A smiling man in a military uniform is shown from the chest up, positioned on the left side of the frame. He is wearing a digital camouflage uniform. The background is a larger, textured digital camouflage pattern. Overlaid on the right side of the image is the title 'TRAINING AND SERVICE' in large, bold, black, sans-serif capital letters. The word 'AND' is smaller and flanked by horizontal lines.

TRAINING AND SERVICE

**5 Ways Corporate Housing and
Property Is a Good Career
Match for Veterans**

By Jenny Finke



Jennifer Yick

According to the U.S. Department of Labor, the unemployment rate for military veterans is 20 percent higher than the national average. “This figure makes no sense to me, as I believe veterans have not only made extraordinary sacrifices in their lives

to serve their country, but also have received invaluable training and leadership experience that could greatly benefit the business world,” says Jennifer Yick. “For a veteran trying to figure out a business to own or start or an industry for employment, I want to encourage him or her to take a close look at the corporate housing industry.”

Since 2008, Yick has been the property manager and a licensed real estate agent for AvenueWest Corporate Housing in San Francisco. Yick connects people seeking short-term furnished housing with unique, privately owned properties managed exclusively by AvenueWest. As a veteran working in the corporate housing industry, she is keenly aware of how military training and service are great preparations for this nontraditional job.

On any given day, Yick is running from client to client, preparing homes for their next tenants, solving problems, and helping tenants and clients with various questions and concerns. This job takes organization, attention to detail, a willingness to get the job done—especially under pressure—and great communication skills. These skills are exactly what the military prepares men and women to do. Yick adds that corporate housing companies should be looking to hire veterans when hiring future business leaders and employees: “Their skills will serve you and your business well and poise your business for long-term, continued success.”

Below are five reasons why veterans make great employees and successful business leaders:

1. VETERANS OPERATE WELL UNDER PRESSURE

Working in corporate housing is very exciting, but extremely demanding. Everything needs to be

completed quickly, and someone always needs to be available around the clock to meet the needs and demands of tenants and property owners. Generally, tenants stay an average of 30 to 90 days—this means every 30 to 90 days, the property needs to be completely cleaned and inventoried so it can be rented to a new tenant. For the past seven years, Yick has successfully managed about 30 properties at any given time. Utilizing the many skills that the military taught, Yick is able to make quick decisions, work fast and efficiently, and help any of her company’s tenants and owners on a moment’s notice; after all, when a toilet is leaking or the refrigerator stops working, these items need to be addressed right away.

A job in corporate housing is reminiscent of the pressures faced while training in the military—operating under a lot of pressure and relying on training to quickly make the best possible decisions. There isn’t time to question what needs to be done. Such training serves Yick well every single day, and it will serve other business leaders and entrepreneurs in corporate housing, too.

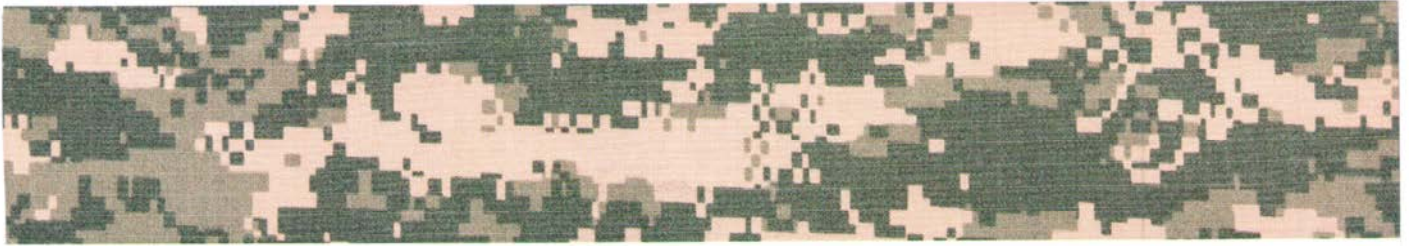
2. VETERANS ARE ORGANIZED AND DETAIL-ORIENTED

It’s important to be organized and pay attention to every single detail when you’re in the military. There are operating procedures for everything. Everything is inspected. A bed must be made in a certain way, or it needs to be redone. Socks and underwear need to be folded in a specific way, too.

This organization and attention to detail translates well into the corporate housing world, as detailed inspections need to be done on properties daily, including checking every crevice for dings and damage before the next tenant arrives. Specific details about each property need to be given to every tenant to ensure they have everything they need for a successful stay. These details matter to tenants and ensure a great experience with the corporate housing provider.

3. VETERANS THRIVE AT NONTRADITIONAL JOBS

Military veterans thrive in nontraditional jobs because their training teaches them to be flexible and to work in the field. Veterans are doers; they are the ones rolling up their sleeves to do the job, no matter how messy it may be. Veterans are not afraid to get



their feet wet or hands dirty. In fact, no job is beneath them—they just do what needs to be done.

Corporate housing offers nontraditional jobs that require flexibility and willingness to do the job at hand. Showing properties, meeting new tenants, bringing on new clients, and operating at all hours, even in the middle of the night, are just some of the daily tasks. “I had a tenant once call me at midnight, asking me to come over and fix a leaky faucet,” recalls Yick. “I found the task reminiscent of ‘fireguard duty’ in the military, where I’d be awoken in the middle of the night and assigned to guard the barracks.”

4. VETERANS EXCEL AT COMMUNICATION

Soldiers have to communicate every day with fellow soldiers, leaders, and civilians, even in the most pressure-filled of scenarios. Along with good communication, veterans have to be personable and able to interact with people with different viewpoints and cultures, just as U.S. soldiers had to do, for instance, when interacting with Iraqi civilians.

Organization serves a person well in the corporate housing industry. Yick interacts with tenants and clients on a daily basis. Creating clear contracts, articulating well, and staying positive and client-service-oriented, even when an owner or tenant is being unruly or unreasonable, are some examples of using the communication skills Yick learned from the Army. “I have been trained to stay calm, collected, and communicative even when the going gets tough,” she says.

5. VETERANS ARE TRUSTWORTHY

Trust is a strong value instilled in military personnel charged with protecting and serving a nation. Teams must not only trust one another, but they must also look out for one another.

Business owners looking for excellent people to care for their business should consider hiring a veteran to lead it—or work with a veteran to franchise their business in a new market. Veterans are team players and have a strong sense of discipline, responsibility, and duty to serve those who entrust them to do the job. They will not only serve any business well, but will serve clients and tenants well, too.

When things need to get done, trust a veteran to do it.

Overall, veterans make great business owners, franchisees, and business leaders. They operate well

This job takes organization, attention to detail, a willingness to get the job done—especially under pressure—and great communication skills. These skills are exactly what the military prepares men and women to do.

under pressure and are organized and detail-oriented. Veterans communicate well with others, and have a strong sense of duty and responsibility. Yick’s job within the corporate housing industry complements all military training. Other veterans should be encouraged to seek employment and entrepreneurial opportunities in the corporate housing industry. It’s a win for the industry, and a win for veterans, too! **M**

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