



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS AIR FORCE PERSONNEL CENTER
JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH TEXAS

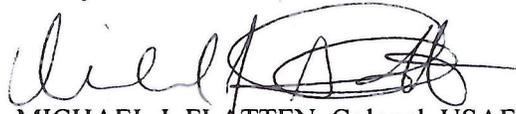
12 Aug 2019

MEMORANDUM FOR ALL COMMAND ELEMENTS

FROM: AFPC/DPFW
550 C. Street
JBSA-Randolph TX 78150

SUBJECT: Operation Warfighter Program

1. Operation Warfighter (OWF) is a non-paid federal internship program for Airmen on active duty. The objective of OWF is to place Airmen in a supportive work environment to assist their rehabilitation and potentially increase career readiness while enabling federal agencies to better familiarize themselves with the skill sets and challenges of Airmen. This program was inadvertently left out of the revised AFI 34-1101, *Warrior and Survivor Care*, dated 30 Apr 2019.
2. OWF is open to Airmen enrolled in Air Force Wounded Warrior Program (AFW2) or referred to the IDES. Each Airman must be medically ready and command approved for participation and their internship must not interfere with their medical profile, mandatory appointments, nor adversely affect their well-being or recovery. The Airman's Care Management Team to include his or her chain of command and medical provider will determine if the Airman is ready to participate in internship activities and complete the appropriate application approval forms.
3. AFW2 Program Managers, Recovery Care Coordinators, and OWF Regional Coordinators provide assistance and coordination for application, preparation, enrollment, continuance, and other administrative tasks for Airmen who wish to participate. Internships are currently limited to Federal agencies and range in duration and hours per week based on employer needs and Airman availability. They typically last 3 - 9 months and an average of 20 -30 hours per week. The work hours and duty location will be specified as part of the placement process and will serve as the Airman's place of duty unless otherwise excused by the chain of command. Follow-on employment is not a guaranteed outcome of the OWF program, although after transitioning from military service, the Airmen may gain full-time employment at the federal agency where he or she interned.
4. The positive aspects of this program cannot be understated. I ask command elements to strongly consider Wounded Warrior applications that come across their desk. We owe it to this group of Airmen and their families to strengthen their confidence and give them as many opportunities as possible to increase the likelihood of their success in the event they are transitioned into the civilian community.


MICHAEL J. FLATTEN, Colonel, USAF
Chief, Warrior Care