

Education and Employment Initiative (E2I)

http://veterans.senate.gov/hearings.cfm?action=release.display&release_id=c9e557be-6a5c-434d-bf8c-28d052554213

Contributing factors to unemployment among wounded warriors include the lack of a focused employment, educational, and rehabilitation process that engages Service members as soon as they begin treatment at a Medical Treatment Facility (MTF), as well as a lack of qualified career counselors who can administer career assessments and match Service members to careers. DoD, in collaboration with VA, DOL, and the Office of Personnel Management (OPM), is developing E2I to address these shortfalls. E2I will leverage best practices and the good work already being done from existing employment and training initiatives in both federal and private sectors. The first phase is a tiered pilot program scheduled to launch in May 2011.

The goal of the E2I pilot is to engage Service members early in their recovery to identify skills they have, the skills they need and the employment opportunities where those skills can be matched and put to good use. The E2I process will begin within 30-90 days of a Recovering Service Member (RSM) arriving at a MTF, taking advantage of a recovery time that averages 311 days but can be as long as five years. At the very beginning of the E2I process, all applicants will be administered a comprehensive skills assessment to include understanding their current disability, current Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) experience, career desires, education and training background, and special accommodations that may be required for a particular type of position. This assessment will be provided by a highly trained career and vocation counselor who has extensive knowledge of the issues facing wounded warriors.

The E2I counselor will work with the RSM from the initial stages of creating an individual development plan (IDP) goal setting, course selection or education requirements, through the completion of training/certification to return to duty or alternate job placement. A Mentor and Coach will be assigned to all E2I applicants at the beginning of the process to provide personalized assistance and guidance throughout the E2I process from recruitment at the MTF into the program, through placement in their new MOS or chosen career.

Our plan is to evaluate the E2I program over the next 12 months to 18 months and refine the E2I process with new ideas and best practices. Once this evaluation is complete, our plan is to continue our E2I roll-out, which will include partnering with OPM, VA and DOL to ensure we have standardized practices and comprehensive handoffs as the RSM leaves the responsibility of the DoD.

Internship at Naval Shipyard Helps Wounded Warrior Prepare for Second Career

<http://warriorcare.dodlive.mil/2011/05/12/internship-at-naval-shipyard-helps-wounded-warrior-prepare-for-second-career/>

Posted on [May 12, 2011](#) by [chad.holmes](#)

With his discharge approaching, and wounded warriors facing double digit unemployment nationwide, John Edmonson had already spent months searching for an employer that would hire a transitioning Service member who had sustained a traumatic brain injury and a broken arm, face, and back.

With the help of his non-medical care manager in Safe Harbor, the Navy's wounded warrior program, John found his way into an innovative [wounded warrior employment program operated by the Naval Sea Systems Command \(NAVSEA\)](#). It matches wounded warriors with internships that build on their existing skills and expand their professional skills to prepare them for employment after discharge. John was placed in an internship with the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard and Intermediate Maintenance Facility.

To find out how things turned out, [read John's story on Navy.mil](#).



John will be participating in the 2011 Warrior Games next week in Colorado Springs. You'll be able to follow the games on the Warrior Care blog.

*WWCTP is building on the NAVSEA wounded warrior employment program with it's new Education and Employment Initiative pilot program, or **E2I**. Watch this blog for more information.*