



THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
CIVILIAN EXPEDITIONARY WORKFORCE

We Go Together!

www.epms.osd.mil/expeditionary

A new call to service has been sounded across the nation. A call for each of us to be part of a greater purpose. A call each of us at the Department of Defense can heed by being a part of the Civilian Expeditionary Workforce (CEW).

The Civilian Expeditionary Workforce (CEW) serves alongside our military men and women at the forefront of America's mission around the globe. A mission to protect. A mission to build communities and renew nations. A mission to spread freedom and democracy. A mission to stand up for the disadvantaged and for the oppressed.

Our uniformed forces deploy around the globe in service of this mission, but we will not ask them to do it alone. Stand up and join them because when we go, we go together.



THE DESTINATION IS *satisfaction.*

“It took us eight hours to travel 40 miles, but no matter what, we were going to get those supplies to the people who needed them.”

Real satisfaction doesn't come from just getting things done. It comes from getting things done that matter. When a task is as important as getting food and medical supplies to the victims of a devastating earthquake, you don't even think about the difficulties or obstacles. You keep on pushing through until you meet your goal.

Working in a disaster zone is unlike anything you can imagine. Nothing works right. The roads – where there are any – are littered with debris and full of scared, lost, homeless people. But they know that you're there to help them, and they are thankful.

There are lots of tears being shed. Most of them are tears of sorrow over lost loved ones, shattered lives, an already poor country struggling to survive. But there are also tears of joy and gratitude. I've seen them, and they mean more than any paycheck ever will.





THE DESTINATION IS **growth.**

“The computer network I set up is now managing thousands of medical records for a Kabul hospital.”

On a daily basis, I help to ensure the viability of DoD’s computer infrastructure, a network that is vital to defending our nation’s interests, but the work I did on deployment in Kabul took me to new levels of personal growth.

I was a key part of the team building a brand new intranet for an Afghan hospital in Kabul. The hospital had suffered significant damage during a recent skirmish, and their whole record-keeping system was in disarray. I arrived the day after a plane-load of computers and cables, and went right to work with a team of other civilian IT professionals from various DoD agencies. It was amazing what we accomplished in a short amount of time. I know that when I get home, there’s no challenge I won’t be ready to face.

THE DESTINATION IS *achievement.*

“The first two weeks, we fixed walls. Then we worked on the electric system. Before long, we were moving in desks and books. And now, there are actually kids learning in that building. That’s pretty amazing.”

In a country struggling to rebuild, progress is usually measured in small increments, but when you see students walking into a school that used to be a bombed-out shell of a building, that’s a real victory. I’ve never accomplished so much in so little time in my entire life.

Working side by side with our military was amazing. Somehow, these men and women managed to bring order to the chaos. They were definitely in charge, but there was a true sense of teamwork.

They know what we bring to the table, they’re grateful for it, and they respect us for it. They know that we don’t have to be there, and I think in their minds that really sets us apart.

The day before I came home, I met a little girl on her way home from school. I asked her if she liked her school. She said that she thought it was the best school ever. When I told her I helped build it, she threw her arms around me and thanked me. Yes, grown men can cry too.



THE DESTINATION IS *discovery.*

"I helped rebuild a city's entire financial infrastructure. None of my classmates who work for the Big 4 can say that!"

As an accounting major in college, I had many expectations about what my future would hold. Working for the Department of Defense has allowed me to fulfill them all, but it's the unexpected opportunities, like volunteering with CEW, that have truly amazed me. For example, I don't think many of my classmates will ever find themselves riding in a C-17 cargo plane loaded with supplies bound for Iraq.

While I had certain expectations about my assignment, I was surprised to learn how desperately my professional skills were needed. I had not considered it before, but rebuilding the national financial infrastructure is just as important as rebuilding roads.

The commitment and passion I saw in the eyes of the Iraqis I worked with really moved me. You just can't imagine what they've lost. It made me really appreciate what we have, and when I got home, everyone saw me in a whole different light.



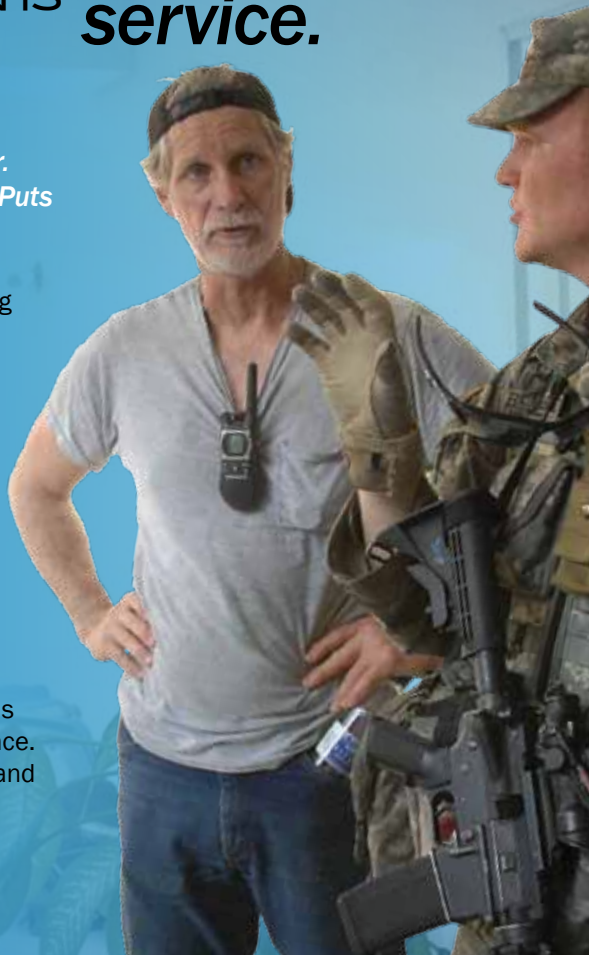
THE DESTINATION IS *service.*

"I helped bring clean water to an isolated Afghan community. Water. That was what they needed most. Puts things in perspective, doesn't it?"

You can't imagine the pride. Completing such an important assignment brings so many rewards. Perhaps most important among them is the sense of service. Not just to these people struggling to survive, but to our country's mission, and to the world.

Once you've seen the gratitude on the face of someone who has access to running water for the first time ever, you realize that you're not just a number. Every one of us is important. We can make a difference. It's just a matter of standing up and making a choice.

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THERE ARE MANY DESTINATIONS.

Which one is yours?



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