
Defense Report

AUSA



Using The Talents of Ex-Servicemen—A Real Return On Investment

The coming drawdown of our Armed Forces must be handled with some care. Highly trained personnel, especially noncommissioned officers, are going to be released from their current assignments to accommodate the upcoming reduction in force. These are people with 12 to 15 years experience to whom just a year ago we would have been offering substantial bonuses to reenlist in the Armed Forces. They are top-notch, well-trained and highly motivated. The only thing that politicians, pundits and the military leadership have been able to agree on in recent years is the unusually high quality of our current military force. So let us be sure we do not waste this talent.

There are a host of ways that the country could benefit by their future employment. As the size of the Armed Forces shrinks, it becomes more imperative that the quality stay high. We cannot afford to cast aside the trained mid-level leadership that we have so painstakingly developed. One avenue that would surely be worthwhile would be to increase the full-time manning assignments in our reserve components and selectively transfer into those slots the best of those whose active duty assignments are being eliminated.

It is not easy to assess where the national war on drugs is headed. But it is certain that military training and discipline are attributes that those charged with the administration of the program will need in the troopers they will use in pursuit of their goals.

The Immigration Service is another venue that is particularly adaptable for those with military training. There are other areas of government service as well where we taxpayers should look to the leadership to maximize the talent in which we have invested so much.

What we are dealing with is not a matter of individual choice. It is more a question of how we as a nation have a right to expect a reasonable return on a valuable national asset. Those who have served so well in uniform are worthy of the gainful use of their skills. Use it—don't lose it.