

## HELPING MILITARY ENGINEERS TRANSITION TO CAMPUS FACILITIES



**On February 6-7, APPA participated** in the annual Transition Workshop and Job Fair presented by the Society of American Military Engineers (SAME). Santianna Stewart, APPA's membership and outreach manager, and I spoke to more than 50 military engineers who had either recently left the service or were planning to do so within the next year. Nearly all had many years of high-level facilities-related experience in their respective branches of the military.

We had a good time meeting the participants, learning about their particular backgrounds and new-career desires, and telling them about APPA and the educational facilities environment. APPA was one of about 16 "recruiters" who each shared information about our respective organizations. The other organizations comprised a couple of different types: A/E/C firms looking to interview for open and potential engineering or sales positions at their firms; staffing/head hunter firms; a couple of government agencies looking to hire retired military to help oversee contracts; and one K-12 school district.


### INTRODUCING APPA

After a couple of interesting presentations from panels of former military personnel now working with various companies (Jones Lang LaSalle, Matrix

Corporation, Anderson Construction), and getting some resume and interview hints, I shared a quick presentation to the group about APPA and our membership and emphasized that campus facilities was a good viable option for them to consider as they transition from a military to civilian worklife. I also told them about the weekly Job Express listings (free to view by anyone), and urged participants to post their resume through APPA's Resume Bank.

### TRANSITIONING TO FM

We had a great response from the attendees: many knew of APPA and mentioned former colleagues (such as Mike Johnson and Glenn Smith) who have promoted APPA to them. But we also spoke to many others who were not aware of "campus facilities" as a career option, and they were enthusiastic and excited to learn of an enterprise at which they might be able to transfer their knowledge and leadership skills.

Retiring military engineers (especially those with base management experience) provide educational facilities with a solid pool of qualified candidates for roles on campus. We're planning a couple of follow-up efforts, including preparing an article in *Facilities Manager* (with possible co-publication in SAME's magazine) on the topic of retiring military as potential job candidates in educational facilities, and participating in future SAME Job Fairs. 

### Coming in May/June 2014

- APPA Regions and Chapters
- APPAinfo List Notes
- Preparing for APPA 2014

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### About APPA

APPA promotes leadership in educational facilities for professionals seeking to build their careers, transform their institutions, and elevate the value and recognition of facilities in education. Founded in 1914, APPA provides members the opportunity to explore trends, issues, and best practices in educational facilities through research, publications, professional development, and credentialing. Formerly the Association of Physical Plant Administrators, APPA is the association of choice for 5,200 educational facilities professionals at more than 1,500 learning institutions throughout the United States, Canada, and abroad. For more information, visit us at [www.appa.org](http://www.appa.org).

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