (started in 2015)
- Veterans Business Resource Center began 2017
 - Hosted at Miller Business Resource Center, Salt Lake Community College



Veteran-Owned Businesses in Utah

- Thousands of veteran-owned businesses in Utah
 - National estimate is about 9% all businesses are VOB
 - Utah estimate was 7.2% in 2011
- Retail, manufacturing, construction, recreational and consulting businesses
- Both veteran-owned and spouse-owned businesses
- 30 attendees at Boots to Business; 10-25 at Re-Boot; 5 at Advanced Training
- VOBs in Utah are run by both currently serving military and previously served veterans



Utah Veterans Business Resource Center

- Provides services to veterans across the state
- Helps define business objective (supplemental or primary)
- Hosts quarterly veterans business breakfasts along the Wasatch Front
- One-on-one mentoring (remote or in-person)
- Boots-to-Business/Re-Boot 2-day program
- Customized/advanced business training for mature businesses (12+ months)
- Micro-grant capability
- Connects veterans to additional partner programs

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Served in the Army Reserve and completed a 15-month tour in Iraq. Owned multiple businesses.



Future Considerations

- Veterans Business contract set asides/preference
- Waiver of business licensing fees
- Veteran specific business training classes
- SBA Veterans Business Outreach Center (VBOC)
- Online portal for resources
- Funding for incubator space
- More deliberate consideration of military spouses
- Making veterans aware of available business resources



Thank You!

