Vets Make a Difference

Since its founding in 1952 at the site of an old U.S. Navy air station, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) has forged strong ties with the nation’s armed forces. Through the decades, LLNL scientists, engineers, and technicians have worked closely with all four military branches. LLNL researchers have developed innovative, advanced technologies to identify and address threats to national security and enhance the capabilities of today’s warfighters.

The Laboratory helps returning veterans and student military program participants acquire the science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) skills required by LLNL and other high-tech Bay Area employers. Additionally, LLNL actively recruits veterans to fill critical workforce needs. 516 reported veterans currently work at LLNL in nearly every discipline, and more are being recruited every day.

LLNL veterans have established a reputation for technical excellence and intangible skills like leadership, problem solving, and a sound work ethic.

LLNL and other high-tech Bay Area employers depend on talented technical staff. In particular, LLNL managers estimate they will need to hire 300 technicians over the next few years for assignments ranging from operating the world’s largest laser to developing advanced materials.

Veteran and Military Outreach, Recruiting, and Education at LLNL

LLNL is committed to helping veterans, transitioning military, active duty members, and military students acquire critical job-related skills needed for today’s workforce to fulfill the Laboratory’s mission.

Veteran and Military Outreach, Recruiting, and Education Programs at LLNL

- **Veteran Internship Program (VIP)**
  - In partnership with California community colleges and the Alameda County Workforce Investment Board, LLNL annually hosts 10 to 15 vets for 10 weeks of hands-on training in information technology, computer science, engineering, and other fields.

- **Engineering Technology Program (Vets2Tech)**
  - Provides veterans with education and hands-on training. (See more on reverse.)

- **Military Academic Research Associates Program**
  - An average of 25 to 30 cadets, midshipmen, and faculty from the military academies complete a four- to six-week summer assignment at LLNL every year.

- **ROTC Internship Program**
  - LLNL hosts 25 to 30 cadets and midshipmen from universities across the country for 12 weeks during the summer to support Laboratory research efforts, and an annual ROTC Day for regional students and faculty to learn more about LLNL.

- **Air Force Fellows Program**
  - Assigns two to four active-duty majors and civilians to LLNL for a one-year period to become familiar with Stockpile Stewardship and defense-related activities.

- **Army Training with Industry Program**
  - Assigns one Army Environmental Science and Engineering Officer to the Laboratory’s Environmental, Science, and Health office for best business practices and R&D efforts.

- **Air Force Academy Outreach Program**
  - Provides lectures to cadets on nuclear deterrence and associated weapons, technical, and policy issues.

- **Newly Commissioned Officer Program**
  - Newly Commissioned Officers participate in Livermore research programs prior to their service appointment.

- **SkillBridge/Career Skills Program**
  - Transitioning military service members can intern at LLNL in their last four to six months of service.
Engineering Technology Program (Vets2Tech)

Established by LLNL in 2014, the Engineering Technology Program (Vets2Tech) at Las Positas College helps veterans and minority students acquire industry-standard skills required in the fast-growing field of mechanical engineering technology. The program recognizes that many veterans, despite strong leadership and problem-solving skills, lack the required math skills to enter high-paying tech jobs. Participating community colleges provide accelerated math curricula and priority positions in semiconductors, industrial instrumentation, bioengineering, additive manufacturing, and lasers and optics. Students also receive access to tutoring, soft skill development, employer engagement, and personal coaching during their internship to ensure a successful transition into the civilian world of work. Program participants are well positioned to work towards their Associate of Science (A.S.) degree and employment as STEM technologists. On average, 20% of graduating students go on to register for their Bachelor’s degree.

Upon completing the first year, students are provided an opportunity to work in paid internships at local employers. During their 10-week summer internship, ETP participants have hands-on opportunities to apply their knowledge and connect with a tight-knit student community. The internship covers a variety of manufacturing and research roles.

To ensure that all students are placed, LLNL leads a local employer group known as Vets2Tech that hires students and graduates.

“One manager said that his veteran contributed more and had a better attitude than any of his previous university students.”

The Engineering Technology Program won an Award for Innovation in 2017 from the East Bay Economic Development Alliance.

The program has allowed me to acquire a new set of skills and see a career path I would have never considered before.

—Jeremy Taylor, former Army staff sergeant working at NIF

Veteran and Military Outreach Contacts

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Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory
OUR PEOPLE ARE OUR MISSION
Since December 2019, LLNL has markedly increased veteran and service member outreach and recruiting efforts during a critical period of change and attrition.

The reported veteran population has grown by 47%

169 veterans have been hired, totaling 516 reported veterans

LLNL is hiring veterans at the rate of 9.1% of all new career employees

LLNL VETERAN TESTIMONIALS

U.S. ARMY

“Experience is everything, you bring uncommon experience and insight. Who better to integrate into teams working on intricate National Security Missions, than you with your understanding having been the ‘pointy tip of the spear’. As Veterans we bring a completely different suite of skills than the traditional employee fresh from their college or university.

The Nation, the Services, most importantly our Brothers and Sisters in Arms depend on us to provide them with the tools to protect our way of life. At LLNL you can play a continuing role, off the battlefield but no less important.”

BRIAN C.
ACTIVE ARMY & ARMY RESERVE

U.S. MARINE CORPS

“Come join an incredibly talented workforce that will enable you to work in an environment that allows you to continue to serve your Nation in numerous capacities.

My leadership skills, military education/instruction and global operating experience in the military provided a strong foundation allowing me to both transition successfully and find tremendous purpose in my tenure at LLNL. What I like most about working at LLNL is the people who care deeply about our values, mission and vision. When the team is aligned in purpose there’s strong synergy in solving some of the most difficult global problems. We often partner across multi-disciplinary teams creating authentic solutions through diversity in thought…”

SHAUN S.
CAPTAIN DIRECTOR DIVISION SCHOOLS | USMC

U.S. NAVY

“You can adapt your military experience to succeed in many positions – choose something you’re interested in and go for it! There are so many opportunities and once you gain some experience, if you’d like to seek out other opportunities within the lab, there’s a process and a lot of support for that.”

“My colleagues at LLNL are genuinely passionate about their work and very engaging to newcomers. I’m constantly challenged to learn and exercise new skills so there’s never a dull moment – until the workday is over and we actually go home to pursue the ‘life balance’ part of work-life balance.”

JESSICA K.
LIEUTENANT | US NAVY

Veteran at LLNL ★★★★★

“LLNL strives, and does a fantastic job, to be one of the top elite national laboratories in the country. I served in the military and transitioned into this position. Let me be the first to say LLNL really looked out for me. From mentoring, to being welcomed, to the benefits, to the seamless transfer of my clearance from the DoD to the DoE…” – Current Employee at LLNL (1-2 years of service)

Work-life balance, great colleagues, and work that matters ★★★★★

“The lab is a great place to work. You’ll be surrounded by extremely talented individuals who are the best at what they do. It’s a nurturing environment to be in, the management team will provide you the tools you need to be successful in your job. The work is challenging, exciting, and really matters! What you do here has an impact on our National Security Mission.” – Current Employee at LLNL (Less than a year of service)

Exciting and Innovative Research in a Welcoming Environment ★★★★★

“The fact that I have spent 29 years with one employer speaks volumes. The Lab is not only a place filled with exciting research, but it is filled with opportunities to grow and learn your entire career if that is the path you choose…” – Current Employee at LLNL (25+ years of service)