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'Boots to Suits': Owasso's Eagle OPS hosts state-led workforce program for veterans

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The free two-day intensive workshop, held July 9-10 at Eagle OPS' Owasso headquarters, provided a small group of veterans with valuable insights to help them succeed in their career aspirations.

Art Haddaway Owasso Reporter

By Art Haddaway

Owasso Reporter Editor

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Art Haddaway

n Owasso-based nonprofit is helping support local veterans in the workforce.

Eagle OPS partnered with the Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs to host a "Boots to Suits" entrepreneurial boot camp designed for veterans interested in starting or expanding their own businesses.

The free two-day intensive workshop, held July 9-10 at Eagle OPS' Owasso headquarters, provided a small group of veterans with valuable insights to help them succeed in their career aspirations.

"We want to find ways for them (veterans) to grow," ODVA Business Management Program Administrator Daron Hoggatt said. "We take veterans who want to be entrepreneurs, or if they are already currently entrepreneurs, and just help them in all aspects of the business."

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Hoggatt's expert-led sessions covered topics such as business planning, marketing strategies, financial management and more.

It was also a unique chance for participants like Rosario Sloma, who is opening a record store in Owasso with her husband next month, to connect with fellow veterans to share their experiences and gain practice knowledge.

"I kind of wanted to take advantage of learning a little bit more about what opportunities we may have at a veteran-owned business and resources that we can get from this program," said Sloma, whose husband served as an Army staff sergeant on deployments to Bosnia, Kosovo and Iraq.

ODVA hosts the two-day workshop at various locations across the state every year. This was the second time the organization hosted the event at Eagle OPS.

Eagle OPS, located at 302 E. 5th Ave., Unit D, gives service members a successful transition back home after serving in the line of duty by providing them with needed resources and social connections they wouldn't have otherwise.

More information can be found at **eagleops.org** or **oklahoma.gov/veterans.html**.

art.haddaway@owassoreporter.com

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