



# Wounded Veterans Internship Program

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Chief of Administration  
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# WOUNDED VETERANS INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

## Program Overview

- The Wounded Veterans Internship Program was initiated and funded by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) in 2006.
- VDOT was the first state Department of Transportation in the nation to create a Wounded Veterans Internship Program and it serves as a model for other state DOTs across the country.
- The program focuses on, but is not limited to, disabled veterans returning from Afghanistan and Iraq, who may have lost their job or are no longer physically or emotionally suited for the same work.
- VDOT works with a number of veteran service organizations to implement the program, which attempts to locate internships near the participant's home and rehabilitative facility.

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- **Internship placement depends on aptitude and interest, and could be in areas such as planning, finance, project management, security, procurement, quality control, information systems, engineering, civil rights and human resources.**
- **The internships are for one year or more, depending on the development of the veteran.**
- **Each intern is a VDOT hourly employee with 1500 hours.**

# PROGRAM GOALS

- Allow veterans to revamp old job skills or develop new skills.
- Meet the desires and needs of the Wounded Veterans while adding value to the VDOT workforce.
- Provide Wounded Veterans with on-the-job training and assistance in seeking full-time positions within VDOT, other state & federal agencies, or the private sector.



## RECRUITMENT

Wounded Veterans are recruited at Job Fairs and referrals are made by the Virginia Employment Commission, Department of Veterans Services, Vocational Rehabilitative Counselors of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and Veterans.

### Who Is Eligible?

- Wounded Veterans just returning from Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) or those who participated in Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF).
- Must have a service connected disability rating of 10% or more from the Department of Veterans Affairs.
- Veterans who currently reside in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- A total of 59 Wounded Veterans have been enrolled since March 2007.
- Thirty-five (35) Wounded Veterans have graduated from the program.
- Eight (8) Wounded Veterans accepted full-time positions with VDOT in property management, civil rights, and fleet management operations.
- Seventeen (17) graduates obtained full-time positions in the private sector or with other state and federal agencies in areas, such as, safety, human resources, training, land development, and engineering.
- Two (2) graduates returned to college as full-time students.

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- **Seventeen (17) are currently enrolled and seeking full-time employment:**

**Central Office (8)**

**Nova District (2)**

**Richmond District (1)**

**Bristol District(1)**

**Fredericksburg District (2)**

**Lynchburg District(1)**

**Hampton Roads District (2)**



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