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Home Depot ranks highest of military-friendly companies

The Fortune 500 firms are known to recruit vets and hold their jobs for them after service.

BY THOMAS OLSON
TRIBUNE-REVIEW

Servicemen and women now have a guide to employers most likely to hire military veterans, thanks to results of a corporate survey assembled by a Coraopolis magazine publisher.

The "Top 25 Military-Friendly Employers" list is the brain-child of G.I. Jobs, a monthly magazine that launched the sur-

vey in 2003. The list contains corporations nationwide that are most prone to recruit and hire veterans and servicemen and -women, as well as hold open their jobs when they return from active duty.

Home Depot emerged as this year's most military-friendly company, says the magazine in its December issue. The home-improvement titan, which employs about 300,000, stood out for hiring almost 10,000 veterans and spouses last year, G.I. Jobs said.

"We understood the market,

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G.I. JOBS

G.I. Jobs magazine has listed the most military-friendly firms in the nation based on which ones recruit and hire veterans of military service.

Magazine names military friends

MAGAZINE • FROM D1

and saw there was a niche, veterans employment, that was underserved," said publisher Rich McCormack. "So, we took a shot at it."

He and partner Chris Hale are both former U.S. Navy officers. They met in Pittsburgh while working together at Stars & Stripes Omnimedia, which ceased publishing in mid-2001.

"The war in Iraq has brought the professionalism of our troops to the forefront," said McCormack. "(Companies) recognize that the military training veterans live every day is a huge asset."

The top-25 list was culled from 75 firms that responded to G.I. Jobs' survey of Fortune 500 companies. None of the 25 are based in Western Pennsylvania.

Who's hiring veterans

- Home Depot
- Sprint
- General Electric
- Brink's
- Johnson Controls
- Union Pacific
- Lockheed Martin
- American Electric Power
- United Services Automobile Assn.
- Electronic Data Systems
- Georgia-Pacific
- Manpower
- Merrill Lynch
- Coca-Cola Enterprises
- Honeywell International
- W.W. Grainger
- ExxonMobil
- SBC Communications
- Bell South
- First Data
- HSBC North America
- MGM Mirage
- Arvin Meritor
- MBNA
- Becton Dickinson

SOURCE: G.I. JOBS MAGAZINE

G.I. Jobs began publishing in 2001 and currently posts a circulation of 60,000 worldwide.

"The list was an idea that came out of focus groups of peo-

ple who had just come out of the service," said McCormack. He hopes other employers will note, if not emulate, the military-friendly companies listed.