



## **UA Veterans in Piping Program (UA VIP)**

### **The Challenge**

Approximately 2.2 million of our nation's veterans have served since the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. The unemployment rate for those veterans tops 11 percent, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Veterans between the ages of 18 and 24 have an unemployment rate of more than 20 percent, almost twice that of the veterans who served in the same era but are older, ages 25 to 34.

### **The Solution**

The United Association (UA) has partnered with the U.S. military to create the UA Veterans in Piping (VIP) Program, which provides returning veterans with 18 weeks of accelerated welding and HVACR training. But before that career training begins, the program is kicked off with an additional two weeks of transitional training to help returning veterans to adjust to civilian life – a process that can be especially difficult for those who joined the military right after high school. The training is free to veterans who are placed in construction careers nationwide, helping to replenish an aging workforce while rebuilding America's infrastructure.

The UA's VIP HVACR program is 18 weeks (720 hours) of intensive HVACR training. During this training these military veterans will complete the following UA certifications: UA 51 Brazing certification, 410 A certification, OSHA 30 hour certification, CFC certification, and CPR certification. At the conclusion of the class the student will take the UA STAR Light Commercial HVACR exam. The program also focuses on the value and importance of customer relations. The program not only consists of classroom instruction but also shop classes where students get involved with many hands-on projects.

The 720 Hours of HVAC/R Related Supplemental Instruction includes:

- OSHA
- Use of Tools and Equipment
- Thermal Dynamics
- Basic Electricity and Meters

- Soldering and Brazing
- Math Fundamentals
- Customer Service I
- Refrigerant Safety/ CFC & 410A
- Refrigerant Characteristics
- Electrical Motors
- Controls
- Commercial Refrigeration
- Customer Service II
- A/C Cooling
- A/C Heating and Humidification
- UA STAR Residential and Light Commercial

The following certifications are acquired during the program:

- EPA 608 (CFC) Universal
- 410A Refrigerant Certification
- UA STAR Residential and Light Commercial HVACR Exam
- OSHA 30
- First Aid /CPR
- UA 51 Brazing Certification

For additional information, go to [www.uavip.org](http://www.uavip.org) or contact Donnie Braun at [donnieb@uanet.org](mailto:donnieb@uanet.org).