



## Kris Bridges

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Kris Bridges, building official for the city of Martinsville, Va., said his current inspections duties may seem like an odd transition from serving as a nuclear machinist mate aboard two submarines. In reality, he added, the Code Council's education materials and certifications have for years provided a pathway for military personnel to transition into a career as building safety professional.

"Both are amazingly similar and rely on the same basic skill sets," Bridges said. "The training and experience I gained during my military service translates almost daily into my responsibilities as a building official.

"From the basic refrigeration cycle and the principles of heat transfer and fluid flow, to being a part of a team, as well as being relied on to work independently.

"Accountability and integrity play a large part of military service and the same is true of building safety professionals. Both jobs require the ability to build relationships in a diverse work environment where it's often hard to be able to understand the various perspectives of those involved.

"Both require an understanding that the secret is not knowing everything in the manual or code book, but rather knowing how to find the applicable sections and, more importantly, how to apply specific technical requirements to the situation at hand.

"I learned many important lessons that contributed to my successes, but probably the most significant is to maintain a positive mental focus despite the hurdles."