



Be a part of **OPERATION WARFIGHTER**

A Temporary Assignment Program Sponsored by the Department of Defense

The Department of Defense is sponsoring Operation Warfighter, a temporary assignment/internship program for Service members that are convalescing at military treatment facilities in the National Capital Region.

Operation Warfighter is designed to provide recuperating Service members with meaningful activity outside of the hospital environment that assists in their wellness and offers a formal means of transition back to the military or civilian workforce.

- The road to recovery for injured Service members can be long and arduous. When they are further along in the recuperation process, treatment schedules typically lighten and Service members are eligible to be cleared for participation in Operation Warfighter (OWF).
- OWF represents a great opportunity for Service members on medical hold to build their resumes, explore employment interests, develop job skills, and gain valuable federal government work experience that will help prepare them for the future. The program simultaneously enables participating federal agencies to avail themselves of the considerable talent and dedication of these recuperating Service members.
- OWF will also assist those Service members interested in the Continue On Active Duty (COAD) process of the MEB. This process keeps Service members in uniform and allows them rank progression and professional development that can lead to a successful and continued career in the Services.
- The program is open to the Active Duty, National Guard, and Reserve components, and participants often bring considerable civilian work experience in addition to their military backgrounds. Service members receive military salaries and therefore are not compensated by the agencies to which they are assigned.



- Federal agencies participating in OWF provide short educational descriptions that detail both the functions of the offices interested in hosting a candidate, and the duties that a Service member could undertake in this setting. Potential candidates will read through these descriptions and indicate their preferences to OWF staff. Employers will then receive the candidate's resume to assist in finding the appropriate placement within the Service member's area of interest. Agencies are able to interview candidates to get a better understanding of their skills.
- The program's goal is to match Service members with opportunities that consider their interests and utilize both their military and non-military skills, thereby creating productive assignments that are beneficial to both the Service member and the employer.
- Duty schedules for OWF participants are dependent upon the candidate's individual treatment schedule. The average length of an assignment, however, is 3 months, and the average number of hours per week is 20. When placed, Service members will do their best to determine approximate work schedules, but these schedules must be flexible and considerate of the candidate's medical appointments. *Under no circumstance will any OWF assignment interfere with a Service member's medical treatment or adversely affect the well-being and recuperation of OWF participants.*
- There is no promise of permanent employment with an agency upon the completion of an OWF assignment. Some participants will remain in military service, but many will separate and look for civilian employment. Operation Warfighter works in unison with the Department of Labor and the Office of Personnel Management. Our joint goal is to recruit federal and private employers and place injured Service members in appropriate education, training and careers. Agencies are asked to assist in any way they can.
- Operation Warfighter is not just about employment. For many recovering Service members, the program represents their first work experience outside of the cocoon-like environment of the hospital. Placing these Service members in supportive work settings that positively impact their recuperation is the underlying purpose of the Operation Warfighter program.

If you would like to participate , please contact:

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