



ACAP: Relevant. Good for the Soldier

An Open Letter from The ACAP Center

As a unit leader in a combat zone you made sure before any of your Soldiers went out on a mission they were "Good to Go" - as ready as they could be for whatever could happen. That was your job, and a sacred trust. The fact you cared, combined with your experience, sense of duty, attention to detail, and sometimes your size 11 boot, is what got them through a rough and dangerous time.

Many Soldiers who served us well in Iraq or Afghanistan, or who knows where else, are now getting out of the Army to go on to do other things, and we need your help to get them ready. Just as you would prepare your Soldiers for a mission, ACAP prepares them for the outside world.

We show Soldiers their transition benefits and how their military skills and experience translate into the civilian job market, help them determine their true market value, how to put their best foot forward and how to find the job that's right for them. We also help them understand what the Army offers is often more than they think and that they should look carefully before they leap.

How can you help? Encourage your separating Soldiers to take advantage of the full ACAP process - it only takes a few days - and don't let them lose their focus in the rush of leave or clearing for separation. Tell them to trust you one more time when you say they need to think of their future and the unit can do without them for a few days. Then cut them loose so they can get to the ACAP Center. Don't let someone else use them like a rented mule just because they're getting out.

And don't forget yourself. As former SMA Jack Tilley said, "I wish I'd started preparing earlier for retirement." So, start thinking about it, and come see us when you're two years out.

Thanks,

