

► “This is the stereotype – and that is so far from the truth. Welders need to know chemistry backwards and forwards, for instance. There’s mathematics involved in all the trades. And you look at a kid who just came out of college with a four-year liberal-arts degree – what are they going to do with that?”

With a skilled trade, she says, you can make really great money and at the end of the day have the satisfaction of doing great work.

#### BRIGHTEST SPOTS – WELDERS AND MORE

The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) puts the average yearly wage for skilled trades workers at \$44,960, and expects skilled trades employment to grow by a third during this decade, gaining 1.8 million jobs from 2010 to 2020. In fact, the skilled trades have risen to the top of the heap: half a dozen of the 20 fastest-growing occupations during this decade, out of more than 1,000 occupations the BLS tracks. Those jobs include beginning brick masons, block masons, stonemasons, tile and marble setters, and beginning carpenters. Together, the six quickest-expanding skilled-trade job categories will add 132,900 positions by the end of this decade.

Brady, who also recruits heavy-equipment workers for a company in Texas and southern Oklahoma, says the veterans she finds “are the most disciplined employees, and they learn the skill set that is needed in the military, no matter what branch they come from.”

She says welder is one of the top trades in demand.

“There are projects that can’t be completed because they can’t find the right welders,” she says, including pipe welders for pipeline work and steel welders for assembling building framework. Big cities have the biggest demand. ►

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#### Trevor Frank

Instrumentation  
Technician  
Phillips 66

Age: 28

#### Military Service:

Sergeant, Marine Corps  
(2007-2012)

MOS: Aircraft Electrical/  
Instrument/Flight Control  
Systems Technician,  
Rotor Wing, IMA (6433)

#### What do you do?

I perform critical instrument tests, troubleshooting and repairing of instrumentation equipment such as flow, level and temperature meters, transmitters, and various types of valves.



#### What’s the coolest thing about your job?

For me it’s the camaraderie, the sense of brotherhood, the genuine desire to help the man or woman next to you.

#### Best advice for military job seekers?

Continue to expand your knowledge, network and stay positive. Education is always good to have regardless of the field of work you wish to pursue. Get your name out there, make new contacts that can potentially open doors.

