



Lt. Gen. Bruce "Orville" Wright, USAF (Ret.):

Well, ladies and gentlemen, it is with great pleasure that I introduced Terry Slaybaugh, Vice President of Sites and Infrastructure for JobsOhio, our ballroom partner. JobsOhio is focused on sustainable economic growth in Ohio and home of our Wright Patterson Air Force Base and many other military installations, and committed absolutely to a better quality of life for all those living in Ohio, including, if not especially, our military families. So please welcome with me, Terry Slaybaugh.

Terry Slaybaugh:

That was a pretty impressive panel, a pretty hard panel to follow. Makes me even more nervous. I've got Secretary Kendall sitting right here in the front row. But a little bit about Ohio, you've seen our signage. My Ohio started 12 years ago when I accepted the airport job in Dayton, Ohio. I was Director of Aviation there for about nine years. We were in upstate New York and I really related to this panel and a lot of things they talked about. Donna and I have eight children and we loaded up our children 12 years ago and went to Dayton. And I remember the first night we got there and we were ahead of the movers. I think my youngest was two, my oldest was 22, 5 boys and three girls, and I remember us all sprawled out on the living room floor in sleeping bags and blankets that first night there.

And while it was a great job, I was a Midwest guy from Michigan. I also thought a lot about a lot of the things that they talked about, the schools and how were my kids going to adapt, how was Dayton going to work for us? How was Ohio going to work? And it worked out great. We've been really happy there. We've been there now, like I said, for 12 years and all of my kids are within two to three hours of where we live. About four years ago, I transitioned to JobsOhio out of the airport business. I had been working at airports for about 20 years. I went to work for JobsOhio. JobsOhio is the state's private economic development organization. We focus on 10 sectors of the economy in Ohio and our whole job, our whole mission is to create jobs for Ohioans and to keep good jobs in the state. We work in 10 sectors like aerospace, advanced manufacturing, and bio-health, represents, again, about 1.1 million jobs.

And then under the leadership of our CEO and President J.P. Nauseef, who's retired Air Force, about three years ago, we started the military federal sector in JobsOhio, and that sector is led by Lieutenant Colonel Elaine Bryant, Retired, and her team. The reason we did that is we have about 385,000 Ohioans that are either directly or indirectly employed in military and federal installations in the state. We have about 110,000 Ohioans that are directly employed by installations in the state. We have about 35,000 active Reserve and National Guard personnel serving in the state of Ohio, and it contributes about \$39 billion to the state economy. So it's a big, big part of what we do in Ohio. It actually represents about the fifth largest sector that we focus on at JobsOhio. And of course, with Wright Pat Air Force Base with over 35,000 civilian and Airmen and Guardians is the largest single-site employer that we have in the state.

Really, through J.P.'s leadership, the governor, Governor Mike DeWine, our Lieutenant Governor John Husted, for the first time, they created a cabinet position for military affairs and federal installations in the state. The first person to hold that position is Colonel Joe Zeis, Retired Air Force, and his primary job is to advise the governor and lieutenant governor on what we can do to support our military and federal installations in the state. And that means enlisting the support of the Ohio General Assembly, where we've been very effective in passing laws in the state that can support our military and federal installations, and not only the installations, but military families. We've done quite a bit around license reciprocity and many other actions. We've got a big advocate in the Ohio Assembly, Representative Holmes, former Marine. You need Marines in strategic locations, and he's been very effective for us as chairman of the Aviation and Aerospace Committee in the Ohio Assembly.

I wanted to talk about our Hometown Heroes Program a little bit. As you can tell, probably, I'm not a military person, so when I came to Dayton, I joined a local organization called The Big Hoopla. It was our



Hometown Heroes organization that we had in Dayton. For the last 12 years, we've had made up of businesses, local elected officials, the leadership from our community, we've raised funds. We've been able to contribute something like 35 to 40,000 tickets over the last 10 years to Airmen and their families to be able to attend the First Four basketball games in Dayton. We've been the host for that now for over a decade. It's where March Madness begins is in Dayton, Ohio. We've taken that program now through JobsOhio and through our regional network partners.

We now have that program throughout the state of Ohio, and we do probably about 12 to 15 Hometown Heroes events across the state. I think now we've donated over a hundred thousand tickets to veterans and members of the military personnel at our federal installations and their families. I often tell people, for me not being in the military, not really having that experience, it was really the first time that I got to interact with people from Wright Pat Air Force Base, from the leadership there and from the Airmen and Guardians there and their families. It really gave me the experience of being able to understand a little bit more about what their life was, but it was also an opportunity for our community to show our appreciation for their service, to be able to introduce their families to our community. Because as Mrs. Brown said earlier, communities are really looking for ways that we can support our Airmen and our military personnel in our different communities. We're constantly seeking ways that we can do that.

We had taken the model that we had developed in Dayton, Ohio, really over about 20 years, a couple of decades, through the organization there, the Dayton Development Coalition, led by Jeff Hoagland, and we've really tried to take that model now and spread it across the state, not only in our support economic development and the work the governor is doing to support military and federal installations, but taking our Hometown Heroes Program across the state. And what we've found is that in many communities where we're having Hometown Heroes events really the first time that local leaders are interacting with the leadership of an installation or federal installation in their community. So it's been really part of the secret sauce. A lot of people don't understand that, but it's been a great program for us in the state, so I really appreciate the opportunity.

I tried to explain to my wife what this was going to look like. She said, "Don't worry about it, just get up there. It'll go fine." I said, "Donna, I don't think you really understand." But thanks again for taking the time to listen to me. I appreciate it. Go to our website, [ohiomilitaryfriendly.com](http://ohiomilitaryfriendly.com). We have a lot on there. And I just want to tell Airmen and Guardians, when you get your orders to come to Ohio, know that we're already working for you. We're excited that you're going to come there and we're thinking about your families too and what we can do to make your transition into Ohio a success. Thank you.