

# CAREERS & the disabled

THE CAREER, BUSINESS & EDUCATION MAGAZINE

DISABILITIES

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TOP TALENT WANTED

## SECURING OUR SAFETY

BY SANDRA H. SHICHTMAN

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TOP TALENT THAT HELPS SECURE OUR SAFETY, ONLINE AND OFFLINE, HERE AND ABROAD, IS VALUED AND WANTED IN GOVERNMENT AND MILITARY.

As threats from both foreign and domestic adversaries, online and offline, continue to escalate, career opportunities in government and military will continue to increase. That's why, in these uncertain times, military-related government departments are working even harder with private industry to make certain to keep our country safe from enemies both foreign and domestic.

They recognize the value of hiring wounded veterans and non-veteran candidates with disabilities who bring different and important perspectives to protecting our national security, online and offline. Indeed, government and military employers engage top talent to ensure and safeguard America's future.

Read how the careers of these featured professionals profiled here began and progressed, and learn how much their top-tier skills are wanted and valued at their respective organizations.

# COURTESY OF: CAREERS & THE disABLED



Tyler Smith, who's a veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps with certain disabilities that are service-related, but non-combat injuries, is a program manager at Dover Corporation's Pole/Zero, part of Dover's Microwave Products Group (MPG).

## SMITH USES HIS MARINE CORPS SKILLS IN HIS CIVILIAN CAREER AT POLE/ZERO, A DOVER COMPANY

BY SANDRA H. SHICHTMAN

TYLER SMITH GRADUATED IN MAY 2023 WITH A BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN BUSINESS LEADERSHIP AND WAS HIRED INTO THE DOVER CORPORATION'S POLE/ZERO, PART OF DOVER'S MICROWAVE PRODUCTS GROUP (MPG) THAT ANALYZES, DESIGNS, BUILDS, AND SUPPORTS SOLUTIONS FOR COMMERCIAL AND DEFENSE MANUFACTURERS, AS A PROGRAM ASSISTANT.

Prior to coming on board at Dover, Smith served in the U.S. Marine Corps for nearly nine years, and was honorably discharged in 2017. The Wounded Warrior Project (WWP) helped him prepare for transitioning out of the Marines, advising him about transitioning, helping him prepare his U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) documentation, and setting up interviews. He says that he has "certain disabilities that are service-related, but non-combat injuries."

During his service, Smith was a field radio operator. "I used many communication devices that tie into what we do here at Pole/Zero," he notes.

Before transitioning out of the Marines, he was a combat instructor. "[This] helped build my program-management skills, such as planning, preparations, risk management, and plan execution, [all skills I use at Pole/Zero, as well]," he adds.

Working with a recruiter to find a job that he could transition into easily, Smith had a phone interview and two in-person interviews with Pole/Zero. He was offered a position as a program assistant, and joined in November 2017. Three months after joining the company, Smith had the chance to interview for and receive a promotion into his current position as a program manager.

In this role he's responsible for all programs relating to the products or tunable filters side of the company, including research and development (R&D) programs for next-generation products and product modifications to existing off-the-shelf products, and various other programs relating to customer needs.

"[BEING A COMBAT INSTRUCTOR IN THE US MARINE CORPS] HELPED BUILD MY PROGRAM-MANAGEMENT SKILLS, SUCH AS PLANNING, PREPARATIONS, RISK MANAGEMENT, AND PLAN EXECUTION."

"Additionally, I assist with the production side of the organization when any assistance is needed with engineering support or planning and part of our continuous improvement team at Pole/Zero."

Smith indicates that the flexibility around his schedule and the resources available to him at Dover, should he experience issues outside of work that are related to his disabilities, are important to him.

In addition, and equally as important, there are multiple training and development opportunities for him to grow his career, according to Smith.

"Dover will assist with paying for things like project management professional (PMP) certifications, leadership training, and classes to work toward my master's degree," he adds.

**Learn about career opportunities at Austin, TX-headquartered Pole/Zero at [mpgdover.com/en/company/corporate-information/careers.html](https://mpgdover.com/en/company/corporate-information/careers.html) and Downers Grove, IL-headquartered Dover at [dovercorporation.com/about-us/careers](https://dovercorporation.com/about-us/careers). Connect on LinkedIn, YouTube, X and Facebook.**