

EDGE4VETS “PROFILES IN SUCCESS”

MARCO BONGIOANNI - Dept of Veterans Affairs

MILITARY SERVICE:



Marco served as an Army Officer in Logistics from 2001-2010 and since 2010 has continued as an Army Reserve Officer in Civil Affairs. He deployed twice in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2002-03 and 2007-08 and once in support of Operation Enduring Freedom to the Horn of Africa in 2012.

“Duty, selfless service, and integrity were key values I developed in the military,” he said, “these now serve me as a pillar for action in my civilian life.” In terms of an intangible skill, he said he learned that, “Resiliency is the mental, physical, emotional, spiritual and behavioral ability to face and cope with adversity, adapt to change, recover, learn and grow from setbacks. These strengths I learned well.”

HOW EDGE4VETS MENTORS HELPED ME:

“Edge4Vet’s mentors helped deepen my ‘rolodex’ from a networking standpoint. Meeting mentors who can connect you to the corporate, non-profit, or government sectors is a great way to build your civilian list of contacts. Also, I liked the way Edge4Vets painted the fluid-fixed-fluid transition that many veterans face transitioning back to the civilian world. The transition from ‘I’ to ‘We’ and back to ‘I’ again is often the most difficult to master. In the military your battle buddy, squad, or platoon helps you.

But as a civilian, back in the “I” culture, you are responsible for successfully negotiating that interview that can land you a job. Again the personal mentoring I received in Edge4Vets helped me navigate this path back to a successful civilian life.”

HOW MARCO IS APPLYING HIS MILITARY STRENGTHS IN CIVILIAN LIFE:

“I graduated from Fordham in 2012 with a Master’s in Ed in Mental Health Counseling, currently I work with Department of Veterans Affairs as a readjustment therapist at the Bronx Vet Center. I specialize in counseling veterans with PTSD and military psychology. Again, I come back to Resiliency. Everyday my ability to be resilient helps me overcome challenges and remain balanced and clear-headed as I strive to help my clients.”



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ANNY PENA - STANDARD CHARTERED BANK



MILITARY SERVICE:

Anny served 5 years of active duty in the USMC from 2003 to 2008. Her MOS was 6048 Flight Equipment Technician (aircraft maintenance) where her duties ranged from conducting inspections on aircraft and aircraft equipment to supervising inspections. Ultimately she was a production control supervisor, responsible for managing the workflow of over 20 Marines. Her job was to liaise with multiple aircraft units and manage her team's workload to ensure monthly expectations were met.

“The military helped me become more courageous. I am not afraid to ask questions or point out when I see something not right. I learned to be a dependable person and follow through on all my commitments, along with learning attention to detail, which is a skill I use every day in my work life.”

HOW EDGE4VETS MENTORS HELPED ME:

“The Mentors at Edge4Vets helped me find what I call my civilian language,” she said. “They helped me communicate my experiences effectively to people outside of the military. They provided guidance to help me find good examples I could use in interviews and they shared what employers are looking for and why they want to hire veterans. They helped me learn to tailor my experiences to fit the employers’ needs.”

HOW ANNY IS USING HER MILITARY SKILLS IN CIVILIAN LIFE:



A graduate of Fordham, Anny works for Standard Chartered Bank. “I am the Lead of the PEP and Sensitive Client Unit, which is a team that is part of the Financial Crime Compliance division. My line of work involves detailed investigations of individuals and transactions that could potentially be linked to financial crimes and terrorism financing. The self-discipline and attention to detail I learned in the military help me perform at a high level on a daily basis.”

Edge4Vets: PROFILES IN SUCCESS

Jesse Williams - Manager, 1-800-Flowers

MILITARY SERVICE:



Jesse served in the Army from 2005 to 2012, then attended John Jay College. In the Army his duties included breach man, team leader and section sergeant. Values he developed included judgment, decisiveness and accountability as often he was called upon to protect his team in combat situations. "I learned how to think and act quickly in tight situations," he said. "And I learned how to complete a mission all the way through and be responsible for the decisions I made."

HOW DID EDGE4VETS MENTORS HELP ME:

"My experience in the Army gave me an incredible foundation for responsible action in civilian life, but I needed to learn how to translate those values and skills. Edge4Vets offered a very forgiving environment. What I mean by that is mentors in the workshops were patient and supportive as I found words to express what I wanted to do. They helped me see how skills I developed, such as leading a team, could be applied in business and could make me very valuable to employers. They helped me build a network for my civilian job search as well, and helped me craft my resume. They gave me one-to-one interviewing practice which was invaluable. I learned how to understand how valuable my military experience could be to find a job, and not just any job but one that could lead to the kind of career I wanted."



HOW JESSE IS APPLYING HIS MILITARY STRENGTHS IN THE CIVILIAN WORKPLACE:

After graduating from John Jay, Jesse was hired by 1-800-Flowers. He's a manager in the emerging business and mobile operations department - and he's moving up fast. As he said, "My Inter-drive keeps me moving forward toward my goals. I never quit until my task/project is complete. I learned that from the Army, how to get things done, no matter how tired I might be. I don't give up. Truth be told, I like to be the last one in office, the guy who turns out the lights." It's no surprise that Jesse's being promoted so rapidly: he helped turn a \$2 business into a \$15 million one through, as he says, "lessons I learned in the military."

Edge4Vets: PROFILES IN SUCCESS

KIMBERLY D. ALONZO - Drexel Hamilton

MILITARY SERVICE:



Kimberly, a Fordham vet, served in the Navy from 2003-2007. She was responsible for coordinating maintenance tasks and overseeing changes and modifications to the F/A-18 Super Hornet aircraft. In addition, she coordinated squadron/activity maintenance reporting requirements and kept charts to show trends in aircraft system reliability and she maintained engine logbooks and other aircraft records.

"I developed three key values," she said. "**Resourcefulness**: an ability to handle new and difficult situations skillfully and promptly. **Perseverance**: never quit, no matter what! As well

as **Altruism**: especially in giving back to the Veteran community. In terms of skills, I learned to pay intense attention to detail. That enabled me to identify and prevent unfavorable situations, specifically when it involved safety. In fact, I'm called "Captain Safety" by my friends which is just fine with me!"

HOW EDGE4VETS MENTORS HELPED ME:

"When I was first discharged, I put all of my responsibilities on the resume and listed only a few skills. Edge4Vets mentors helped me realize that I had tremendous skills, especially attention to detail. They taught me how that skill would allow me to sell myself for my commitment to safety. The Edge4Vets program gave me the confidence to step outside my comfort zone and promote my military values and skills with poise and confidence in an interview."

HOW KIMBERLY IS APPLYING HER SKILLS IN THE CIVILIAN WORKPLACE:

"I am pursuing my career in financial services at Drexel Hamilton as an Assistant VP in the Municipal Finance Department. My military values serve as my moral compass. They shape how I think and how I react to everything in life. When I feel like giving up, the compass points towards perseverance! In the military, my shipmates counted on me to get the job done. I now call my shipmates "Co-Workers" and my compass points to resourcefulness and perseverance to exceed their expectations. Outside work I volunteer for many veterans activities, including serving as Mentor in Edge4Vets - thus I get to use my Altruism value to help other vets find their way as mentors helped me find my path to success."



EDGE4VETS: "PROFILES IN SUCCESS"

STEVE MOYLAN - NY POLICE DEPARTMENT

MILITARY SERVICE:

Steve served in the United States Marine Corps from 2006-2010, as an Infantry Officer. He served as a Platoon Commander in Iraq and a Company Executive Officer in Afghanistan. His job was to lead training operations while serving stateside and to lead combat operations while deployed.

"The greatest value I developed in the military is the 'whatever it takes' attitude towards mission accomplishment," he said. "'Stay until the job is done' reflects this value, but another way to look at it is I believe there is simply no acceptable reason for failing to achieve an objective once you set out to tackle a challenge." In terms of a skill set, he said, "The greatest skill I learned is how to provide unit leadership."



HOW EDGE4VETS MENTORS HELPED ME:



"The mentors in the Edge4Vets program do a fine job of conveying to transitioning vets that the skills and values learned and practiced in the military are applicable in all civilian occupations, even when your military occupation doesn't have a direct correlation to a civilian profession. Infantry, for example."

HOW STEVE IS APPLYING HIS MILITARY STRENGTHS IN CIVILIAN LIFE:

Steve graduated with an MBA from Fordham and works as a Police Officer in the New York Police Department.

"The problem-solving skills required while deployed in the military come into play every day dealing with criminals, that's obvious, but the versatility I learned in the military has tremendous value helping me deal with the general public as well and allows me to provide service as well as security," he said.

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COURTNEY REBERT - AMERICAN AIRLINES

MILITARY SERVICE:



A Brooklyn College vet from the Flatlands section of Brooklyn, Courtney served in the Army from 2009-2013. “We worked in the mountains servicing the Blackhawks,” he said. “We did what’s called, ‘Phases,’ including striping down helicopters to their bare bones then rebuilding them for our troops who would go out on patrols. Helicopters are the only means of transportation in the mountains. We had half a dozen lives in our hands for each flight. As a crew chief, I lived with that

awareness every day, that it was my job to make sure those helicopters operated without a glitch so our troops would be safe in the rough terrain. That taught me some valuable skills, including keeping detailed records because high attention to detail translated into protecting our troops lives on the battlefield.

HOW EDGE4VETS MENTORS HELPED ME:

“Edge4Vets got me an interview with American Airlines for an entry level position as a mechanic. When the interviewer asked me, ‘Why should we hire you?’ I had the confidence I gained from support the mentors in Edge4Vets gave me to say, “If you’re looking for someone who is a fast learner and won’t quit until the job is done, I’m your man.” It was the mentors in the workshops who “helped me realize i had the skills, the detailed record-keeping experience, I just had to talk about that, until Edge4Vets I never realized the great skill-set I possessed.”

HOWE COURTNEY IS APPLYING HIS MILITARY STRENGTHS IN CIVILIAN LIFE:

Courtney earned his undergraduate degree at Embry-Riddle College of Aeronautics, then went to Brooklyn College for his Masters in Computer Science. “Through Edge4Vets I got my job at American Airlines at JFK, my dream job, and I got promoted in a short time. I have a wife and two young daughters. I want the best for them, now with my job at American Airlines the world is opening up for me.”



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CHRISSY BURBACH - United Nations Mission to the Congo



Chrissy, a Fordham vet, served in the Army National Guard and the Army Reserves as a Signal Officer and a Civil Affairs Officer from 2004-2012. She deployed first to southern Iraq as a Communications Officer for a Battalion headquarters from 2007-2008. Her duties included installation, operation, and maintenance of communications equipment. In 2011, she deployed again to southern Iraq but this time she served as a liaison between the U.S. military and civilian leaders to build strong relationships in local communities focusing on capacity-building projects, micro grants for small businesses and worked with local leaders and government officials to improve development in their areas.

HOW EDGE4VETS MENTORS HELPED ME:

“In the military, I enjoyed being a part of something bigger than myself and functioning together as a team. I developed a lot of vital skills and values but didn’t quite realize how much of that I could translate into civilian life. The Edge4Vets workshops helped me put things into perspective. It didn’t click right away that maintaining jamming devices used in vehicles to counteract radio-controlled bombs allowed me to become much more detail-oriented and responsible while working quickly under pressure. The mentors provided suggestions to help me to talk confidently about my achievements without sounding arrogant and they offered invaluable advice on how best to present myself in job interviews so my values and skills would shine through.

CURRENTLY, (Chrissy wears the blue Chicago Cubs cap, right) I’m working with the UN Volunteers as an Associate Civil Affairs Officer in the Democratic Republic of Congo. I am supporting the stabilization mission, and it’s uncanny how well my military background in Civil Affairs has prepared me. My previous experience interacting with people from different backgrounds and cultures helps me engage people effectively and keep attuned to their beliefs and lifestyles. Plans are always subject to change so the helicopter may leave earlier or the mission to a village may be pushed back, but from my military experience I know to be prepared and always have an alternative course of action ready. I am loving the adventure and am grateful to Edge4Vets for providing me with the right tools to land the job I’ve always wanted.



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JOSEPH GAMEZ - Metropolitan Transit Authority



MILITARY SERVICE:

A Fordham vet, Joseph served in the Marines from 1988-2008 where he did everything from repairing and maintaining vehicles, equipment, & training personnel, hazardous material and waste management to being a combat tactics instructor (for enlisted), road master (tactical vehicle police), marksman, and sexual assault unit victim advocate.

Values such as “unselfishness, dependability, and commitment” and intangible skills such as “taking initiative, decisiveness, and judgment ” learned in the Marines “simplified my transition into civilian employment,” Joseph said. “Having grown up fatherless in a tough, gang-oriented neighborhood in Queens, the military provided the structure and training I needed to be a productive member of society. I learned how to become a man while in the service.”

He developed technical skills including: automotive troubleshooting and repair, maintenance management, personnel management, instructor technique, training management, and team building, with a special emphasis on TEAM BUILDING.

HOW EDGE4VETS MENTORS HELPED ME:

“The Edge4Vets program provided a forum that allowed me to appreciate how much the military had invested in me. This bolstered my confidence and helped me realize my value as an employee. It also helped me to effectively write my resume with accomplishments that I had been overlooking but are real and are marketable and could give me an edge when looking for a job.”

HOW JOSEPH IS APPLYING HIS MILITARY STRENGTHS IN CIVILIAN LIFE:

Joseph is a Superintendent for the Metropolitan Transportation Authority where he manages 28 supervisors located throughout the five boroughs – giving him a chance to apply his “team-building” skill. Within a month of starting he was selected to be a bus maintenance instructor, and one year later was selected to manage the Depot Training Supervisors (the best instructors in MTA.) “The same way I served my country, I now serve the citizens of NYC through the MTA. I’m a better husband, father, friend, family member, and overall citizen” because of the values of dependability, unselfishness, integrity and commitment I learned in the Marines.”



Edge4Vets: Profiles in Success

CARLOS DUQUE - MAYOR'S OFFICE, NYC

MILITARY SERVICE:



Carlos enlisted in the US Marine Corps in August of 2000 and continues to serve as a reserve Marine today. His Military Occupational Specialty was 0111 which consisted of performing administrative duties such as handling payroll, maintaining legal files, overseeing legal cases, investigations, medical boards, travel claims and many other forms of correspondence.

Values he inculcated included discipline, responsibility, accountability, honor to our country, commitment, and courage to face adversities.

“Being a Marine helped me develop so many skills,” he said. “Maintaining physical standards skills, as well as combat skills, adaptability, leadership skills, teamwork, camaraderie, resilience, and how to be tactful.”

HOW EDGE4VETS MENTORS HELPED ME:

He said, “I had difficulty translating my skills into civilian terminology on my resume so human resources reps could fully understand them. Attending the Edge4Vets workshops helped me see how values and skills I developed in the Marines around punctuality, mission accomplishment and team all were great strengths. The Edge4Vets mentors helped me learn how not only to express these strengths verbally but put them on paper, in resume form. Plus it was refreshing to have someone, such as a mentor from a big company, compliment me for my skills.”

HOW CARLOS IS USING HIS SKILLS TODAY:

Carlos graduated from John Jay College and currently works for the Mayor's Office serving people with disabilities. His military background working in administration, including serving with high-level officers and generals in Afghanistan, have helped him connect with and address people of all educational and professional levels. “Working in task forces with other branches of the US military, as well as with military members from other NATO countries and from Afghanistan, helped me develop into a well rounded professional with culture sensitivity so I can work well with our disabled population,” he said.

