A federal internship program that assists recovering wounded, ill, and injured service members.

For more information, please contact:

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"From day one, our interns have been fully engaged in meaningful activities, and they were eager and willing to demonstrate their mission-focus, teamwork, and ability to overcome amazing obstacles. Ever since they passed through our doors, an awe-inspiring and overwhelming feeling of national pride and patriotism has graced our work zones, our cubicles, and lives."

— John Lysher, Naval Surface Warfare Center, Dahlgren Division

"My internship helped me a lot with overall medical stress. It gave me something to look forward to."

— SFC Donald Christenson

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**ELIGIBILITY**

- The Operation Warfighter (OWF) program is open to all wounded, ill, and injured (WII) service members assigned to a service wounded warrior program.
- Each service member must be medically cleared to participate and the assignment must not interfere with a participant’s medical profile or adversely affect his/her well-being and recuperation.

**DETAILS**

- Internships range in duration and hours per week, however they typically last a few months and an average of 15–20 hours per week.
- Employer pool is limited to federal agencies.

**BENEFITS FOR SERVICE MEMBERS**

- Positively impacts recuperation process.
- An opportunity for participants to augment their employment readiness and prepare them for the future.
- Demonstrates to participants that skills obtained in the military are valued and transferable into civilian employment.
- Enables participants to maintain their skill sets and provides an opportunity for additional training and experience that can subsequently benefit the military.

**BENEFITS FOR EMPLOYERS**

- Ability to demonstrate support for the military service and sacrifices of WII service members.
- Access to the talent, dedication, and considerable military and non-military skills of participants.
- A vehicle for the permanent recruitment of transitioning service members in support of the Executive Order on the Employment of Veterans in the Federal Government.
- A Department of Defense (DoD) non-paid internship program.

"The program gave me hope. It was really motivational to know that I could get a job, continue to live my life and provide for my family. Otherwise, I don’t really know what I would be doing today."

— SSG William Castillo (Ret.)