Project: Gunsight Mountain Wind Farm, Big Spring, TX

Bio: After high school Jake Thompson went directly into the Marine Corps. He was in the Marine Corps for 6.5 years serving as a Private First Class stationed at the Marine Corps Air Station in New River North Carolina. He served in both Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. After getting out of the Marine Corps, he planned on working in the oil fields where his dad had worked his whole life. His dad though, was the one who told him to start looking into work in wind – turbines were popping up all over the area. He has worked for Mitsubishi Power Systems as a site manager, Duke Energy in South Texas, and now works for Invenergy back home.

- “[Do you think there’s a particular reason why veterans are well suited to work as wind techs?] I think it’s the challenge. It’s not for everybody. A veteran always has that in the back of his head. It’s something different. It’s not an office job. You get out there, you’re on your own once you leave the morning meeting. I think we’re good at that. You go out and you’re not watched every second. You’ve got integrity. You have to have integrity to work in wind, and as a veteran, you have integrity. I think that’s the biggest part of it.”
- “It’s physically challenging, it’s mentally challenging. It’s a good job.”
- “I was a helicopter mechanic, so I worked on electrical systems on the helicopters, hydraulics, when I worked for Mitsubishi there was a lot of hydraulics. I knew that already. It was hands on, that helped me out a lot.”

Jake Thompson and other renewable energy professionals were recently featured in the New York Times’ article They Grew Up Around Fossil Fuels. Now, Their Jobs Are in Renewables. by John Schwartz.