A 24% unemployment rate is just one of the many job challenges faced by military husbands and wives. Johnson & Johnson, a CSG Associate member, recently announced a partnership with the U.S. Department of Defense to help those facing these employment obstacles.

According to the U.S. Department of Defense, 77% of people [1] who have a spouse in the military want—or need—work. But they face some unique statistical obstacles: Military spouses contend with a 24% unemployment rate and a 25% wage gap compared to people whose partners aren't in the services.

Stats like these are why Johnson & Johnson signed an agreement with the DOD called the Military Spouse Employment Partnership [1], or MSEP. The goal: help people overcome career-building obstacles—such as frequent moves or gaps in employment history—that can arise when you're married to a service member.

As part of this agreement, Johnson & Johnson pledges to help increase employment opportunities [2] for military spouses at its operating companies by posting U.S. job listings on the MSEP portal [3] by the fall of 2019. The company also vows to promote talent development; ensure pay equity for all military spouses; and support their unique professional needs, even if they need to relocate for their spouse’s assignment.

MSEP builds on the company's sponsorship of the American Corporate Partners’ Mentoring Program, which offers career mentorships to military spouses from top business professionals—including many Johnson & Johnson employees.

By signing on to this partnership, Johnson & Johnson joins nearly 400 other MSEP partners who've hired more than 134,000 military spouses to date.

“Joining the U.S. Department of Defense’s Military Spouse Employment Partnership enables us to better connect with, recruit, hire, develop and retain military spouses,” said Kathleen Widmer, company group chairman, Consumer North America, Johnson & Johnson, and co-chair of the company’s Veterans Leadership Council. “It’s an important public-private partnership that Johnson & Johnson will proudly contribute to as a company that aspires to be the best for veterans, service members and military families.”

The partnership is the latest effort in a long company history of lending a hand to those in the military, from a promise of job security [4] for employees who served in the Spanish-American War to current benefits offered to service members, including the opportunity to take paid time off after military leave [5] to help acclimate to life back home.

Associates in Action articles highlight CSG Associates' philanthropic efforts and public-private partnerships throughout the states.