



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

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 Concrete Preservation Institute’s (CPI) Field School 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's Pearl Harbor Field School



Left: Maria Valdez creating sample panels for project approval, CPI Photo. Right: Team learning about concrete repair, CPI photo. Page 1 photo: Team with U.S. Army guests from the Pentagon on the USS Tennessee mooring quay, Battleship Row, Pearl Harbor, HI - repairing and preserving the mooring quays are CPI's primary Pearl Harbor Field School project, CPI photo.

Maria trained alongside her 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, 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.

