



Veterans to Infrastructure

ABOUT CPI

CPI is a nationwide non-profit educational foundation; an official US military Career Skills Program for active duty; 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 to management - addressing new and existing structures and infrastructure; and partner of the US National Park Service (NPS) with Field Schools at Alcatraz Island, Pearl Harbor, and planned additional locations across the US that complete significant repair and deferred maintenance projects on landmark structures and public sites that may not otherwise be completed. 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.

Career Placement Program

- Active duty service members informed and connected to career opportunities prior to civilian transition
- Concrete and construction companies nationwide partner with CPI to hire tradespeople and managers for all industry areas including contracting, production, sales, and service
- Employment longevity facilitated by matching soon-to-be veterans with well-suited positions in geographic regions where they/their families seek to establish post-military homes
- Interview skills and resume development that relate military occupational specialties to industry career paths
- Candidate pool expansion: creating interest among service members who may not otherwise have chosen the industry
- College-bound service members connected to related university programs, assistance with transfer credit, internships, career placements upon graduation
- Industry is critically in need of workforce with an expected 1.5 million-worker shortage by 2020
- Approximately 200,000-250,000 service members leave the military each year
- Engagement with Department of Defense to decrease veteran unemployment and underemployment by working with active duty personnel early in their service-to-civilian transition

Field School Program

- Unique public/private industry/non-profit partnership
- National Park projects create enthusiasm among service members to seek CPI and industry career information
- Service members participate while on active duty
- Three full-time, 12-week, sessions at each location/year
- Significant repair/preservation/new projects helping address NPS's \$12 billion deferred maintenance backlog for landmarks, infrastructure, visitor/operational access & safety
- Needed NPS continuous stewardship force bringing resources, expertise, peoplepower, industry emerging technologies and best practices to the public sector
- Ongoing inspection and maintenance for projects done by others that extend major public capital improvement investments and avoid future deferred maintenance issues
- Individuals with or without experience may apply
- Participants gain management and hands-on experience; safety and technical certifications; industry-leading expert instruction; and an understanding of industry expectations for professionalism, accountability, communication, culture of safety commitment, and pride of work
- Broad engagement with Department of the Interior cultural resource, natural resource, education/engagement goals

Broader Impact

Repair and reuse of structures has grown in response to failing infrastructure and increased interest in service life extension. CPI's historically significant projects present high-profile cases that increase public awareness of the effects of deferred maintenance and workforce needs to address it in National Parks and across the country that can be achieved through CPI's Programs. CPI's impact is further broadened by engaging partners and sponsors, undertaking applied research, and leading military participants in mentoring local youth during community service projects in regions surrounding CPI Field School sites.

Averaging over a million visitors a year at each site, the popular NPS locations where CPI's Field Schools operate face deferred maintenance issues also plaguing overall US infrastructure. Battleship Row's concrete mooring quays are among the last visible reminders of the surprise 1941 Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, the devastating event that propelled the United States into WWII. Alcatraz Island's structures, originally built by the US military in defense of the San Francisco region, stand as testimony to rich layers of military, civil rights, and federal prison history. Similar deterioration, damage, and disintegration affecting these structures also affect the country's bridges, roads, dams, airports, and other infrastructure.