



CONTINUING THE MISSION: WHY HEALTHCARE NEEDS VETERANS

By Christopher Maj, ACP

HEALTHCARE IS A FIELD IN NEED OF OUR NATION'S VETERANS.

The industry calls for more than just doctors and nurses. According to the US Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) 2 million new jobs will be created in the healthcare industry from 2021–2031, with an annual median wage of \$75,000. This is in addition to the 1.9 million openings in the industry created every year just from natural growth and replacement needs. Many veterans could easily fill these openings based on their military specialty or experience. Others could use the GI Bill to get trained for a career in healthcare.

James Conway, a volunteer mentor for American Corporate

Partners (ACP), is director of IT Operations and Physicians Services at HCA Healthcare and a US Army veteran. He agrees that veterans possess several strengths and traits which make them invaluable to the healthcare industry. While serving in the Army, Conway held a variety of positions, which culminated as chief operations officer before his military transition in 2013. In his current role at HCA Healthcare, Conway manages the directors of information technology and technical analysts at 13 hospitals, including medical staff in California and Las Vegas.

“Going from the military to the healthcare industry is just transitioning from serving my country to serving my community.

A service mindset is imperative when you work in healthcare. Service members are calm under pressure, which is another key trait to have in healthcare,” said Conway, adding, “After years of training in the military, veterans are accustomed to operating in stressful environments. So what might be stressful to a civilian might not be stressful to a veteran.”

Conway said veterans also have strong work ethics and embrace traits such as “being dependable, disciplined, organized, adaptable and being self-starters.” According to Conway, “It does not hurt that veterans are also taught leadership skills. They tend to be strong in executive presence, responsibility, managing change well, holding other



