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**State of Wisconsin  
Department of Workforce Development**  
Jim Doyle, Governor  
Roberta Gassman, Secretary

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## **Workforce Development, Military Affairs, Veterans Affairs & American Legion Join Forces for Veterans, Hold First of 18 Job Fairs**

***Several hundred veterans, 30 employers attend Madison event; additional fairs scheduled in communities across state through mid October 2010***

MADISON – At the first in a series of veterans' job fairs, the Wisconsin Departments of Workforce Development (DWD), Military Affairs (DMA) and Veterans Affairs (DVA) today urged employers to hire veterans as the economy slowly but steadily moves toward recovery and positions become available.

"I believe any employer who is looking for superb talent would do well to consider Wisconsin's veterans, who have sacrificed a great deal in service to our country," DWD Secretary Roberta Gassman said. "Although these are challenging economic times, employers are hiring, and we expect job growth in the months ahead. At this job fair and others across the state, we are joining forces to help our veterans find work, meet the needs of employers, and move our economy forward."

Secretary Gassman said DWD has hired 70 disabled veterans, including 20 women and 11 minorities, to help provide employment and training services to veterans. Last year, DWD and its partners provided job services to approximately 8,000 veterans. She said that successes include six veterans hired recently by Oshkosh Truck. She said that with DWD assistance, 15 veterans in Milwaukee recently earned certification in hazardous materials clean up and are working at Tower Automotive, the future site of high-speed passenger train car production.

"This unique partnership reflects Wisconsin's commitment to our returning veterans and the Wisconsin National Guard is proud to be a part of providing this opportunity," said Brig. Gen. Don Dunbar, Adjutant General of Wisconsin and Commander of the Wisconsin National Guard. "Our veterans offer unique and significant capabilities to the private sector. They have served a cause larger than themselves, understand teamwork and have applied leadership skills under difficult conditions. I believe any employer who is looking for superb talent would do well to consider Wisconsin's veterans."

Several hundred veterans and 30 employers are expected to attend the first job fair at Edgewood College in Madison. In all, 18 fairs are scheduled in 14 communities, ending October 15<sup>th</sup> at the Army National Guard Armory in Superior. Employment agencies and employers will have opportunities for direct hires. In addition, veterans can receive information about state and federal benefits.

DVA Secretary Kenneth Black added: "One of the most important ways Wisconsin can help veterans, and especially our returning veterans, is to help them find jobs. Employment is a key factor to their success in other aspects of their lives. The Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs is pleased to partner with other agencies as part of our mission to serve our veterans, including providing employment and job training services."

Local County Veteran Service Offices, along with the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Program (ESGR), also are participating in the job fairs and will be providing benefit information to both veterans and employers.