



CPI Foundation

Increasing Readiness for Our Veterans, Our Infrastructure, Our National Parks



CPI is a proven public/private partnership program working with the U.S. Departments of Defense and Interior, and with industry companies across the country. The program benefits the United States and its taxpayers by combining the strengths and needs of three national concerns: our military veterans, our infrastructure, and our national parks. Helping avoid potential military-to-civilian transition pitfalls, CPI offers career preparation & placement and hands-on training programs for transitioning active duty service members at all levels from all service branches while completing construction, repair, deferred maintenance, and safety/access projects in national parks and public lands.

FIELD SCHOOL FOUNDING SPONSORS

BASF - Alcatraz Island
Owens Corning Foundation - Pearl Harbor

Military Service Member / Participant Profile

JULIO HERNANDEZ

Growing up in the suburbs of Los Angeles, California, Julio dropped out of high school to help support his parents and four siblings.

After working for several years without a diploma, Julio realized he needed to create better career prospects for himself. Inspired by two family members with military backgrounds, Julio joined the U.S. Army.

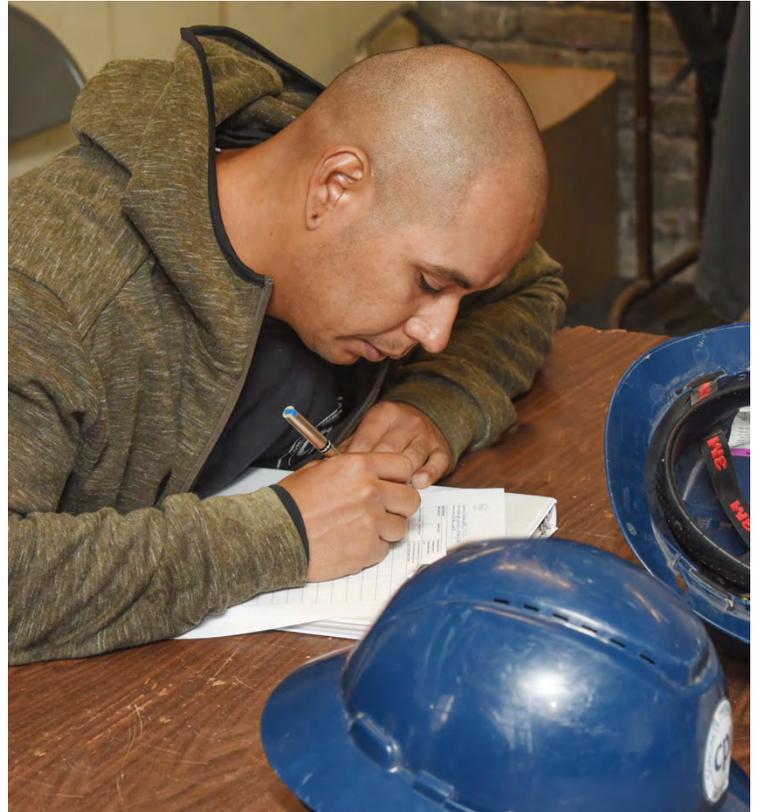
Fast-forward six years: Julio has served his country with honor, been promoted to Sergeant, married, and has a child.

A year before his planned discharge, Julio heard from the U.S. Army Career Skills Program, which helps soon-to-be veterans prepare for post-service professions, and learned about the CPI Field School and Career Placement Programs. The opportunity to develop new skills, while restoring historic national parks with rich military heritage, interested Julio, and he was accepted into the Alcatraz Island Training Program.

"It has been an honor to serve our nation and help repair national parks, while acquiring the knowledge, skills, confidence, and contacts to enter a new and exciting career in the concrete & infrastructure industry."

- Julio Hernandez, Sergeant, U.S. Army

CPI Training & Career Placement Programs



Left: Sergeant Julio Hernandez greets BASF's Pete Warren to discuss industry career opportunities, CPI Photo. Right: Julio leading a classroom safety briefing before beginning the day's hands-on field project, CPI Photo. Page 1 photo: Julio and his active duty and military veteran CPI team members repair the historic "Windy Gulch" stairs on Alcatraz Island allowing controlled re-opening after years of closure due to deterioration and safety concerns, CPI photo.

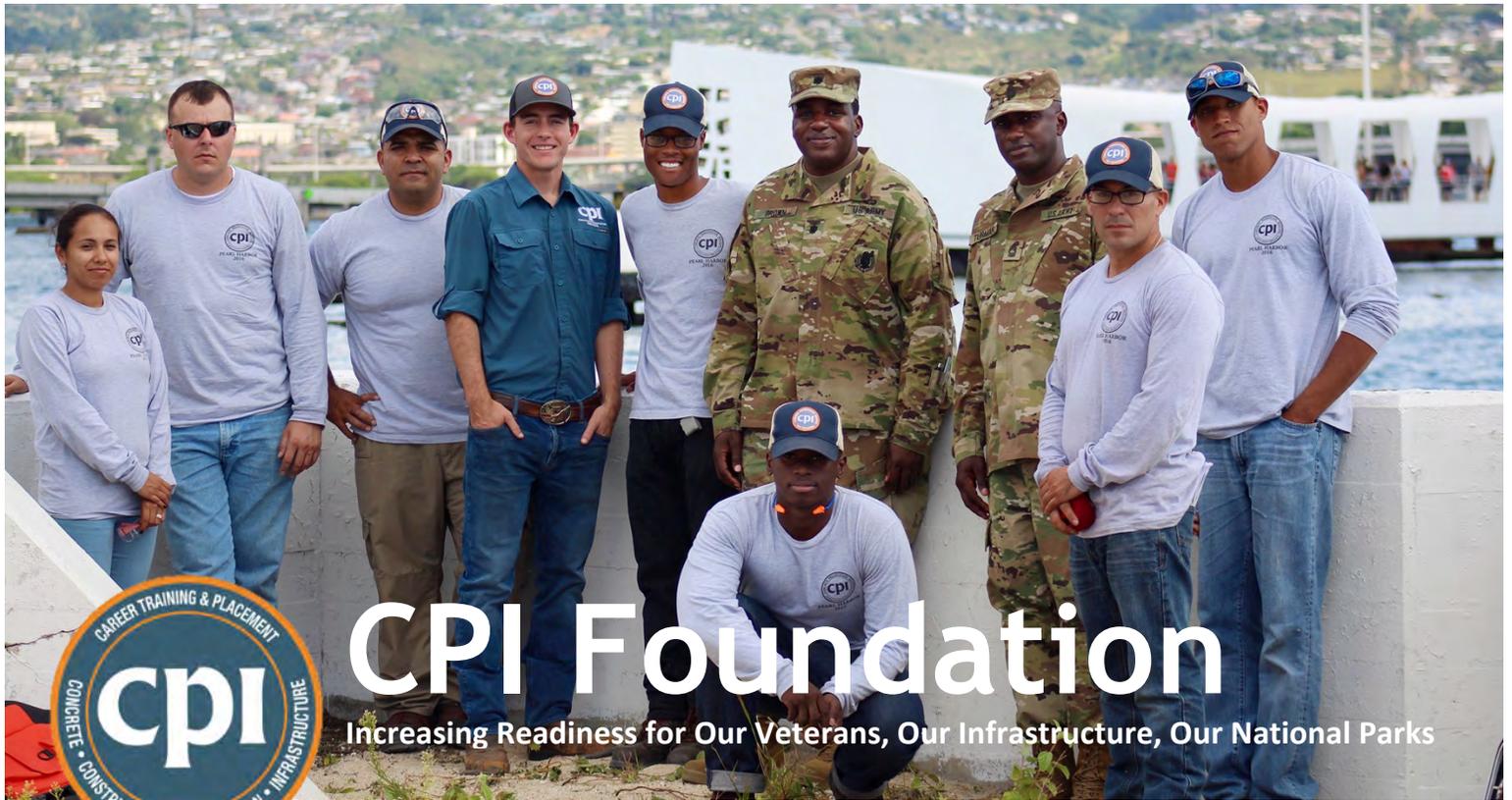
Julio trained alongside his active duty military and recently discharged teammates studying the construction, production, sales, and service aspects of the concrete industry and the history of this important composite material that is so critical to buildings and infrastructure. In-depth, hands-on and management course work included evaluating, testing, mixing, placing, repairing, and maintaining concrete. Additionally, he developed an understanding for the entire scope of a project, including material production, logistics and transportation, structural considerations; safety procedures; and project timelines, costs, and expenses.

Thinking about re-entering the civilian workforce has long caused Julio apprehension. Even with the experience he gained in the Army's 25th Transportation Company, like many other soon-to-be-veterans, he wasn't sure about his qualifications for job opportunities he researched, and additionally, didn't have any contacts in the civilian industry.

Recently graduating from the Training Program, Julio looks back with pride on what he accomplished in repairing deteriorated features on Alcatraz Island, improving visitor access and safety within this iconic national park. On a professional level, Julio had the opportunity to network and interview with leaders from industry companies looking to hire employees like him. Confidence in hand, he now feels prepared and looks forward to beginning his civilian career in an industry critically in need of dedicated tradespeople and managers to keep up with infrastructure demands.



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Military Service Member / Participant Profile

MARIA VALDEZ

Born in California, Maria grew up on the move, spending time in Northern California, "all over Arizona" during high school, and three years in Mexico.

After graduation, she accompanied a friend to a military recruitment office to hear about career opportunities they might provide for him. But it was Maria who ended up joining the U.S. Army.

Maria trained to become an automated logistical specialist, with her first assignment in South Korea at Camp Humphreys. Her 7.5 years of military service also included posts at Ft. Bliss in Texas and Schofield Barracks/Ft. Shafter in Hawaii.

In preparing to leave the Army, Maria attended career transition classes provided by the military and learned of the CPI Foundation's (CPI) career training program. Despite having no background in the concrete industry, Maria was lured by the prospect of working in a national park and recognized the opportunity to utilize the professional skills from her military service in a growing, team-focused civilian career.

"Thanks to my experience with CPI at Pearl Harbor, I am on my way to a very promising career in the concrete industry!"

- Maria Valdez, former US Army Sergeant

CPI Training & Career Placement Programs



Left: Maria creating Field School sample panels for project approval, CPI Photo. Right: Field School team project, CPI photo. Page 1: CPI active duty military Field School team and guests on the USS Tennessee mooring quay, Battleship Row, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii - repairing and preserving the quays is CPI's primary multi-year Pearl Harbor Field School project, CPI photo.

Maria trained alongside her active duty military teammates studying the construction, production, sales, and service aspects of the concrete industry and the history of this important composite material that is so critical to buildings and infrastructure. In-depth, hands-on and management course work included evaluating, testing, mixing, placing, repairing, and maintaining concrete. Additionally, she developed an understanding for the entire scope of a construction project, including material production, structural components; safety procedures; and project timelines, costs, and expenses.

Although Maria never imagined working in the concrete industry, her experience restoring hallowed sites along Pearl Harbor's Battleship Row at World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument, working with CPI's expert staff, and meeting leaders from all areas of the industry helped her develop a passion for this new, post-military career.

Upon being honorably discharged from the U.S. Army, and with a husband still on active duty with orders for a new post in Texas, Maria worked with CPI to connect with opportunities in that state and secured an internship with a large concrete company; she is currently pursuing a degree in Concrete Industry Management, with a minor in Business Administration at Texas State University.



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Military Service Member / Participant Profile

NICHOLAS KOLOWICH

Growing up in San Diego, California, Nick was exposed to the military from an early age with his grandfather having served in the Navy. Nick spent his high school years in Lehi, Utah. Upon graduation, he decided to take a different path from his eight siblings when he enlisted in the U.S. Army.

After 20 years of proud service, Nick and his wife knew their three children needed more stability when their oldest son entered his 7th different school in as many years.

A year before his planned discharge, Nick turned to the U.S. Army Career Skills Program, which helps soon-to-be veterans identify post-service professions, and learned about the CPI Training Program. The opportunity to develop new skills, while restoring historic national parks with rich military heritage, appealed to Nick, and he was accepted into the program's Pearl Harbor site.

“After serving in our military and working to restore America’s treasured national parks, I have received the education, confidence, and contacts to make a transition into a promising career in the concrete industry.”

- Nick Kolowich, Master Sergeant, U.S. Army (retired)

CPI Training & Career Placement Programs



Left: Field School team training & completing CPI community service project at local middle school, Hawaii, CPI photo. Right: Master Sergeant Nicholas Kolowich graduates from the Field School as the honor graduate, CPI photo. Page 1: Field School team graduation, Pearl Harbor Visitor's Center, Hawaii, CPI photo.

Nick trained alongside his active duty military teammates studying the construction, production, sales, and service aspects of the concrete industry and the history of this important composite material that is so critical to buildings and infrastructure. In-depth, hands-on and management course work included evaluating, testing, mixing, placing, repairing, and maintaining concrete. Additionally, he developed an understanding for the entire scope of a construction project, including material production, logistics and transportation, structural considerations; safety procedures; and project timelines, costs, and expenses.

Nick's new skillset, certifications, and industry contacts helped him secure a position in Atlanta as plant manager for one of the largest volume-ready mix concrete plants in the Southeastern United States. Although new to the industry, Nick's experience in the Field School prepared him for success, and his career in the military has helped him as both a team-member and manager of over 45 employees.

Nick's wife, Merika Kolowich, credits CPI's field school program for helping them locate near family in Atlanta and for providing Nick with the confidence and education to forge a post-military identity.

"Participating in CPI's program, and building skills while preserving America's military heritage, gave Nick the motivation, education, and confidence for a new career. It truly was the turning point in his transition to civilian life and we are so proud of him," she said.



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COREY PAULOWSKE

Growing up in Lake Mills, WI, a town of 4,000 between Milwaukee and Madison, the military was not part of Corey Paulowske's initial career plans.

Corey spent his youth going to school, playing sports, and spending time on the local lakes. Moving on to college in Madison, Corey played a year of collegiate soccer, before focusing entirely on school and earning a Bachelor of Science - Graphic Design degree.

Entering the job market during a severe economic downturn wasn't ideal, with job prospects far & few between. After trying to make ends meet as a freelance graphic designer, supplemented by working in golf course maintenance, Corey decided to join the Army.

Starting out at Fort Sill, OK, Corey was assigned to South Korea, then Joint Base Lewis McChord and deployed to Afghanistan during his 8 years of military service.

Having met and married his wife while in the Army, Corey made the decision to leave the military to settle down and start a family.

"Without CPI, I would not have had the knowledge, experience or contacts to get into the concrete & construction industry – an industry with a huge amount of opportunity."

- Corey Paulowske, Staff Sergeant, U.S. Army veteran

CPI Training & Career Placement Programs



Left: Staff Sergeant Paulowske exemplifying the model of safety. CPI photo. Middle: Paulowske at Pearl Harbor, CPI Photo. Right: Paulowske completing field testing of concrete materials, CPI training site near WWII Valor in the Pacific National Monument – Pearl Harbor, HI, CPI photo. Page 1: Field School team graduation, Pearl Harbor Visitor Center, Hawaii, CPI photo.

During Corey's last year of service, he became aware of CPI's Field School through the US Military's Career Skills communications. Corey applied, was accepted and participated in CPI's Pearl Harbor Training Program.

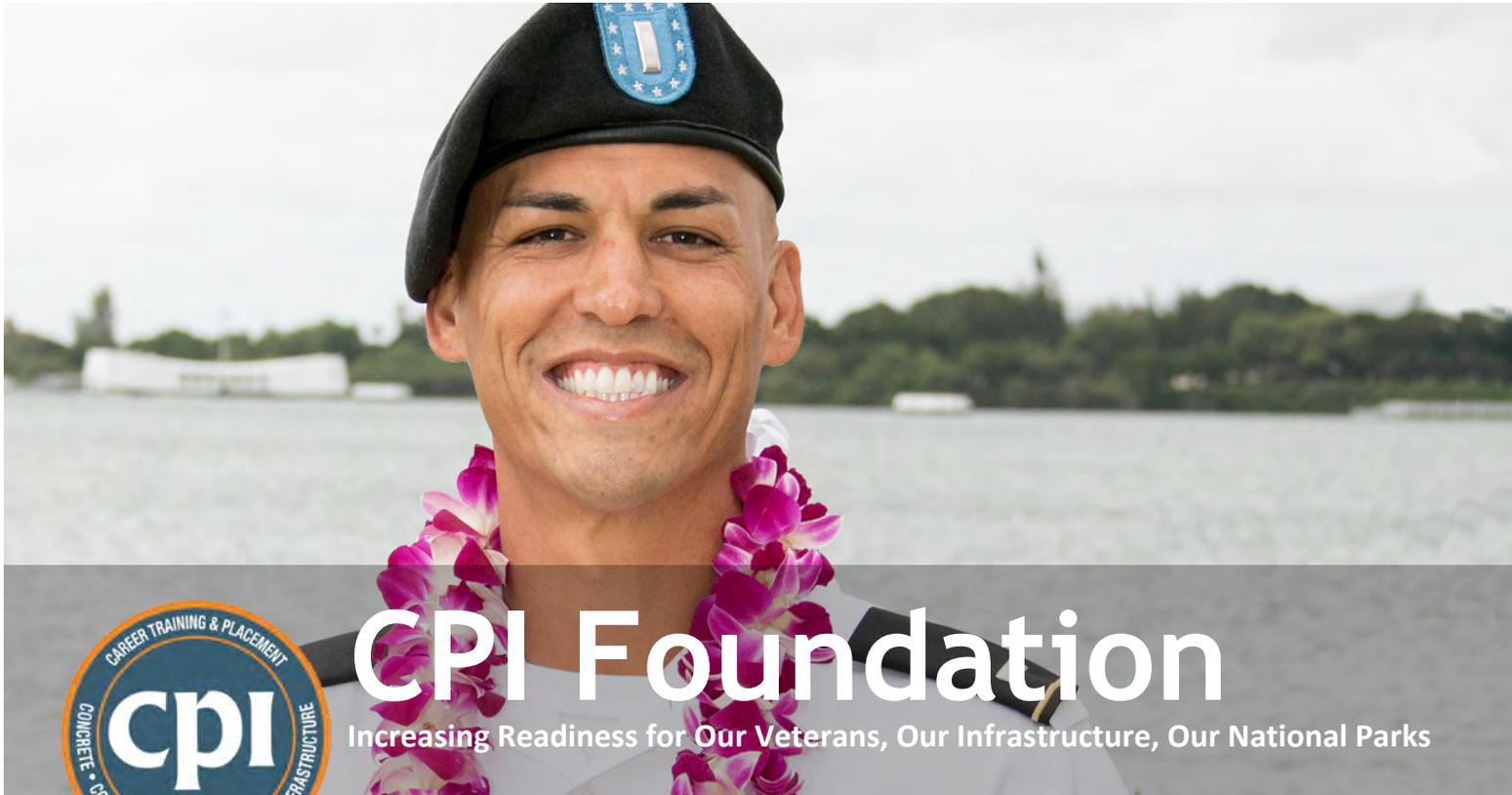
Corey trained alongside his active duty military teammates studying the construction, production, sales, and service aspects of the concrete industry and the history of this important composite material that is so critical to buildings and infrastructure. In-depth, hands-on and management course work included evaluating, testing, mixing, placing, repairing, and maintaining concrete. Additionally, he developed an understanding for the entire scope of a construction project, including material production, logistics and transportation, structural considerations; safety procedures; and project timelines, costs, and expenses.

Corey's new skillset, certifications, and industry contacts helped him secure a position with one of CPI's partners, The Conco Companies, in the greater Seattle area near his wife's family. In his position of Assistant Project Manager, Corey has found his passion. While working for Conco, Corey is also pursuing a Master of Science Degree in Project Management.

"Participating in CPI's Field School allowed me to go behind-the-scene and reinforced my belief in the need to preserve the history of the United States, especially within our National Parks which hold such important parts of our cultural and military heritage."



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Military Service Member / Participant Profile

RYAN J. WHITE

Growing up in rural Mississippi, Ryan fell in love with baseball at the age of 4. For the next 18 years, Ryan’s life revolved around baseball, which culminated in a scholarship playing for William Carey University.

Upon graduation with a Bachelor of Science degree, Ryan started his professional career as a corporate manager. Although he advanced over the next several years, Ryan wanted more from his career and decided to enlist in the U.S. Army.

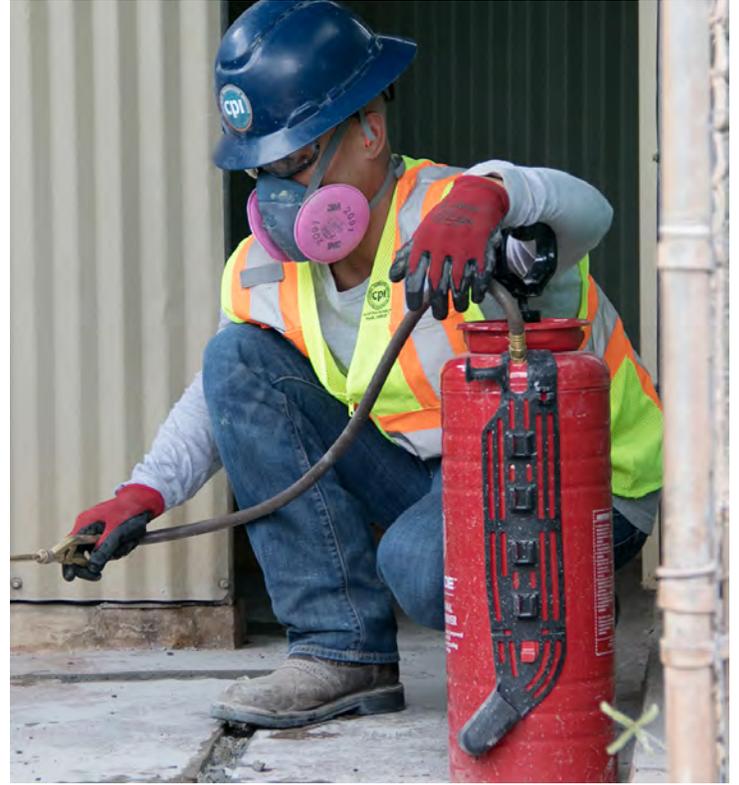
4 1/2 years later, Ryan had graduated from Officer Candidate School, served his country with honor, earned the rank of Army Captain, and gained experience as a Heavy Horizontal Construction Engineer. For family reasons, in 2017 Ryan made the decision to leave the Army, completing the final years of his service obligation through the Individual Ready Reserve.

A year prior to this decision, Ryan was serving as the Executive Officer for his Company and was asked to sign off on a soldier’s request to participate in CPI’s Field School, an official U.S. Army Career Skills Program. After reviewing the program, Ryan approved the request.

“Learning about concrete, while working to preserve one of our most historically significant National Parks, is one of the highlights of my life”

- Ryan White, former U.S. Army Captain

CPI Training & Career Placement Programs



Left: Field School cement import terminal field trip (field trips to several different industry locations create industry connections and highlight career opportunities), CPI Photo. Right: Ryan in personal protective equipment while training and completing Field School project, CPI Photo. Page 1: Ryan at Field School graduation, Pearl Harbor Visitor Center, Hawaii, CPI Photo.

When it became Ryan's time to prepare for transition back to civilian life, he remembered the CPI program and the positive feedback he had later received from the soldier who had participated. He applied for CPI's Pearl Harbor Field School and was accepted into the program. Ryan had prior construction experience in the Army, allowing him to share his knowledge and be a leader in the program.

Ryan trained alongside his active duty military teammates studying the construction, production, sales, and service aspects of the concrete industry and the history of this important composite material that is so critical to buildings and infrastructure. In-depth, hands-on and management course work included evaluating, testing, mixing, placing, repairing, and maintaining concrete. Additionally, he developed an understanding for the entire scope of a project, including material production, logistics and transportation, structural considerations; safety procedures; and project timelines, costs, and expenses.

Ryan developed a passion for the industry and recognized the need for more service members to have similar transition opportunities. He now works for CPI, sharing his story to help inform transitioning military personnel about the benefits of participating in CPI's Field School and assisting participants in connecting to meaningful career opportunities through CPI's Career Placement Program. He is also working with CPI on their planned expansion to additional locations across the U.S. to increase active duty military participant capacity and further contribute to landmark preservation and critically needed infrastructure workforce development.



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