

UNEMPLOYMENT  
REACHES **15%!**

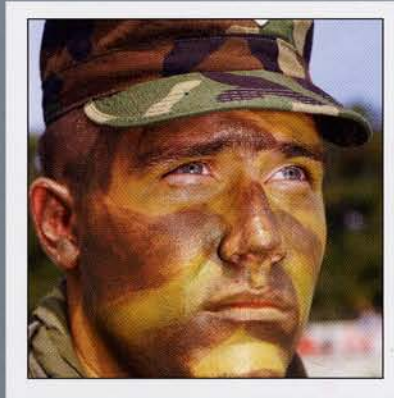


Pipe Fitters' Association  
Local Union 597  
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*With national unemployment figures looming around 5%, creating new jobs and maintaining current jobs is on*

*every city and state officials' agenda.*

But what if that figure was 15%? What kind of emergency steps would the government be taking then? Well, unemployment rates are near 15% for the thousands of service men and women returning from Iraq and Afghanistan. And, who is taking care of them?

The Union's Helmets to Hardhats program, or H2H, is reaching out to newly discharged veterans and "enlisting" them in apprenticeship programs that offer exciting career opportunities in the construction field. In the two years since its inception, more than 17,000 veterans have been matched with apprenticeship opportunities across the United States.

Throughout the State of Illinois, servicemen and women have had the opportunity to join the Pipe Trades – servicemen like Lee Pulliam, a 1st year apprentice with Local 137, who served in the First Battalion 5th Marines/CMP.

*"I served my country in the United States Marine Corps, but knew when I got out I'd pursue my goal of becoming a plumber. Since I was a kid, I've always wanted to work in the pipe trades, but after my discharge I*

*could only find part-time work that didn't pay well or offer any benefits. The Helmets to Hard Hats program made my career dream come true. Because of the service to my country, Helmets to Hard Hats earned me a spot in the UA's apprenticeship program. Now I've got a great job, I get to keep learning, and I know my future is secure."*

The Illinois Pipe Trades and MCA contractors have made a commitment to look out for those who are looking out for our country – by actively "recruiting" them for one of the best job packages in the industry:

- the ability to "earn while they learn"
- a satisfying career
- fair and competitive pay
- continuing education opportunities
- great medical insurance
- solid retirement benefits

Whether it's helping those in the service to find a rewarding career or helping their end-users to build a better product, the Illinois Pipe Trades and MCA contractors are committed to creating a stronger economy by building a better industry!

The Illinois Pipe Trades...  
**BETTER TRAINING for America's heroes.**

**IPTAPP**  
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Advancement & Promotional Program

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MECHANICAL CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION

[www.mca.org](http://www.mca.org)

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