

DEARBORN, Mich., July 9, 2012 & #8212; Over the

Society of Manufacturing Engineers

SME begins a certification program with the U.S. Army to help fill 600,000 vacant manufacturing positions.

DEARBORN, Mich., July 9, 2012 Over the next five years, there will be up to a million military personnel returning to civilian life and getting into the U.S. civilian workforce. Juxtapose this with the 600,000 jobs currently open in advanced manufacturing and the anticipated need for 10 million skilled workers by 2020, and the [Society of Manufacturing Engineers \(SME\)](#) [1] sees a win-win opportunity for all.

Starting this month, the U.S. Army will begin a pilot project to provide SME industry certifications to validate existing military personnel skills for civilian manufacturing jobs.

This is one of the first actions from the new Department of Defenses [Military Credentialing and Licensing Task Force](#) [2] recently announced by President Obama.

Through this partnership with SME, the Army will expand certification opportunities for service members in highly-specialized and technical engineering fields. The Armys Engineer school will conduct a one-year pilot program to assess the potential for Engineer Officers and Warrant Officers to meet SMEs [Certified Manufacturing Technologist](#) [3] or [Lean Bronze Certification](#) [4] credentials. These industry-recognized credentials will help service members qualify and pursue jobs as manufacturing technicians, technologists and engineers in the private sector.

"We know that military personnel have solid skills with good work ethics, and have much to offer employers," said Mark C. Tomlinson, CMfgE, EMCP, executive director/CEO of the Society. "With SME certifications in hand, they will also have industry credentials manufacturers are familiar with making it easier for vets to move into the civilian job market.

The first cohort of soldiers will begin a six-week program at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., today after which they will take the certification exams. As the pilot project progresses, the Task Force will work with SME and other credentialing organizations to identify and address gaps between military training programs and the credentialing and licensing requirements.

This partnership with the DOD aligns with the White Houses goal to of having 500,000 workers receive [NAM-endorsed manufacturing certifications](#) [5] over the next five years and positions individuals for employment and advancement in

manufacturing jobs.

As advocates for addressing the manufacturing skills gap this nation is facing, SME is thrilled to find a new source of people ready and able to make things, said Tomlinson. To also be able to show our commitment to our military with the SME credentialing system, just makes the partnership even better.

NOTE TO MEDIA: Visit the [SME Media Center](#) [6] for the latest Society news, one-stop access to SME Events, Manufacturing Quicklinks, SME social media sites, [RSS feed](#) [7] and more.

About SME:

The [Society of Manufacturing Engineers \(SME\)](#) [1] is the premier source for manufacturing knowledge, education and networking. Through its many programs, events, activities and online training division, [Tooling U](#) [8], SME connects manufacturing practitioners to each other, to the latest technologies and to the most up-to-date manufacturing processes. SME has members around the world and is supported by a network of chapters and technical communities. A 501(c)3 organization, SME is a leader in manufacturing workforce development issues, working with industry, academic and government partners to support the current and future skilled workforce.

[SOURCE](#) [9]

Source URL (retrieved on 09/23/2014 - 4:11pm):

<http://www.chem.info/news/2012/07/dearborn-mich-july-9-2012-8212-over>

Links:

[1] <http://www.sme.org>

[2] <http://www.defense.gov/news/newsarticle.aspx?id=116587>

[3] <http://feedproxy.google.com/certified-manufacturing-technologist-certification.aspx>

[4] <http://feedproxy.google.com/lean-bronze-certification.aspx>

[5] <http://www.themanufacturinginstitute.org/Education-Workforce/Skills-Certification-System/Certifications/Certifications.aspx>

[6] <http://feedproxy.google.com/media>

[7] <http://feeds.feedburner.com/sme>

[8] <http://www.toolingu.com>

[9] <http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/sme/~3/-U10Fgm7kIY/Tertiary.aspx>