
A VETERAN'S GUIDE TO A CAREER IN TRUCK DRIVING



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Why Do Veterans Make Great Truck Drivers?

According to a report done in 2017 by the [American Trucking Association](#),¹ the trucking industry is in dire need of drivers across the country. This shortage of drivers affects consumers – who are increasingly expecting the products they pay for to be on their doorstep as soon as possible – and distributors, who are now faced with higher shipping costs in order to get their product in the hands of the consumer.

As online shopping continues to skyrocket in popularity – thanks to its convenience and affordability – the need for truck drivers has increased as well. As can be imagined, this has proven problematic for an industry that's already struggling to find employees.

This is where military veterans come in, as their unique experience and exemplary work ethic make them a great fit for an industry that is eager to find people who can work hard and see jobs through to completion.

If you are a veteran in search of work, or if you're unsatisfied with your current job, then the trucking industry may be exactly the place to look. Trucking companies are ready and excited to work with you and want to do whatever they can to help you find a career you can thrive in. To help you on your journey into the trucking industry, take advantage of the insights and tips in this guide, as they will walk you through the ways the trucking industry can provide for you and your needs.

The Industry Has a Place for You

Finding work as a veteran can be challenging. With the job field feeling more competitive every day, tracking down a new career that can match your skill set and fulfill your needs is rarely straightforward. In the trucking industry, however, the noticeable lack of drivers means there is more than enough room for you to join the ranks. Here are some of the main reasons the trucking industry is primed and ready to employ military veterans and set them up in a new and exciting career.

A Shortage of Drivers

The trucking industry needs drivers. With the current trucker demographic skewing older and heavily male, the industry is looking for younger and more diverse employees in order to keep the industry alive and flourishing.

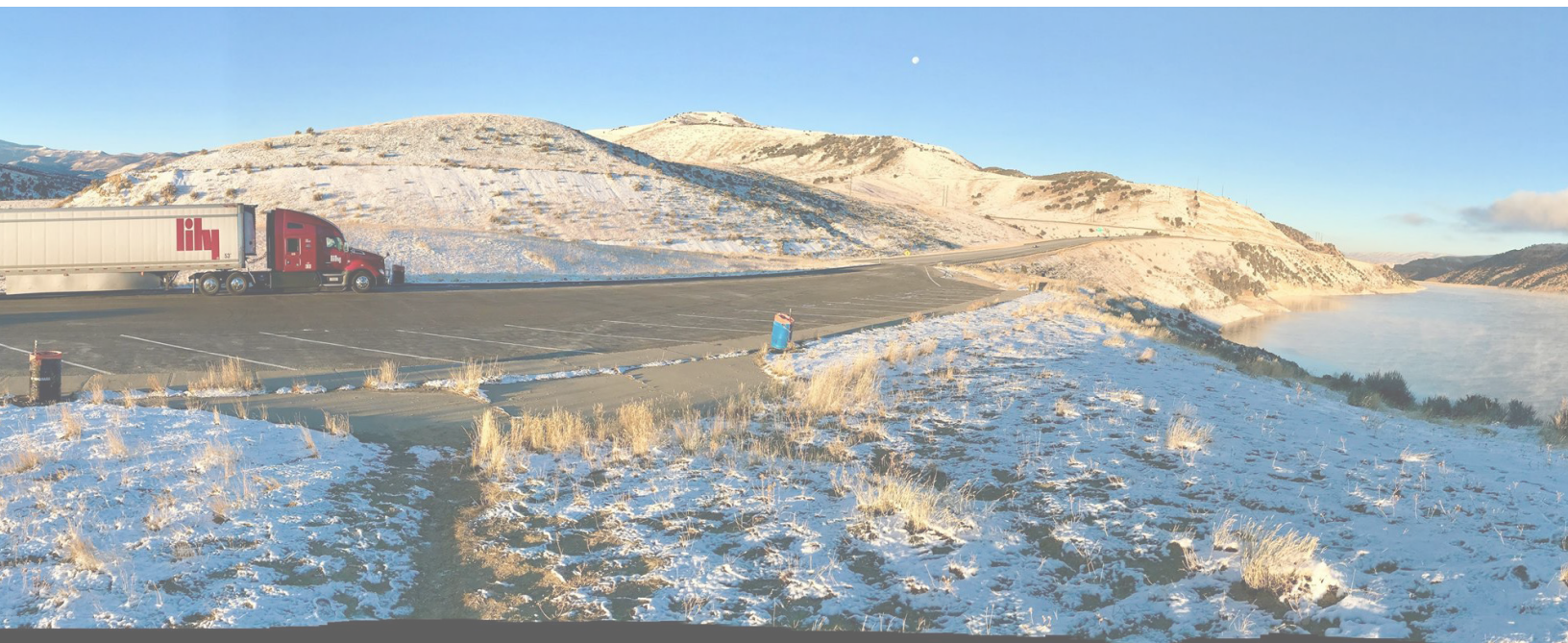
With your military experience and expertise, trucking companies are excited to offer you competitive career opportunities, and will happily provide you with benefits and job security. This makes truck driving an appealing career choice for veterans.



It Doesn't Require Years of Schooling

Before you'll be fully qualified to get into the trucking industry, you'll need to obtain your commercial driver's license (CDL). In most cases, this is done by attending a truck driving school. However, if you already have experience driving large vehicles during your military service, then you might qualify for the [military skills test waiver program](#)² that is provided through the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration. This program excuses you from the skills testing portion of the CDL exam and allows you to take only the written test, speeding up the process and helping you get on the road - and on the payroll - faster.

Even if you don't qualify for the military skills test waiver, obtaining your CDL is a fairly straightforward process. Your local Department of Motor Vehicles will have a CDL manual you can use to study for the written exam. After passing the exam, you'll then take a supervised skills test to demonstrate you are equipped with the knowledge and skills necessary to successfully and safely drive a truck professionally.



If you decide to pursue truck driving as a career, there are several things you'll want to keep in mind. According to research done by [Military.com](https://military.com)³, veterans should set their sights on truck driving schools that use newer equipment, have affordable tuition rates, show a high rate of post-graduation job placement, and provide their students with lots of time behind the wheel of a truck. Some of these programs and schools will even offer discounts or special scholarships for veterans, and in some cases, a potential employer can even help pay for your trucking education as part of their career package.

For example, Lily Transportation Corp. has a [one-of-a-kind program for veterans](#) with truck driving experience and veterans who wish to become commercial truck drivers.

Once you've obtained your CDL, you can enroll in Lily's Veteran Network, which includes a training curriculum that is fully paid for by Lily and does not deplete your GI Bill benefits. In addition to a full scholarship, you'll be paid a regular salary plus company benefits. The only requirements are that you are a military veteran and you are willing to commit to a minimum one-year over-the-road assignment.



You Have the Experience

As a military veteran, you've encountered and experienced situations that have uniquely prepared you for a wide variety of careers. Your sense of leadership, mission-focused mentality, and ability to adjust priorities on-the-fly all make you a valuable prospect for employers, and that rings especially true for the trucking industry.

Situational Awareness

When you're on the road for an extended period of time, you need to keep your senses alert and your attention focused. No driving trip is without challenging circumstances, and as a military veteran, trucking companies recognize that you're uniquely qualified to problem-solve on the go and deal with any potential complications seamlessly.

You've learned to be aware of your surroundings, make educated decisions, and ensure that you - and everyone around you - stay safe. These skills not only help you successfully complete each assignment in an efficient manner but also helps you make the overall operation run more smoothly.

Leadership

Regardless of whether you led others while in the military or not, the kind of discipline and resolve you learned while in the service has equipped you with vital skills needed for a career in logistics. Truck drivers need to know how to be assertive and committed to successfully completing the task no matter the situation they find themselves in. This is one of the many traits companies admire and seek out in veterans.



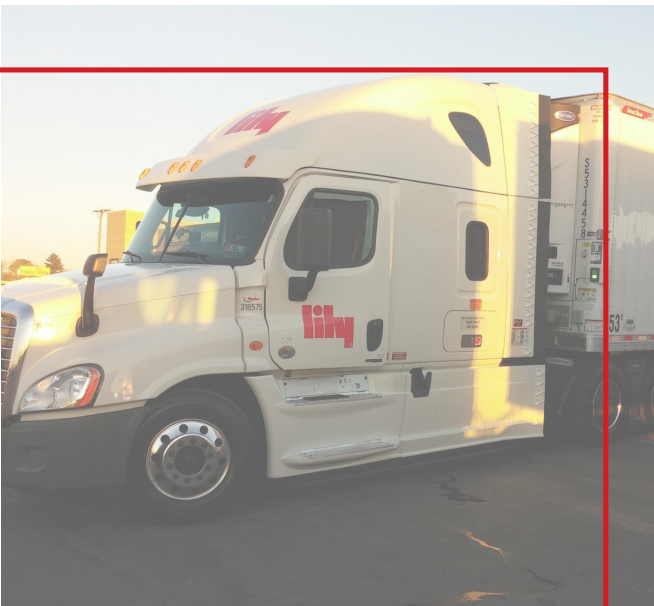
Stress Management

Keeping a clear head while under stress is a great skill in any career, but it will serve you especially well in the logistics industry, where deadlines and unpredictable weather or traffic are inevitable. As a veteran, your ability to think quickly and solve problems under challenging circumstances is an essential tool in completing your mission and ensuring the safety of yourself and those around you. When you show that you can stay focused and driven, even when under stress, you're proving to your employer that you're a highly qualified, valuable asset to their company.

Stamina

Discipline and endurance are skills that are taught to, and expected of, every military professional. It takes stamina and dedication to succeed in the military, and as a veteran, you've already proven yourself capable of doing all of those things and more. If you pursue a career in the trucking industry, you'll already be equipped with the stamina and discipline needed in order to make deliveries on time and continue driving long distances.

Distractions are everywhere, and fatigue can easily set in the longer you spend behind the wheel. With your military training, however, you have a unique understanding of how important it is to remain laser-focused on the job at hand. Again, trucking companies need drivers with your skills and mindset, and they are well aware of how specifically equipped you are to lead efficient operations and start each day with a productive, successful work ethic.



Benefits

In addition to your pre-existing qualifications and the logistics industry's need of your talents, another motivating factor for veterans to pursue a career in the trucking industry is the wealth of benefits and perks a career in the trucking can offer.

In the meantime, here are some of the great things about OTR team driving at Lily:



Security



Since trucking companies need drivers, you can rest assured, once you're hired, you will have job security. With your experience and skills, your employer is going to want to keep you around as long as they can. Since there is no shortage of work, a trucking career is a reliable opportunity with incredible income potential.

Income



Most trucking companies will pay their drivers per-mile, meaning the more you are on the road the more you earn. Additionally, with the industry in need of drivers, competitive pay is increasingly common. Trucking offers a steady source of work and income and with your military experience, companies will be eager to talk with you about the benefits they offer and the types of compensation they can provide.



Travel



Not everyone is cut out for a desk job, and if you're the kind of person who is looking for a career that's not only financially viable but can also offer something with more variety, truck driving may be the answer. As a truck driver, you're going to spend most of your work time on the road, traveling across the country or within a given region.

Spending this much time on the road means seeing more of the country than most people ever get to see. No trip will be the same, and you'll almost always come home with new stories to share with your friends and family.

Flexibility



Finally, as a truck driver, you'll be part of a unique lifestyle. Trucking can be demanding but when you complete a run you can move on to the next one, or take some time to recover and enjoy your loved ones. Most companies will work with their drivers to maximize your earning potential while still ensuring valuable home time. This flexibility allows for a positive work-life balance!

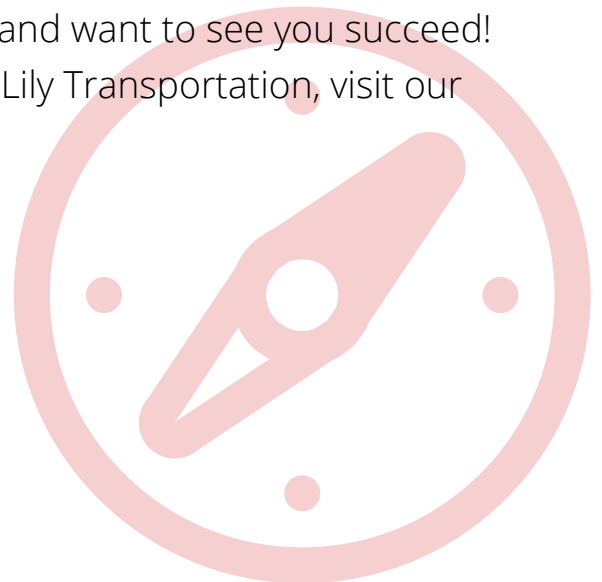
Life is a Highway

Transitioning to civilian life is not always easy, but finding a fulfilling career can be a great outlet. If you pursue a career in logistics, you can expect enthusiastic employers, competitive pay, unique travel experiences, and the ability to see the country in ways that few get the chance to.

Whether you're ready to dive into a new career as a truck driver, or are still looking for the best option for you, our team at Lily Transportation is here to help. We're always on the lookout for excited, experienced, and safe drivers to join our coast-to-coast operations, and would be more than happy to talk with you about our excellent benefits, competitive pay, and training programs.

Lily Transportation Corp. values and respects the skills, experience, and unique characteristics of the men and women who have served in our U.S. military, and we are committed to increasing the percentage of our employed veterans by 10% each year. Our unique veterans' program can offer you a fully compensated education with salary and company benefits, and upon graduation, offer a starting salary in the \$70,000 range, with a minimum one-year commitment to an over-the-road assignment.

We're excited about your new career opportunities and want to see you succeed! For more information on veteran career benefits at Lily Transportation, visit our [careers page](#) or contact us at 800-248-LILY.





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