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## Brink's U.S. friendly to military

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G.I. Joes and Janes coming off active duty and looking for work could benefit from a new survey.

G.I. Jobs magazine has released its Top 10 Military-Friendly Employers list, profiling firms that have recruited former servicemen and women.

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The magazine named Brink's U.S., a unit of Richmond-based The Brink's Co.,

as the top "military-friendly" employer in the country.

"We have found personnel exiting the military to be very trustworthy, loyal and security-focused," said Gary D. Landry, chief operating officer of Brink's U.S. "This is a natural fit for our business and we continue to experience great success in transitioning them into our work force."

The publication selected Fortune 500 companies on three fac-

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## Jobs

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tors: the company's strength in military recruiting, the number of employees hired with military experience, and the amount of resources used to court Reservists and National Guard members to the company.

The armored-car company had a high rate — 30 percent — of employees with military experience.

"That's really what set them apart from the rest of the pack," said Chris Hale, general manager of sales and marketing at G.I. Jobs. "It's a large company and I think that Brink's is really setting the standard of the economic benefit of hiring in the military."

G.I. Jobs is a monthly publication serving "transitional military professionals" and helps them in gaining post-active-duty employment. After serving in the Navy, Hale and publisher Rich McCormack began the magazine in December 2001.

This is the first year for the rankings.

"We want other companies to look at this as a benchmark," McCormack said.

Recruiting people with military experience can pay off, Hale said.

"They come out with a heck of a lot of leadership experience."

Hale and McCormack explained that since 9/11 the need for employees with security clearance has risen. While companies may pay thousands of dollars for an employee to gain these clearances, a military employee may already have them.

American Electric Power Co. Inc., the largest electricity generator in the United States, was ranked the eighth most military-friendly employer in the country. The company changed its policy this year to provide differential pay and extended benefits for up to one year to employees who are called up on active duty.

Ohio-based AEP, the state's No. 2 electricity company, has administrative offices in Richmond and Roanoke.

Other companies listed as "military-friendly" were Sprint Corp., General Electric Co., The Home Depot Inc. and Merrill Lynch & Co. Inc. The December issue of G.I. Jobs will hit newsstands next week.

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