

The Hero Career Playbook

5 Steps to Your Next Chapter After Service — a free guide from Go Heroes

You already have the hardest skills to teach: leadership under pressure, accountability, and calm in chaos. What most heroes lack after service isn't ability — it's a plan for translating that ability into civilian currency. These five steps are that plan.

Step 1 — Translate Your Service

Write your experience in the language hiring managers use. Convert every role into three lines: what you led (people, budget, equipment), what you improved (numbers help), and what you were trusted with. 'Supervised 12-person team, zero safety incidents in 18 months' beats any job title.

Step 2 — Pick the Lane Before You Chase Jobs

Decide your leadership identity first: operations, safety, training, logistics, management — then target roles that buy that identity. A focused search of 10 right-fit roles outperforms 100 scattered applications.

Step 3 — Close the Credential Gap

List the credentials your target roles actually require, then sequence them cheapest-first. Many heroes qualify for more credit for prior experience than they expect — and programs like the Go Heroes Leadership Academy and credentialing pathways exist to close the rest without starting over.

Step 4 — Build Proof, Not Just a Resume

Employers hire evidence. Take one visible project — a process you improved, a team you trained, a community program you led — and document the before, the action, and the result. That one page will do more than a second degree in most interviews.

Step 5 — Network on Purpose, With a Mentor

Join one professional association in your lane, attend one event a month, and find one mentor who is two steps ahead of you — not ten. Mentorship is a force multiplier: our Peer Mentorship Network matches transitioning heroes with established professionals for exactly this step.

Your 90-Day Starter Plan

- Weeks 1–2: Complete Step 1 — your translated experience sheet.

- Weeks 3–4: Complete Step 2 — your target lane and 10 right-fit roles.
- Month 2: Complete Steps 3–4 — credential plan plus one documented proof project.
- Month 3: Complete Step 5 — association joined, mentor conversation held, applications running.

Ready for the next step? Go Heroes' Leadership Academy, preparedness training, and mentorship network are built for exactly this. Visit goheroes.org or call 214-856-0498. • Go Heroes Inc is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, EIN 46-5092297, Canton, Texas. © 2026 Go Heroes Inc.