



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



CPI is a nationwide non-profit educational foundation, an official U.S. military Career Skills Program for active duty service members, partner of industry companies who support CPI and hire active duty personnel transitioning out of the military for civilian careers at all levels - skilled trades and management - addressing new and existing structures and infrastructure, and partner of the National Park Service (NPS) with Field Schools 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 has two individual programs connected by a common thread of training and placement. The Career Placement and Field School Programs allow CPI to work with active duty service members creating interest for post-service careers in a growing and critical sector of the U.S. economy. Participants in the Field School complete significant repair and deferred maintenance projects on landmark structures and public sites that may not otherwise be completed. CPI is committed to veteran employment longevity by connecting participants to well-matched careers across the country where they and their families seek to establish post-military homes.

FIELD SCHOOL STATS

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

FIELD SCHOOL FOUNGING SPONSORS

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

Service Member 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 Field School 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 Field School.

"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's Pearl Harbor Field School



Left: Pearl Harbor CPI teams repair aging concrete structures at the Pearl Harbor visitor center, CPI photo. Right: Master Sergeant Nicholas Kolowich graduates from the CPI Field School as an honor graduate, CPI photo.

Nick trained alongside his active duty military teammates studying the construction, repair, 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 field school 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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