

Frustration

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Digital Print (2012), Courtesy of Michael Dooley

Description:

Frustration is representative of how some service members feel trying to find employment after returning to civilian life. If pan handling works for some, then maybe we can panhandle for a job too.

This idea came to me in 2008 while trying to find employment after being Honorably Discharged from the military. I had applied

at a variety of shopping centers, tool stores, and gas stations but got the impression no one wanted to offer me a position, even though they were hiring.

At the time I lived in the city of Chicago, and it is hard to get on or off the highways without seeing someone panhandling. So the idea came to me that I should stand out there in my uniform and ask for a job, and not your change.

Now let me make this clear: I did have a GED. Prior to military service I was a systems analyst in an IT department. It was my sole responsibility as a part of my job to manage my company's servers coast-to-coast. I have been working in the information technology sector since I was about 19 years old. I say that because I feel there are people who would dismiss me and say I have no real work experience. Or they might think that being in the military means I couldn't hack it in the real world. That is not the case!