

Alden Zeitz  
Manager of Renewable Energy Services  
Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative



“The skills and experiences I gained while in the military were a great help to me getting a job in the wind industry. I complimented this with the additional knowledge and experience I gained from attending college and earning an Associates of Applied Science Degree both as an electrician and a wind technician. I feel this made me a very strong candidate for the roles I have had the privilege to fill throughout my career in the wind industry.

Veterans have experience working with a diverse group of people and have leadership skills that are key to a growing industry like ours. The technical skills developed by veterans transfer very well to the wind industry which positively impacts the training needed to bring veterans into the industry. Less training results in less money and time spent on training veterans to work in this industry.”

Alden Zeitz is the Manager of Renewable Energy Services. He oversees the renewable energy department and the daily operation and maintenance of the fleet of wind turbines at Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative. He is also the point of contact with cooperative members who are interested in installing distributed generation on their property. In 2004, Alden was responsible for the development of curriculum, syllabi and laboratory work for the pioneering wind energy and turbine technology program at Iowa Lakes Community College in Estherville, Iowa. Alden holds an Associate of Applied Science (AAS), Wind Energy Technology, Electrician, from Southwestern Technical College.

“There are several experiences in this industry that have been exciting and rewarding. First, there is nothing like commissioning a wind turbine, bringing it to life and producing power for the first time. For me, there is nothing like it. Also, being able to solve an issue and bring a turbine back online is another rewarding part of being a technician. However, the most rewarding experience for me was the opportunity I had to play a key role in developing a training program at Iowa Lakes Community College and teaching prospective wind technicians. Working with or seeing former students is always a special experience for me.”

#### Military Background

Alden was an Aviation Armament Repair Technician, U.S. Marine Corps. He worked with munitions and maintained armament systems deployed on Marine and Naval fighter and attack aircraft.

- Naval Air Station Cubi Point, Philippines
- Naval Air Station Millington, TN
- Naval Air Station Whidbey Island, WA
- Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, NC
- Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan
- Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, AZ
- Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, CA

