



**SOUTH DAKOTA
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**

425 East Capitol Avenue
Pierre, South Dakota 57501
OFFICE: 605.773.8242
FAX: 605.773.5380

<http://www.vetaffairs.sd.gov>

On-The-Job Training and Apprenticeship Program for Veterans

FOR RELEASE: Thursday, Nov. 19, 2015

CONTACT: Audry Ricketts at 605-773-8242 or audry.ricketts@state.sd.us (South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs)

PIERRE, SD – Veterans can use their education benefits, including the Post-9/11 GI Bill, to pursue on-the-job (OJT) and apprenticeship training. OJT/Apprenticeship program is a simple and effective way to attract and increase retention of well-disciplined veterans into hard-to-fill positions and provide them with the specific skills and knowledge needed to perform their duties.

“For more than a century, education, as we know it, has traditionally been in a classroom setting. Before this more modern arrangement, there was apprenticeship. Apprentices are productive members of the workforce who have chosen to master their craft as they train on the job and in the classroom,” said Ryan Fowler, education representative for the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs.

The OJT/APP program allows veterans to learn a trade or skill through structured training and close supervision on the job rather than attending formal classroom instruction. The program is available through both non-federal and federal agencies/entities.

Veterans benefit from these programs through improved skills and competencies that meet the specific needs of the employer, incremental wage increases as their skills improve, occupation-focused education, and career advancement. Employer benefits include increased productivity, enhanced retention, and a stable and predictable pipeline for the development of qualified workers.

For more information about the OJT/Apprenticeship program, veterans are urged to contact Ryan Fowler at the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs (605-773-3565).

