



## OPERATION WARFIGHTER

Matching qualified wounded, ill and injured Service members with Federal internships to gain valuable work experience during their recovery period

### About Operation Warfighter (OWF)

Operation Warfighter (OWF) is a Department of Defense (DoD) internship program that provides opportunities for wounded, ill, and injured Service members to participate in internships with Federal agencies during their rehabilitation process. These Federal internships allow wounded, ill, and injured Service members to develop and practice newly assessed and identified work skills in a non-military work environment. More than 5,700 wounded, ill, and injured Service members have been placed in Federal internships through OWF.

#### Goals and Objectives

The main objective of OWF is to place wounded, ill, and injured Service members in supportive work settings that positively impact their recovery. The program represents an opportunity to facilitate Service members' development and employment readiness by providing assistance with resume building, exploring employment interests and developing job skills through internship opportunities.

#### The OWF Model

1. OWF strives to demonstrate to participants that the skills obtained in the military are transferable to civilian employment. For Service members who will return to duty, the program enables these participants to maintain active skill sets and provides the opportunity for additional training and experience that can subsequently benefit the military.
2. OWF enables Federal employers to better familiarize themselves with the skill sets and challenges of wounded, ill, and injured Service members as well as benefit from the considerable talent and dedication of these individuals.

#### How OWF Works

The first step in the OWF process is to obtain "medical and command approval" from a wounded, ill, or injured Service member's recovery team and chain of command. Once a wounded, ill, or injured Service member is determined to be ready to participate, a Regional Coordinator assists the individual in identifying an internship opportunity based on their interests and capabilities. Once a placement is agreed upon, the OWF Regional Coordinator works with the wounded, ill, or injured Service member and the agency to obtain necessary security clearances, workplace accommodations and transportation assistance.

The Regional Coordinator, along with the Service member's recovery team, stays in contact with the Service member and the agency throughout the placement to collect monthly feedback and ensure that there is no negative impact to the Service member's medical profile. At the completion of a placement, feedback is gathered from both the Service member and the agency. This information is used to continue to evolve OWF to meet the needs of wounded, ill, and injured Service members and participating agencies. For general information, contact the program office at [OSD.OWF@mail.mil](mailto:OSD.OWF@mail.mil).