



Jeff Whitney

Jeff Whitney, building official for Grand County, Utah, since 1989, believes the building safety industry is quite similar to the military in terms of its regulations.

Whitney, a former Code Council board director, served in the U.S. Navy, where he specialized in dental prosthesis and assisted in emergency rooms during surgeries. He took charge of everything in the operating room, from assisting with x-rays, minor injuries and facial repairs, to maintaining emergency room technology.

“Military service helped me to focus, and most importantly gave me the discipline to work in the building safety industry,” said Whitney, who holds 14 International Code Council certifications, including chief building official. He also served on the Utah Chapter of ICC Board of Directors for seven years, including president in 2004.

He believes transitioning from the military to civilian life in the built industry is relatively simple, especially convincing stakeholders that regulations, as they do in the military, save lives.

“Strong discipline, coupled with good communication skills, is needed to be successful in the industry,” he stressed.