



TAKE YOUR  
**Military Experience**  
AND TRANSITION TO A CAREER IN  
**Project Management**



*What do military veterans with a career in project management say?*

*"[After] a career in the Marine Corps...I moved into a Marine Communication field and my career progressed rapidly. I earned my PMP certification, top-secret clearance, and began my Master's in technical project management. Over the past three-plus years, my pay has increased by \$21,000 and I have earned valuable experience leading three successful projects that were delivered early, under budget, and with complete requirement satisfaction."*

*—USMC, now a  
Project Engineer*

### **Project Management Institute (PMI) research indicates that between 2010 and 2020:**

- **15.7 million** new project management roles will be created globally across project-intensive industries.
- The U.S. anticipates **double-digit growth** (more than 12%) in demand for project management practitioners, resulting in almost **US \$6.2 million** jobs in 2020.

Now is the right time to explore project management as your next career.

### **PROJECT MANAGEMENT: A FAST-GROWING PROFESSION**

PMI research identifies the **project management** profession as one of the fastest growing careers in the world. Project managers are highly valued in virtually all sectors.

### **Project Managers are in Demand**

In our project-driven world, more organizations are recognizing the value of having a skilled workforce to deliver successful projects and business outcomes. Some of these same organizations also acknowledge hiring military veterans with project management expertise as an essential strategy for maintaining a competitive advantage in the marketplace.

A career in project management can be very rewarding. This profession enables you to hone your skills as a leader or manager. In addition, according to PMI research, the average annual private sector **salary** for project managers in the United States is **US \$105,000**.

### **MILITARY EXPERIENCE TRANSLATES TO PROJECT MANAGEMENT SUCCESS**

The project management profession is an ideal career for military veterans transitioning into the civilian workforce. Your skills are directly transferable to the project management profession. Leading cross-functional teams to ensure accomplishment of mission objectives (strategic leadership skill), managing budgets and scheduling activities (technical skills), and conflict mediation and performance appraisal (soft skills), are all key proficiencies military veterans and project managers share.

You already have experience in "operationalizing" projects. Additionally, your strong "warrior ethos"—the mission is always first, never accept defeat, never quit, and never leave a fallen comrade — is appealing and can lead to organizational success.

### According to PMI President and CEO, Mark A. Langley:

*“Many veterans have project management experience—just under a different name. The challenge is in the translation and repackaging of their skill sets so that hiring managers spot their skills. Mission-related often translates to ‘projectized,’ and the government and military are highly projectized environments, which make many veterans a natural fit for the project management world.”*

Project management employers value military experience. Industry research suggests strong ties between military experience and the success of candidates interested in becoming a project management practitioner.

Overall, many military veterans have the personal and performance competencies to succeed as a certified project manager. With your experience and a PMI credential, you can distinguish yourself to potential employers and open doors to new opportunities.

### WHICH PROJECT MANAGEMENT CREDENTIAL IS RIGHT FOR YOU?

The decision to earn a project management certification is a big one, so make sure you choose one that best fits your current expertise and your future career plans. You can apply for any certification that matches your qualifications, and no certification is a prerequisite for another.

- **The Certified Associate in Project Management (CAPM)™** certification demonstrates your understanding of the fundamental knowledge, terminology and processes of effective project management.
- **The Project Management Professional (PMP)™** credential is the most important globally — recognized and independently validated credential for project managers; perfect if you have demonstrated experience and competence in leading project teams.
- **The Program Management Professional (PgMP)™** credential is designed for those who manage multiple, complex projects to achieve strategic and organizational results.
- **The Portfolio Management Professional (PfMP)™** credential recognizes the advanced experience and skills of portfolio managers and demonstrates proven ability in the coordinated management of one or more portfolios to achieve organizational objectives.
- There are four additional certifications and credentials: PMI Agile Certified Practitioner (PMI-ACP)™ certification, PMI Professional in Business Analysis (PMI-PBA)™ credential, PMI Risk Management Professional (PMI-RMP)™ credential; and PMI Scheduling Professional (PMI-SP)™ credential; all of which you can learn more about at [PMI.org/certification.aspx](http://PMI.org/certification.aspx).

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*“Get the PMP certification as soon as possible and work to maintain the certification by attending/participating in local PMI functions to stay current...I [learned] from others in the private sector that certifications may provide advantage over education alone.”*

*– Retired Military  
Linguist and IT  
Technician*

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## A PROJECT MANAGEMENT CAREER - TAKING THE FIRST STEP

- If you are interested in a bright and promising career in project management, you can explore many available programs and courses. PMI provides training, resources, and networking to help practitioners advance.
- PMI's website ([www.PMI.org](http://www.PMI.org)) offers a multitude of resources on career and professional development.
- Visit the "Learning" section of PMI's website and locate the "Training & Development" resources, including PMI's Professional and Career Development courses.
- The Professional Development courses help to improve your skill set, increase your value in an organization and enhance your career prospects through in-person and online training. PMI's *Career Central* is an information hub for knowledge, connections, employment opportunities and resources to empower your career.
- There are resources offered by other agencies as well. The Department of Defense has the Transition Assistance Program (DTAP), which provides information, tools, and training to ensure service members and their spouses are prepared for the next step in civilian life. Learn more at <https://dodtap.mil>.
- The Department of Veterans Affairs offers their eBenefits Portal. This portal contains career tools, information on veteran career fairs, employment opportunities and more to assist veterans seeking new opportunities and professional development. Visit [www.ebenefits.va.gov](http://www.ebenefits.va.gov) to learn more.
- You may also want to look at other PMI resources that may be helpful, including: *PMI Chapters* (<http://www.pmi.org/Get-Involved/Chapters-PMI-Chapters.aspx>) to see what kinds of networking, training, and other resources are available to you locally.
- For more information on project management and more resources visit [ProjectManagement.com](http://ProjectManagement.com).

*"Program or project management is like a marching band. There is a drum line and everyone takes their cues from the beat of the drums. Program-project managers are the drums—be the drums!"*

*Air Force, SAC Systems*

## Joining Forces Initiative

Our members of the Armed Forces and their families make great sacrifices and have gained significant training and experience in service to the nation. Despite having the most professional military force in history, service members and veterans struggle to receive formal recognition from the private sector for the training, experience, and skills they've earned. This inadvertently hinders organizations from capitalizing on these valuable skills.

As a partner in the **White House Joining Forces Initiative**, PMI is helping military veterans and families explore the many possibilities available in the project management profession.

## A Career in Project Management—Discover Your Transferable Skills

A career in project management is more achievable than you might think. Here are steps to guide those considering a project management profession:

- **Inventory Your Skills** — Some military experience actually qualifies as project management experience in the *Project Management Professional (PMP)*® program, or the entry level *Certified Associate in Project Management (CAPM)*® program for those with little or no project management experience.
- **Translate Your Skills** — Put those military skills into project management jargon used in the industry.
- **Explore Project Management (Projectized) Sectors** — Consider not only industries and companies currently operating in a project management manner, but also those emerging industries (i.e., healthcare and technology sectors) where high growth and increased demand for project managers are expected.
- **Meet People in the Field** — Research professional and trade organizations; network among individuals working in the industry and/or other military veteran project managers; or engage professional social media or chapter venues where project managers assemble. Discover people who can help you determine if project management is the right fit for you, and mentor you through the process.

## Discover how you can apply your skills toward an in-demand profession.

For additional assistance, if you are an individual interested in pursuing a certification and/or credential or learning more about PMI, please contact PMI's Customer Care team at 855-746-4849 or [customercare@pmi.org](mailto:customercare@pmi.org). If you represent an organization that is interested in how PMI can help, please contact PMI's Washington, D.C. office at [government.relations@pmi.org](mailto:government.relations@pmi.org).

**About PMI:** Project Management Institute is the world's leading not-for-profit professional membership association for the project, program and portfolio management profession. Founded in 1969, PMI delivers value for more than 2.9 million professionals working in nearly every country in the world through global advocacy, collaboration, education and research. PMI advances careers, improves organizational success and further matures the profession of project management through its globally recognized standards, certifications, resources, tools, academic research, publications, professional development courses, and networking opportunities.

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