

Kyle Kaiser

VIPER Transitions

Biography

I was born and raised in southern California and joined the Army after graduating with an Associate's Degree from Riverside community College. I served as a U.S. Army Airborne Infantry Sniper in Apache Company 1-501(ABN) INF 4-25 BCT and did tours in Iraq and Afghanistan. I was blessed that there were no casualties of the soldiers in my charge while deployed. During the two and a half years deployed to combat with these soldiers, I was not prepared for the battle that was looming when we made it home. As a Sniper Team leader and Infantry Squad leader, I led and provided guidance and brought them home safely. After valiantly serving their country they exited the Army, like so many do, without any marketable skills. They were looking for a sense of purpose, meaningful employment, a chance to succeed. But, when my brothers in arms saw ending their lives as their only option, I felt defeated. A darkness settled over me and I knew something needed to change. My new purpose stared me in the face-to dedicate my energy to make sure this evil is stopped.

I started VIPER to bring about a vital change. VIPER programs are free and available to all Veterans. Just as importantly we offer this training to Military Spouses. VIPER creates pathways of inclusion into the civilian workforce for all who serve our country.

Saying yes to veteran hire is saying yes to including those who put their lives on the line for our freedom. It is imperative that we as a nation recognize the sacrifices our veterans and military families make for our way of life. The solution is simple, include veterans in workforce development plans.

As my testimony I have submitted the white paper I wrote explaining why having a solid pathway to careers is key to building a healthy, strong, and successful workforce. Especially when it comes to serving those who have served us.

Thank you for the opportunity to share who I am and why VIPER is here to stay.