

VETERANS TASK FORCE

Finding Purpose After Military Service



Major General Sean T. Collins
*Chair, Veterans Task Force,
EGSA Member,
Governors America Corp.*



Almost 10 percent of the U.S. Energy workforce are veterans, almost double the rest of other industries which average just 3%. Why? Energy understands and prizes the traits that are integral in military personnel; the ability to lead, work as a team, have a can-do attitude and take pride in doing a good job for the nation.

The stories of people that have moved from military service to the energy sector include a basic theme, they wish to continue serving their country.

Veterans at EGSA functions share a common story: The jobs they have found working in on-site power generation fill their desire to provide both the comradery of like-minded individuals, employers that are open to the skills they bring with them, and the ability to work on projects that fulfill their desire to support country and community.

The following are just two stories of veterans at an EGSA conference, but there are many more.

Luther Mize, Engineering Manager at Carolina Cat

Luther Mize, Engineering Manager at Carolina CAT joined the NC Air National Guard (NCANG) out of high school and trained as an air-

craft electrician. "I was a traditional guardsman, so this allowed me to be a member of the NCANG and attend college, obtaining a degree in Electrical Engineering." After retiring from the National Guard as a Master Sergeant, Luther went to work for Carolina CAT Power Systems as a generator technician. "I realize now my hands-on experience in the NCANG as an electrician gave me an advantage as I entered the power systems industry. "

"35% of the Carolina CAT Power Systems team are veterans. Our veterans come from the Air Force, Army, Navy, Marines and Coast Guard. The power systems industry is a great avenue for veterans transitioning from military to civilian life. Our company has utilized the DOD SkillBridge program that has worked well for both the military member and our company."

"I was given the opportunity to become involved in EGSA in the spring of 2014 at the Savannah, GA conference. Over the years I have built relationships with different people in the industry that I would not have had the opportunity to meet without EGSA. I appreciate these opportunities and feel it has been beneficial to me as I have progressed in my journey in this industry. I hope to be able to assist others in the industry. EGSA



is a conduit to bring people together to learn from each other, as iron sharpens iron. "

Peter Stout, Business Development at Origin Engines

A more recent transitioning veteran is Staff Sergeant Peter Stout, now Business Development Manager at Origin Engines. Peter enlisted 6 days after the World Trade Center fell, at age of 17. "I felt like I had an itch to scratch". Young and looking for direction he joined the Army National Guard which took him to Iraq for 15 months, conducting military convoy missions and then closer to home, providing hurricane relief in Louisiana, and wildfire and tornado support in his home state of Nebraska.

For Hurricane Gustav "We dropped a generator at LSU stadium, and I realized this is what it looks like to have purpose." His experience in long-haul transportation while serving in the Army inspired him to pursue a degree in Industrial Distribution. Through this, he gained valuable insight into supply chain management and business operations, all of which positioned him well for a career outside of the military. Transitioning from military life to civilian life takes you from a strict daily routine to an open time and endless choices and can be overwhelming. "Making that move to civilian life is like leaving a family. No matter what branch you are, there is a unique connection. I feel a responsibility to keep an eye on each other. I look forward to becoming more involved through EGSA and the

Veterans Task Force in bringing more veterans into the industry."

Each of these men feel there is a brotherhood in the military that was not dependent on the branch of service, but the deep connection from being in the service.

For many veterans, the skills they've practiced in military service—adaptability, ingenuity, problem-solving—are vital in the energy industry, but are not always obvious on a resume. So, keep in mind that a veteran's resume equates to your civilian world needs with items like the following:

- A Platoon/Squad leader is that Team Lead you are searching for.
- A vehicle crew member often translates as a Heavy equipment operator.
- That combat means they are fully capable of navigating hazardous conditions.
- Reconnaissance means they have data collection and survey analysis skills.
- A sentry duty or watch position can translate into a shift manager.

For more information on translating veterans' skills to civilian ones see the following sites for more help and ideas:

<https://www.dol.gov/agencies/vets/programs/tap/off-base-transition-training>

<https://getintoenergy.org/veterans/> ●

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If you don't see your organization's name, contact us at info@egsa.org to find out more about membership and how you can be in the next *Powerline!*

**as of 2/28/25*

