



Operation Warfighter (OWF)

Matching qualified recovering service members with federal internships to gain valuable work experience during their recovery period

Operation Warfighter is a Department of Defense (DoD) internship program that provides opportunities for recovering service members (RSMs) to participate in internships with federal agencies during their rehabilitation process. These federal internships allow RSMs to develop and practice newly assessed and identified work skills in a non-military work environment. More than 6,000 RSMs have been placed in federal internships through OWF since 2008.

Goals and Objectives

The main objective of OWF is to place RSMs in supportive work settings that positively impact their recovery. The program presents opportunities to facilitate RSMs' development and employment readiness by assisting with resume building, exploring employment interests, and developing job skills through internship opportunities.

Regional Coordinator Information

Name:

Region:

Email:

Phone:

OWF Eligibility

Service members enrolled in a Recovery Coordination Program (RCP) or in the Disability Evaluation System (DES) are eligible for OWF.

The OWF Model

OWF strives to demonstrate to participants that the skills obtained in the military are transferable to civilian employment. For RSMs who 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. OWF enables federal employers to better familiarize themselves with the skill sets and challenges of RSMs, as well as benefit from their considerable talent and dedication.

Best results for the OWF model are the RSM interning for 90 to 120 days during the DES process at a minimum of 20 hours a week. This facilitates a balance of needs between the RSM, the unit, and the internship agency. The internship must not interfere with the RSM's medical and rehabilitation requirements.

How OWF Works

1. The RSM must first obtain medical and command approval from the RSM's provider and chain of command.
2. The Regional Coordinator assists the individual in identifying an internship opportunity based on their interests and capabilities.
3. The Regional Coordinator will maintain contact with the RSM and the federal agency partner to ensure the internship is successful.
4. Feedback is gathered to continue to evolve the program and ensure it meets the needs of the RSM and federal agency partners.

For more information or to enroll in the program, go to <https://warriorcare.dodlive.mil/> or contact the program office at OSD.OWF@mail.mil.

