

Training and inspiring military service members for careers in concrete, construction, and infrastructure while preserving national landmarks

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 Field School.

"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 is an official U.S. military active duty Career Skills Program, partner of the U.S. National Park Service, and partner of concrete and construction companies across the nation. As a non-profit foundation, CPI's Field School & Career Placement Programs are based on public/private partnerships.

CPI's Field School trains and inspires service members while completing deferred maintenance, repair, preservation, and safety/access projects on national landmark structures and public sites at Alcatraz Island (Golden Gate National Recreation Area, CA), Pearl Harbor (World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument, HI), and planned additional locations across the country.

CPI's Career Placement Program connects Field School participants and other soon-to-be veterans to civilian careers in a growing and critical sector of the U.S. economy. Employment longevity is facilitated by matching candidates with well-suited positions in locations across the country where they and their families seek to establish post-military homes.

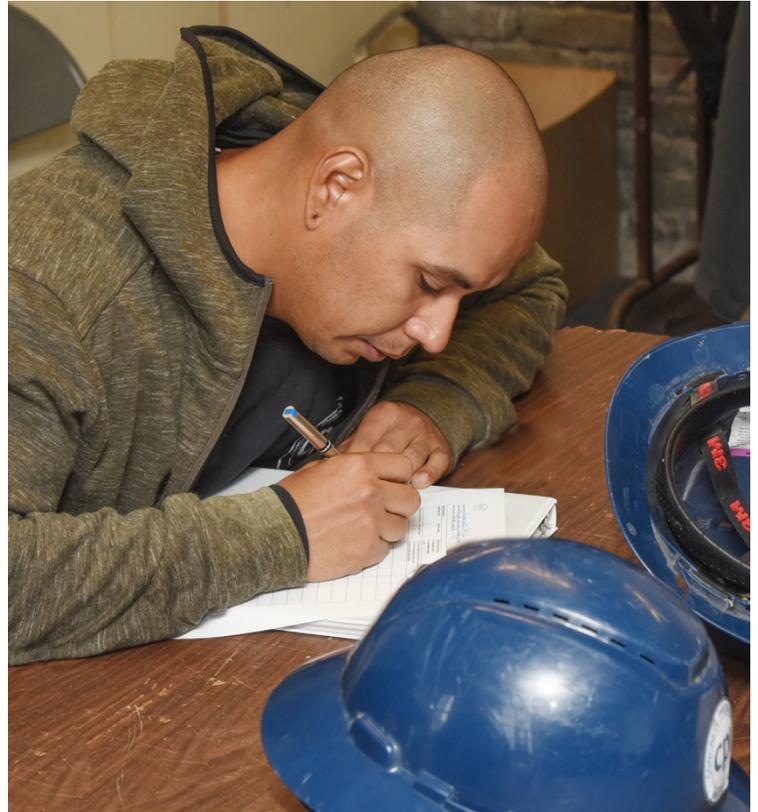
FIELD SCHOOL STATISTICS

- ❖ 123 participants
- ❖ 84,840 volunteer hours on NPS sites

FIELD SCHOOL FOUNDING SPONSORS

- ❖ BASF - Alcatraz Island
- ❖ Owens Corning Foundation - Pearl Harbor

CPI Field School & 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 Field School, 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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