



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 and Career Placement Programs are based on public/private partnerships.

CPI's Career Placement Program connects soon-to-be veterans to civilian trades and management careers in a growing and critical sector of the U.S. economy. Employment longevity is a priority, facilitated by matching service members with well-suited positions in geographic regions where they and their families seek to establish post-military homes.

Through their Field School Program, CPI 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.

FIELD SCHOOL STATISTICS

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

FIELD SCHOOL FOUNDING SPONSORS

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

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 manager with FedEx. Although he moved up the corporate ladder 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 served as a Heavy Horizontal Construction Engineer. For family reasons, in 2017 Ryan made the decision to leave the Army, serving 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 Field School & Career Placement Programs



Left: Field School field trip to a cement import terminal; team members participate in many field trips to learn about different industry sectors and 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 he had approved. He applied for CPI's Pearl Harbor Field School and was accepted into the program. Ryan had prior construction experience in the Army while many of his teammates did not, allowing him to share his knowledge and be a leader in the program.

Ryan 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 project, including material production, logistics and transportation, structural considerations; safety procedures; and project timelines, costs, and expenses.

Becoming passionate about the industry and his CPI experience as well as the need for more service members to have similar transition opportunities, Ryan sought and was offered a full-time position as CPI's new Recruitment and Career Placement Manager upon his discharge from the Army.

Ryan is now working for CPI, sharing his story to help inform transitioning military personnel about the benefits of participating in CPI's Field Schools at Pearl Harbor and Alcatraz Island, along with assisting program participants connect 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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