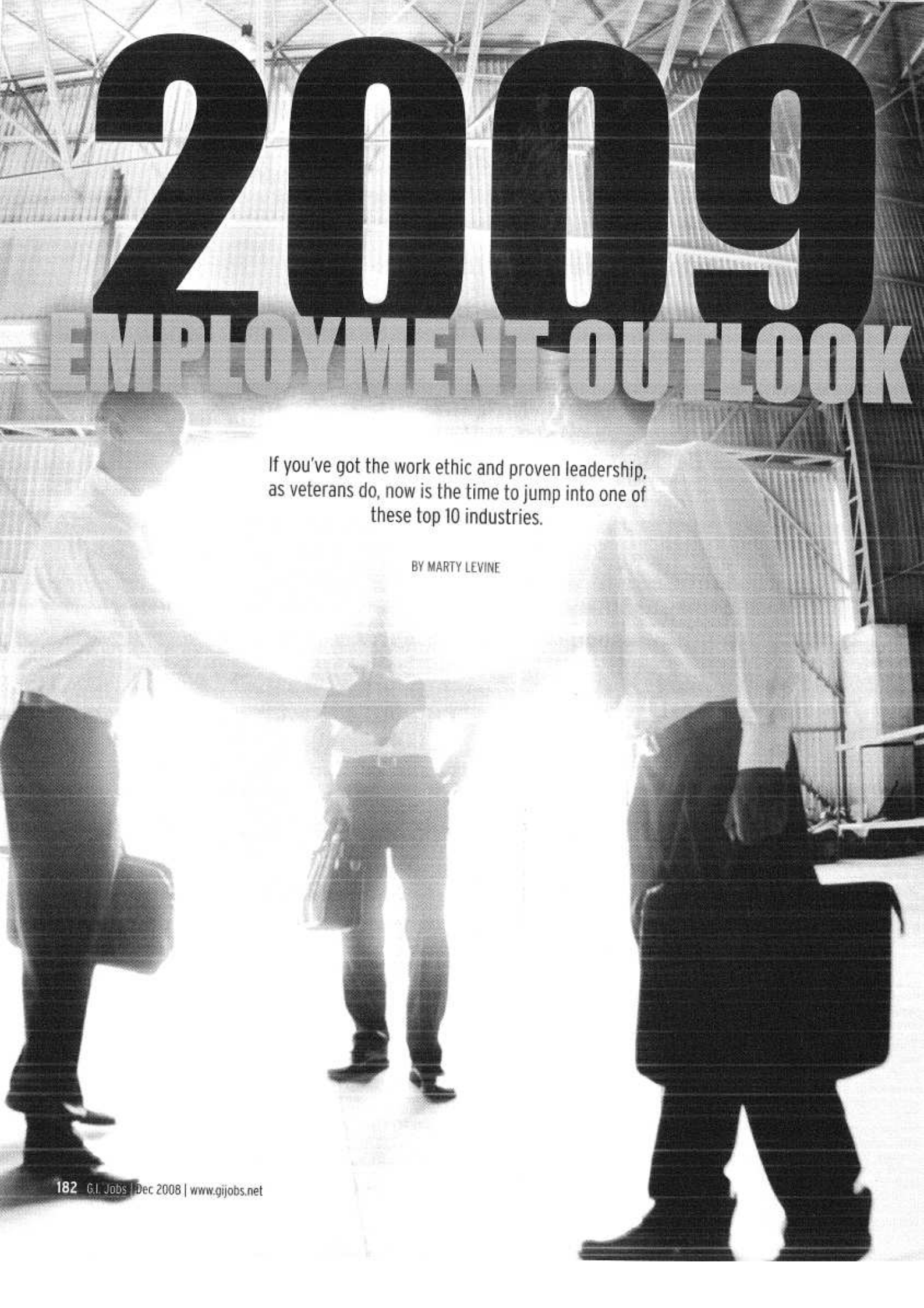
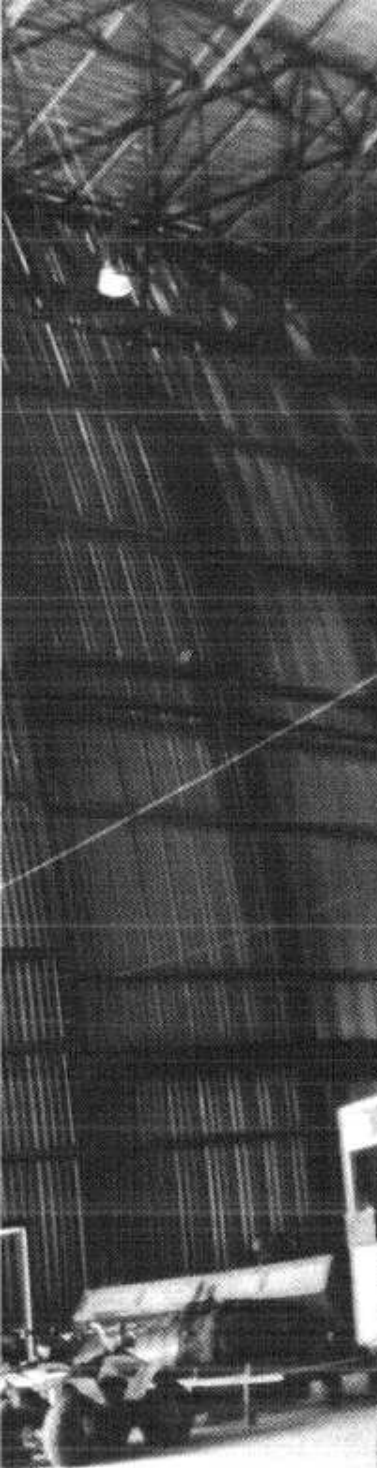


# 2009 EMPLOYMENT OUTLOOK



If you've got the work ethic and proven leadership, as veterans do, now is the time to jump into one of these top 10 industries.

BY MARTY LEVINE



**W**hen Randy Renn talks about working for the U.S. Border Patrol, he might as well be speaking about the many ways in which veterans are well-equipped to move ahead in the country's current economic climate.

"Military veterans are used to working in all types of terrain and weather," said Renn, spokesman for U.S. Customs and Border Protection. "They are expected to be ready to deploy to any emergency at a moment's notice."

The patrol spent 2008 recruiting heavily and plans to do the same in 2009. The defense industry is just one of many sectors where military veterans remain in the best position to roll with the punches, adjust to any new landscape and lead the way to a great job and a lasting career – in many cases without the immediate need for new training or a degree.

Even with high unemployment, the overall pool of American workers is decreasing, thanks to the start of massive baby-boomer retirements. If you've got the work ethic and proven leadership, as veterans do, now is the time to jump into one of these top 10 industries.

Data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics bear this out. In the month of August alone – the last month with available stats – manufacturers of computer and telecom equipment added 5,000 jobs alone. In retail, from clothing to sporting goods stores, jobs jumped by as many as 8,000 in one month, while employment in several parts of the financial industry grew at nearly that rate. Trucking was the fastest growing part of the entire transportation industry, with 1,400 new jobs, while one sector of the high-tech industry – computer systems design – gained 6,300 more positions.

Most astounding, health care grew by 55,000 jobs, and government jobs – which include law enforcement professionals – grew at every level, from federal to local.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the picture is rosy for these same industries into the future. The health care industry is not only the largest industry in America, employing 14 million people, but is also one of the fastest growing (particularly in states like California, New York, Florida, Texas and Pennsylvania). The expected increase in jobs (averaged between all health-care positions) between now and 2016 is 21 percent.

Occupations in the corrections industry are expected to continue to grow faster than average as well through 2016. More than 80 percent of America's 17,000 police departments will be looking to fill vacancies. Nationwide, projections estimate nearly 37,000 new positions will open up and an additional 30,000 positions will need to be filled to replace retiring officers over the next five years.

Meanwhile, Plunkett Research estimated the worldwide market for information and communications technologies and services at more than \$3 trillion in 2006 and anticipates growth of \$4 trillion in 2009. The median hourly pay of most of the major positions in the telecommunications industry – retail sales representatives, customer service representatives, installers and supervisors – is more than in any other industry.

Altogether, our annual survey of the top 10 industries for veterans shows the ex-service member is still highly valued and greatly sought after. >>>

# DEFENSE

**E**van Lesser, whose ClearanceJobs.com matches those possessing active or current security clearances with top defense industry employers, certainly sees the defense industry growing – and 75 percent of the candidates using his site are military.

“The job pool is shrinking, and open positions are more plentiful than the number of candidates,” Lesser said. “There are plenty of opportunities in a huge range of positions. It’s amazing how many are out there: intelligence, linguists, security experts and people with subject-matter expertise on all things military.”

In fact, service members should keep their minds open when it comes to defense.



U.S. BORDER PATROL

**V. Gregory Mish**  
U.S. Marine Corps (1973-1977)  
Assistant Chief Patrol Agent  
U.S. Border Patrol, Buffalo, N.Y.



“ People usually think of defense as one type of thing, but it’s wide-ranging: heating and air-conditioning repair, training Iraqi police officers.”

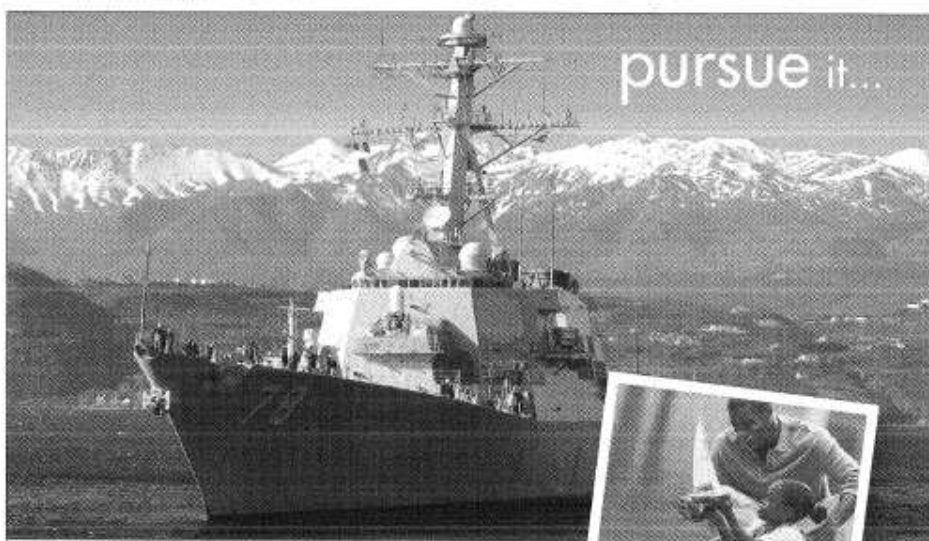
“People usually think of defense as one type of thing, but it’s wide-ranging: heat-

ing and air-conditioning repair, training Iraqi police officers,” he said. His company has even had a job opening for a cook on Air Force One. “Even though IT and engineering are dominant, there are so many government contracts out there that require new talent.”

Contractors are looking for those well-versed in government-mandated areas, such as certain types of procurement work. “There are standards that they want people to follow, so people trained and certified in those standards are in demand,” Lesser said.

For V. Gregory Mish, whose career has taken him from the Marines in 1977 to Assistant Chief Patrol Agent for the Border Patrol in Buffalo, N.Y., the defense industry has the paramilitary culture that allows veterans like him to thrive.

“I call it the ‘Homeland Security Industry’ more than defense,” Mish said. “If you like a challenging job and want to continue serving the country ... this is it.”



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