

## Hot Jobs for Vets!

There are more than 80,000 individuals projected to separate from the military in North Carolina from 2015–2018. New veterans will bring a range of skills and experiences to the civilian labor force, but they may be unsure about which jobs will be in demand and for which they may have relevant skills. Here is a look at some of the hottest projected jobs in the state, and how some common military occupations may translate to them.

### Construction

Two of the largest-employing jobs projected to grow in the state are construction first-line supervisors and construction managers. These jobs usually require a high school diploma or an associate degree for entry, and more than five years of experience. They pay a median hourly wage of \$25 for first-line supervisors and \$40 for managers. Common military occupations that correspond to this include indirect fire infantryman (Army) and combat engineer (Marines).

### Health Care

Hot jobs in health care include registered nurses, licensed practical and licensed vocational nurses, emergency medical technicians and paramedics, medical records and health information technicians, medical and clinical laboratory technicians, and medical and health services managers. These jobs vary in the level of experience and education required, ranging from a certificate to an associate or bachelor's degree. Wages in these jobs also range from a median hourly rate of \$15 to \$18 for EMTs, medical record techs, and lab techs, to \$40 an hour for management positions. Common military occupations with relevant skills include hospital corpsman (Navy) and health care specialist (Army).

### Automotive and Aviation

There are several common military occupations that will translate easily to automotive and aviation civilian hot jobs, including automotive service technicians and mechanics, aircraft mechanics and service technicians, supervisors of mechanics, installers, repairers, electrical and electronics engineering technicians, and commercial pilots. Also, truck drivers (both heavy duty and light or delivery), although not officially on our Hot Jobs list, are expected to be in demand, and it is easy to transfer military experience. Common military occupations with these skills include wheeled vehicle repairer and motor transport operator (Army), automotive maintenance technician and motor vehicle operator (Marines), and a variety of aviation-related positions across all branches.

### Production and Skilled Trades

There are several production-related occupations that will be in demand in a wide range of industries, including industrial machinery mechanics, welders, cutters, solderers, braziers, and plumbers, pipefitters, and steamfitters. Supervisors for these types of workers will also be needed, including supervisors of production and operating workers and supervisors of mechanics, installers, and repairers. These production-related occupations pay well, but usually require specific certifications

and work experience. Your military experience may transfer directly or give you a head start in obtaining certifications. Military occupations that may be similar to these occupations include allied trade specialist and aircraft structural repairer (Army) and metal worker (Marines).

## **Sales and Business Management**

There are a variety of sales and business-related occupations projected to be in demand that veterans may want to consider, including several kinds of sales representatives, supervisors of sales workers, sales managers, supervisors of administrative support workers, business operations specialists, and accountants and auditors. Your military experience in working in teams and managing people as well as supply and logistics experience will be an asset in these careers. Military titles include administrative specialist and supply administration and operations specialist (Marines) and unit supply specialist and human resource specialist (Army).

## **Build on Your Military Experience — but Don't Feel Bound by It**

Just because you specialized in one particular occupation in the military doesn't mean that is all you are qualified to do in the civilian workforce. Your military background overall can be a plus for many employers — it shows you have discipline, are used to working as part of a team in a complex organization, and can get the job done and on time. However, there are many career opportunities to consider that could take you in a very different direction from what you did in the service.

Things to consider when choosing any occupation or career path are the expected growth in an occupation, the number of average openings, the wages paid for the occupation (at entry, median, and experienced levels), and the education and training required to be competitive for these jobs. Fortunately, the North Carolina Department of Commerce and websites such as [My Next Move for Veterans](#) have [projections](#), [hot jobs lists](#), and information on transferability of skills that can help guide your career search. And don't forget to take advantage of [NCWorks Online](#) and your [Veteran Employment Services](#) representatives at your local NCWorks Career Centers.