

# Ike Odi



Production Engineer  
ConocoPhillips  
**Military Service:**  
U.S. Army (2006-2011)  
**Highest Rank:** Specialist (E-4)  
**MOS:** Combat Engineer (21B)



**What do you do?** Monitor and optimize well production, and design artificial lift systems.

**How'd you get that job?** It was really a simple and pleasant experience. I got a call from Orion International, we scheduled the interview with ConocoPhillips, and I was offered the position after interviewing. The time they spent with me telling me about the company made my decision an easy one.

### What surprised you about the civilian workforce?

I remember when I went into the civilian workforce four years ago that the language I spoke and the corporate language were different. I just didn't realize that much of the terminology and acronyms wouldn't carry over. But it was only a short time before I was up to speed.

### Coollest thing about your job?

It's definitely a more relaxed workplace environment and I've been able to grow my skills because I have increased responsibility now.

### Biggest challenge?

My biggest challenge was becoming familiar with a lot of software that was new to me, but it was also exciting for me as well.

### Best advice for transitioning service members?

Learn to transfer your military experience into civilian speak. Network as much as possible.

## California is counting on your energy.

You've protected and served our great nation, and now 15 million Californians are counting on you to deliver safe, reliable energy to their homes and business.

Of our 20,000+ employees approximately 1,200 of them are veterans. Our veteran's Employee Resource Group is waiting for your contributions. And our partnership with programs like Troops to Energy Jobs and our own PowerPathway™ training program show our commitment to your future as a civilian. Visit our career website to hear what some of our veteran employees have to say about working for PG&E:

[workforpge.com/military](http://workforpge.com/military)



► Next, the site helps you translate your skills and experience to the right energy post. It shows you which jobs you may be able to step into with only company-specific training and those that require a degree or other credential. It also details how certifications relate to MOS's and how the Credentialing Opportunities On-Line (COOL) websites from the Army and Navy can help.

The site then instructs you in how to request a Joint Services Transcript that lets schools review your background for potential academic credit, and how to navigate the Post-9/11 GI Bill, as well as the Montgomery GI Bill and other education benefits. It helps users find the right schools and in-school programs, veterans' groups and other campus services, including work-study and paid internship programs. Once you know what education you need, you can also search for Military Friendly Schools at Military-Friendly.com.

### FINAL STOPS

Your energy-industry job search is, of course, your primary focus. You can learn the latest techniques for military job seekers at [gjjobs.com](http://gjjobs.com), including ►

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Associate Outage Project Manager • MidAmerican Energy Company • **Age:** 36  
**Military Service:** Lieutenant (O-3), Navy (2001-2010) • **Rating:** Submarine Warfare Officer (1120)

**What do you do?**

Plan and prepare for power plant outages and for the overhaul of steam turbines. This includes contract negotiations, procurement, operation and maintenance procedure review, budget review, cost management and quality management.

**Cooler thing about your job?**

It is equal parts cubicle and field engineering.

**What surprised you about the civilian workforce?**

The decision calculus changes when your livelihood depends on a piece of equipment versus when your life depends on a piece of equipment.

**How did your military training/experience prepare you for your civilian job?**

The lessons learned while operating and maintaining a 75-MW power plant on the submarine have had a direct impact on my ability to help maintain an 800-MW turbine. My experiences with root cause analysis, scheduling and planning work, leading cross-functional teams and communicating and the ability to manage time efficiently have all been valuable in the civilian job.

**Advice for military job seekers?**

Use all your contacts to see if someone has or knows of a position that you are qualified to fill. These contacts do not necessarily need to be professional contacts or even within your field; they could lead to professional contacts and a position in your field.



**What They Do:** MidAmerican Energy Holdings Company, based in Des Moines, Iowa, is a global provider of energy services. Through its energy-related businesses, MidAmerican provides electric and natural gas service to more than 7 million customers worldwide. These businesses are Pacific Power, Rocky Mountain Power and PacifiCorp Energy, comprising PacifiCorp; MidAmerican Energy Company; Northern Powergrid Holdings Company; Northern Natural Gas Company; Kern River Gas Transmission Company; MidAmerican Renewables; MidAmerican Transmission; and CalEnergy Philippines.

**Top jobs for veterans:**

- Engineering
- Maintenance
- Skilled Trades
- Management
- General Business

**Top hiring regions for veterans:**

- Des Moines, Iowa
- Council Bluffs, Iowa
- Davenport, Iowa
- Portland, Oregon
- Salt Lake City, Utah

Website: [www.militaryfriendly.com/company/midamerican](http://www.militaryfriendly.com/company/midamerican)

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► how to use social media, translate military experience to language that company recruiters can understand and the best interview techniques. Then you're

ready to search for openings at TTEJ or MilitaryFriendly.com, where you'll find the companies that have earned the Military Friendly designation. 