FACT SHEET

Veterans and Unemployment

- Of the 3.2 million Americans who have been unemployed longer than six months and have lost their federal emergency unemployment benefits, nearly 300,000 are veterans, according to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities.

- Nationwide, 6.6 percent of veterans in the workforce are unemployed. Veterans in seven states face unemployment rates over eight percent:
  - New Jersey 10.8 percent
  - Michigan 10.6 percent
  - Illinois 9.2 percent
  - Mississippi 9.2 percent
  - Rhode Island 8.7 percent
  - Nevada 8.4 percent
  - New York 8.2 percent

- 60 percent of unemployed veterans are over the age of 45; 35 percent are between the ages of 25-44; and five percent are 18-24.

- The unemployment rate for male veterans is 6.5 percent; for female vets, the unemployment rate is higher at 6.9 percent.

- Unemployment rates are higher among minority veterans:
  - African American veterans: 8.2 percent
  - Asian American veterans: 8.1 percent
  - Hispanic veterans: 7.5 percent
  - White veterans: 6.2 percent

- Veteran unemployment would have been worse if not for efforts by the federal government to hire veterans. In FY 2012, the federal government hired the highest percentage of military veterans in over 20 years; 28.9 percent of new federal hires were veterans.