



Education and Employment Initiative

Assisting Recovering Service Members to identify and match their skills and experience with education and career opportunities

The Education and Employment Initiative (E2I) is a collaborative effort, led by Department of Defense (DoD), with support from Federal, non-profit and private agencies, to address the synchronization, integration and possible expansion of existing education and employment support efforts for Recovering Service Members (RSMs). E2I postures the RSM to transition from active duty to civilian life by fine-tuning their career readiness for placement opportunities prior to transition.

Goals and Objectives

E2I operates with the goal of engaging RSMs early in their recovery process to identify the skills they have, career opportunities that match those skills, and any additional skills they will need to be successful and participate in desired educational and/or employment opportunities. This DoD program is available to all RSMs in all branches of the Military Services, as well as all components of those Services (Active, Guard and Reserve).

Education and Employment

E2I Regional Coordinators work with the RSMs to determine education requirements for desired career path. These educational requirements may include formal degree programs or training, certification and licensing programs. Once identified, the Regional Coordinator works with available Base/Post Transition Services, Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), and community resources to assist the Service member in attaining their goals.

E2I Coordinators work throughout the region, building relationships with employers in various industries. By developing strategic partnerships with employers across different industries, Coordinators are better able to assist Service Members by identifying career matching opportunities with an industry partner that is the best fit. Coordinators work diligently to identify local workforce trends and needed skill sets. In partnership with organizations, Coordinators can assist both the employers and Service members in making successful career decisions.

Our Partners and Regional Support

A partnership with the Department of Labor (DoL) provides for early access to DoL services and assistance. Additionally, a partnership with the VA allows RSMs early access to the Veterans Readiness Employment Services program to aid their recovery, transition and reintegration. E2I Regional Coordinators are working locally with employers, communities, and the Military Services to integrate education and employment resources for Recovering Service Members.

For general information, contact the program office at E2I.OSD@mail.mil

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Operation Warfighter

Matching qualified Recovering Service Members with Federal internships to gain valuable work experience during their recovery period

Operation Warfighter (OWF) is a Department of Defense (DoD) internship program that provides opportunities for Recovering Service Members (RSMs) to participate in internships with Federal agencies during their rehabilitation process. These Federal internships allow RSMs to develop and practice newly assessed and identified work skills in a nonmilitary work environment. More than 6,000 RSMs have been placed in Federal internships through OWF.

Goals and Objectives

The main objective of OWF is to place RSMs in supportive work settings that positively impact their recovery. The program represents an opportunity to facilitate RSMs development and employment readiness by providing assistance with resume building, exploring employment interests and developing job skills through internship opportunities.

The OWF Model

OWF strives to demonstrate to participants that the skills obtained in the military are transferable to civilian employment. For RSMs who will return to duty, the program enables these participants to maintain active skillsets and provides the opportunity for additional training and experience that can subsequently benefit the military. OWF enables Federal employers to better familiarize themselves with the skill sets and challenges of RSMs, as well as benefit from the considerable talent and dedication of these individuals.

Best results for the OWF model are the RSM interning for 90 to 120 days during the IDES process timeline, at a minimum of 20 hours a week. This facilitates a balance of needs to the RSM, the Unit and the Interning Agency.

How OWF Works

The first step in the OWF process is to obtain “medical and command approval” from a RSMs recovery team and chain of command. Once an RSM is determined to be ready to participate, a Regional Coordinator assists the individual in identifying an internship opportunity based on their interests and capabilities.

The Regional Coordinator, along with the Service Member’s recovery team, stays in contact with the Service Member and the agency throughout the placement to collect monthly feedback and ensure that there is no negative impact to the Service Member’s medical profile. At the completion of a placement, feedback is gathered from both the Service Member and the agency. This information is used to continue to evolve OWF to meet the needs of RSMs and participating agencies.

For general information, contact the program office at OSD.OWF@mail.mil

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