**Explore the Right Career Path**

*Determining what career path is best for you is an important part of your transition to the civilian workforce.*

*Here are some suggestions and resources to help you in the process.*

**Step 1:** Ask yourself these questions:

- **What do you enjoy?** It is important to determine your primary interests and passions. Consider your favorite hobbies, courses, volunteer opportunities and employment experiences. What do they have in common?

- **What are your strengths?** Take inventory of your skills. Identify the areas that you excel in and the skills that set you apart from others.

- **What do you value?** Think about the things that are going to be important to you in your next career. Keep in mind things like work-life balance, compensation, location, travel and having a desk job versus a field job.

**Step 2:** Research specific careers that interest you. Discover practical information that can help you determine the stability of the field, estimated future growth and average salaries.

**Step 3:** Utilize these tools in order to learn more about yourself and the options available to you in the corporate world.

- **Books:** The following books offer a diverse perspective on getting started in a new career path.
  - *What Color is Your Parachute?* by Richard Nelson Bolles
  - *Encore Career* by Marci Alboher
  - *I Could Do Anything if I Only Knew What It Was: What You Really Want and How to Get It* by Barbara Sher
  - *Now, Discover Your Strengths* by Marcus Buckingham and Donald O. Clinton

- **Tests:** Career and personality tests can help you pinpoint your areas of interest as well as your natural strengths and abilities.
  - [Career Assessment Test](#)
  - [Personality Assessment Test](#)
  - [Self Assessment Test](#)