

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



## Military Service Member / Participant Profile

# Ryan J. White

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

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 corporate manager. Although he advanced over the next several years, Ryan wanted more from his career and decided to enlist in the U.S. Army.

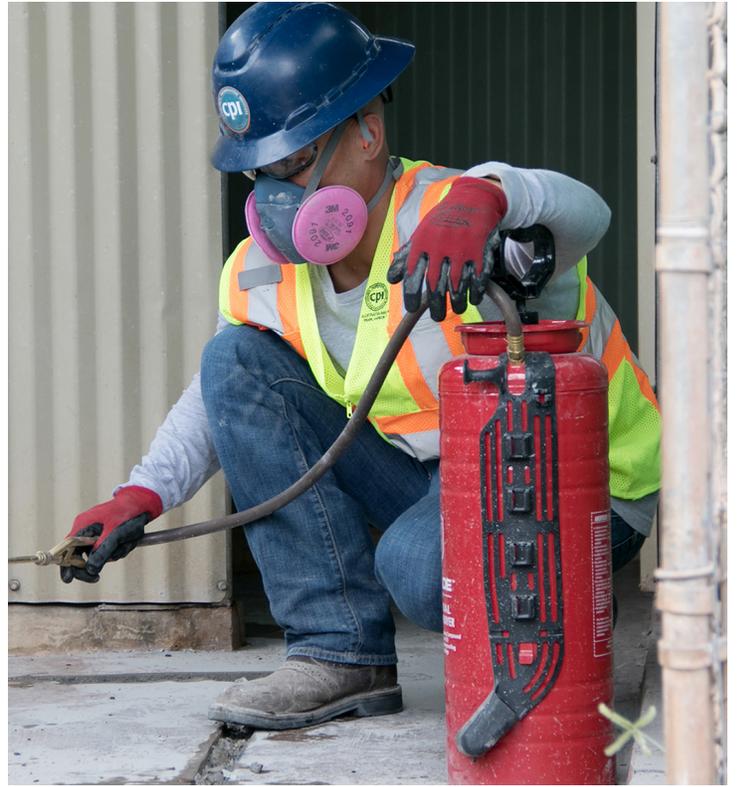
4 1/2 years later, Ryan had graduated from Officer Candidate School, served his country with honor, earned the rank of Army Captain, and gained experience as a Heavy Horizontal Construction Engineer. For family reasons, in 2017 Ryan made the decision to leave the Army, completing the final years of his 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 cement import terminal field trip (field trips to several different industry locations create industry connections and highlight 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 who had participated. He applied for CPI's Pearl Harbor Field School and was accepted into the program. Ryan had prior construction experience in the Army, allowing him to share his knowledge and be a leader in the program.

Ryan trained alongside his active duty military 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.

Ryan developed a passion for the industry and recognized the need for more service members to have similar transition opportunities. He now works for CPI, sharing his story to help inform transitioning military personnel about the benefits of participating in CPI's Field School and assisting participants in connecting 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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