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PHMSA Encourages Vets, Reservists to Apply for Pipeline Safety Jobs *Launches Online One-Stop Recruitment Shop*

WASHINGTON – As the nation prepares to honor its veterans this Memorial Day, the U.S. Department of Transportation’s [Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration \(PHMSA\)](#) is launching a [Veterans’ Recruitment Portal](#) to encourage veterans to apply for PHMSA jobs.

“So many of the freedoms and benefits we enjoy today wouldn't be possible without the courageous service of our nation's veterans,” said U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood. “We want to do what we can to help them find important work that continues to be of valuable service to our country.”

The Portal is a one-stop shop for veterans seeking career opportunities at PHMSA. Visitors to the site will be able to go from start to finish in their PHMSA job search, all within the portal.

And there are [jobs available right now](#). PHMSA’s [Office of Pipeline Safety](#), which regulates the safe transportation of natural gas, petroleum and other hazardous materials, is working to hire current and former members of the military with engineering experience for 10 much-needed pipeline safety inspector positions by June 30, 2012.

Veterans with engineering experience are encouraged to apply for federal pipeline inspector positions assigned to locations across the country, including: Washington, D.C.; Lakewood, Colo.; Houston, Texas; West Trenton, N.J.; Atlanta, Ga.; Ontario, Calif.; Anchorage, Alaska; and Kansas City, Mo.

“Veterans have valuable training, experience and proven initiative – exactly the traits we’re looking for at PHMSA,” said PHMSA administrator Cynthia Quarterman, who took the reins of the agency in 2009. “We have positions to fill, and it’s hard to think of a

better fit for a future PHMSA employee than a veteran. Our doors are open—please come and see us and apply for these jobs.”

The hiring process is much faster for veterans under [Veterans Recruitment Appointment](#) authority, which allows agencies to appoint veterans that meet certain service-related criteria to positions at any pay grade through GS-11 without competition.

Hiring 10 additional inspectors would raise the total number of pipeline inspection and enforcement personnel currently employed by PHMSA to 135. The [President’s budget for fiscal year 2013](#) requests \$177 million for pipeline safety, which would be used in part to add 150 new positions – 120 of them inspectors.

According to a [release](#) by the Department of Labor’s Bureau of Labor Statistics, 12.1 percent of veterans separated from military service since 9/11 were unemployed in 2011. These jobs would provide veterans with an opportunity to continue a career dedicated to public service and repurpose the skills they honed in the military. Active duty military service is also [creditable](#) towards a [federal retirement](#).

PHMSA’s Veterans’ Recruitment Portal supports the President’s [Veterans Employment Initiative](#) to increase the number of veterans employed by the federal government through proactive recruitment, programs, strategies, partnerships and training.

The Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration develops and enforces regulations for the safe, reliable, and environmentally sound operation of the nation's 2.5 million mile pipeline transportation system and the nearly 1 million daily shipments of hazardous materials by land, sea, and air. Please visit <http://phmsa.dot.gov> for more information.

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