

VIP

“This hands-on training program is giving me, and other returning veterans like me, the skills we need to compete in this job market.”

— Jose A. Serans, VIP Apprentice



NATIONAL SECURITY

JOB SECURITY

THE UNITED ASSOCIATION of Journeymen and Apprentices of the Plumbing and Pipe Fitting Industry of the United States, Canada and Australia, AFL-CIO, represents approximately 370,000 plumbers, pipe fitters, sprinkler fitters and service technicians in North America and Australia. For more information, please visit <http://www.ua.org>.

WWW.UAVIP.ORG

The United Association's

VIP

VETERANS IN PIPING PROGRAM



UNION PLUMBERS,
FITTERS, WELDERS AND
SERVICE TECHNICIANS



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Recognized as one of the most effective programs for providing high-quality training and employment to U.S. veterans, the UA Veterans in Piping (VIP) Program offers substantial benefits to all stakeholders. The UA partners with the Helmets to Hardhats program to recruit qualified candidates.

Benefits for Those Who Serve

- **High-Skills Trades:** The UA VIP Program helps active military and veterans successfully transition to civilian life by offering *high-skills training and guaranteed access to good jobs* in welding, HVACR (heating, ventilation, air-conditioning and refrigeration) and other plumbing and pipe fitting trades—*at no cost to participants or the government.*
- **Training & College Credit:** Participants also earn college credits for VIP training courses, and upon completion, receive up to four years of formal apprenticeship training. Attending the most advanced, well-respected pipe trades training centers in the country, participants have an opportunity to earn additional college credits toward an Associate's Degree—again, at no cost.
- **Efficient Job Placement:** While VIP training is offered to all veterans, a key goal is to provide *accelerated training in the pipe trades to active-duty military personnel* during their last months of service.
- **High-Quality Jobs:** Filling critical skills gaps in the construction and service sectors, *VIP provides training in welding and other specialty fields* with current shortages, providing skills for *good jobs that pay up to \$100,000 per year* in wages and benefits.
- **Lifelong Careers:** According to a study for the U.S. Department of Labor, individuals who complete registered apprenticeship programs earn over \$300,000 more over the course of their careers.

Benefits for Military Agencies

- **Helping Those Who Serve:** U.S. military branches want to facilitate *seamless transition to civilian life*, and recognize veterans don't always get the opportunities they deserve. VIP fills this gap with a *highly efficient, no-cost strategy that works.*
- **Facilitating Agency Mission:** As military agencies struggle to balance budgets, the UA VIP Program helps by: a) offering *high-quality training and employment assistance*; and b) *eliminating major DOD unemployment payments* for veterans unable to find jobs.

Benefits for Contracting Community

- **High-Caliber Recruits:** Facing a shortage of skilled labor and a highly anticipated increase in future projects, the construction industry needs to recruit tens of thousands of well-trained, highly skilled workers in the coming years.
- **High Value of Military Skills:** Military personnel are *well-trained in core skills needed in the construction industry—leadership, discipline, focus, organization and teamwork*, and provide a reliable source for recruiting high-skill workers for the contracting industry.



The Sacrifice. The Success.

The men and women of the U.S. Armed Forces provide an invaluable service, protecting the safety of all Americans. Unfortunately, our newest veterans face substantial challenges when they return home.

Unemployment

At 10%*, the unemployment rate for Gulf War-era II veterans remains significantly higher than for the civilian population. The situation is even worse for veterans aged 18-24, who face an unemployment rate of 20%, nearly twice that of non-veterans in the same age group.

Transitioning to civilian life

Veterans face the challenge of transferring their military skills to the civilian workforce. Though many benefit and support systems are available to them, they are often very complicated, and many veterans find it difficult navigating through all the paperwork. Our veterans deserve better. **This is where we can help.**

*Bureau of Labor Statistics, October 2012

The United Association of Journeymen and Apprentices of the Plumbing and Pipe Fitting Industry (UA) and the U.S. military have partnered together to create the UA Veterans in Piping (VIP) Program. This program provides returning veterans with accelerated training in the pipe trades.

Job Opportunities

Through the intensive UA VIP training, veterans develop skills that put them in high demand nationwide. Not only does this create plentiful job opportunities for deserving veterans, but also helps to replenish an aging workforce while rebuilding America's infrastructure.

How much does it cost veterans? Nothing.

The training is absolutely free. All funding comes from the UA's International Training Fund, a management and labor cooperative.

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