

# APTA VETERANS FACT SHEET

Those familiar with veterans and the people who help them gain traction when they return to civilian life are aware of two things: That a significant number of veterans find themselves unemployed when they've separated from the service, and that their greatest challenge to transitioning into civilian life is finding a job.

High on the priority list of federal, state, and local officials--as well as those in the public and private sectors--is to help veterans successfully translate their military skills into a civilian job.

With more than 300,000 military personnel leaving the service every year, veterans and those determined to help them face a daunting task as they move together to create the conditions that lead to a seamless transition from military to civilian life.

Veterans often need some time after deployment to help them transition and take the next steps in their lives. Surveys indicate that one of their greatest fears--and a formidable challenge--is whether they will find jobs in these times of economic uncertainty.

As our workforce ages and we look at significant turnover over the next decade, our nation knows that investing in workforce development is critical.

The U.S. Department of Defense has identified five career fields that offer the best opportunities for ex-military personnel to secure jobs and get credentialed. Transportation, auto mechanics, and logistics are on the list.

Each of these occupations has its place in the public transportation arena.

## **Public Transportation Career Opportunities for Veterans**

The public transportation industry offers an array of career opportunities for veterans, including:

- **Vehicle Operations** (operators of streetcars, rail, or light rail vehicles; bus or paratransit vehicles, ferries; dispatchers; operations managers; station manager or supervisors; yardmasters; or engineers).
- **Vehicle Maintenance** (repairs, inspections, cleaning, and otherwise maintaining public transportation vehicles; overseeing inventory of parts and tools; maintaining buildings and facilities). Positions: vehicle maintenance operator/supervisor; technician; systems engineer; vehicle/train car inspector or supervisor.
- **Facilities, Track & Road Maintenance** (maintaining everything from railroad tracks to buildings to signs and signals). Positions: building technicians and employees with the skills to maintain public transit-related equipment; roadmasters; tie gang laborers; technical trainers and supervisors; rail signal maintainers; and Maintenance, Signal, and Track Equipment managers.
- **The areas of Safety and Security** also provide an environment where military personnel can thrive. Jobs available include police officers and directors of security and safety for systems, businesses, and many other facets of public transportation operations.
- **Clerical, telecommunications, administrative, and managerial** staff .

Perhaps the best aspect of working in the public transportation industry is that veterans' employment options aren't limited to a few prescribed areas. Choosing to become a part of the public transportation family means more than a job. It means a career. In that vein, there are management, middle manager and management, administration, and core services jobs that all fit well with veterans' knowledge, skills, and experience. While core services, management, and administration represent the smallest number of jobs in the public transit industry, this is an area with a great deal of diversity as it relates to the skills required and slots available. Veterans with backgrounds in transportation, logistics, finance, management, data systems, architecture and engineering, information technology, procurement, project development, and planning are in high demand.

Other specialties in public transportation include information technology, design, drafting/CADD/CAD, safety/security, quality assurance, marketing, business development, customer service, and procurement. Just a few of the job titles include Executive Director; CEO; General Manager; Transportation Logistics Manager; and Human Resources Manager.

This table, developed by the US DOD, illustrates the links between military occupations and those that are found in the rail industry. There is a great deal of overlap and commonality in these areas because of the shared skills and the type of personality needed to work on the railroad or serve in the military. In this and other segments of the public transit industry, veterans offer special skills and capabilities that complement the industry.

<b>Military Experience</b>	<b>Railroad Management Opportunities</b>	<b>General Rail Job Opportunities</b>
<b>Combat Arms and Military Operations (Land, Air &amp; Sea)</b> - Armor - Artillery - Combat Engineer - Infantry - Military Police/Security Forces - Ordnance - Transportation	Management Training Program - Track Supervisor (Roadmaster) - Trainmaster	Freight Conductor - Track Worker - Signal Construction - Utility Worker
<b>Mechanic/Machinist</b> - Pipefitting - Vehicle, Vessel & Aircraft Maintenance - Welding & Metal Work	Management Training Program (Mechanical) - Mechanical Operations Manager (General Foreman) - Mechanical Operations Manager (Car Foreman)	- Locomotive Mechanic/Machinist (Diesel) - Carman - Roadway Mechanic - Utility Worker - Pier Mechanic/Machinist (Diesel)
<b>Electrician</b> - Electronics Technician - Electronic Troubleshooting and Maintenance	Management Training Program (Mechanical/Engineering) - Manager of Signals - Mechanical Operations Manager (General Foreman)	Locomotive Electrician (Diesel) - Roadway Electrician - Pier Technician - Signal Worker (Maintenance)
<b>Transportation</b> - Air Traffic Controller - Battalion/Squadron level and higher Operations NCOs & Officers (Land, Air & Sea) - Radio Telecommunication Operator (RTO) - Transportation	Management Training Program - Track Supervisor (Roadmaster) - Trainmaster	- Train Dispatcher - Yardmaster - Freight Conductor

### **Public Transit and Veterans: Win-Win**

The public transportation industry is committed to integrating veterans into its workforce. Doing so is practical and sound policy, particularly as our workforce ages and as we face significant turnover and the loss of vital institutional knowledge in the next five to 10 years.