



Whitestone Group adds 137 veterans to its payroll

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The [Whitestone Group Inc.](#), of Columbus, OH, recently announced that thanks in large part to a contract with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), the company has added 137 new workers with military service to its payroll, bringing the number of its veteran employees to 271.

Whitestone, an asset protection and protective security officer company, is a Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business, with 8(a) certification, that specializes in facility security, asset and force protection, training of security professionals, and investigations.

One of the company's early contracts was to secure the Hoover Dam. In addition to the FAA, the company has also worked for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers following Hurricane Katrina, the Social Security Administration, Clover Air Force Base, the U.S. Coast Guard, the Department of Agriculture and FEMA.



John Clark

John Clark, Whitestone's president and CEO, a service-disabled veteran himself, said he finds that veterans bring many different skill sets and experiences to the table, such as leadership, discipline, teamwork, advanced knowledge, supervisory skills and how to multitask.

"I've always found that veterans make great employees because of their training and call-to-duty spirit," Clark added. "We find that our recruitment and retention efforts are much more successful with this talented group of people."

Clark also cited a recent article indicating that unemployment among veterans is trending two percent above the national average, while another article by the House Committee on Veterans Affairs reported that a recent Department of Labor unemployment report shows that in October, 2011, the average unemployment among all veterans was 7.7 percent and 12.1 percent for veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan.

"More often than not," said Clark, "veterans already have the necessary training, background and experience required of protective security officers and other classifications of employees for most of our federal contracts."

Following the GSN awards dinner in November of 2011, at which the Whitestone Group was presented with a winner's trophy, John Clark participated in a video interview with GSN in which he discussed the history of Whitestone and its plans for the future. This interview is available for viewing on the [GSN Video Center](#).