



Name:
John Giasullo

Class:
December 2015

Hometown:
Billerica, MA

“I was proud to serve my country in the U.S. Army and I’m proud to continue serving my community as a paramedic and in the ER.”

“Center for MEDICS has given me invaluable experience and exposure to all different types of EMS working with all different types of hospitals. I can now take this experience and make my own choice about the type of EMS work I want to do in the future. The opportunities are nearly endless.”

Student Spotlight

Background/Transition

I joined the U.S. Army at 19 years old, after growing up in Billerica, MA, and spent seven years in the service. I did two tours in Afghanistan and spent time working as a nurse and medic. After my discharge, I was trying to figure out where to go next – maybe school, maybe work. And I found myself thinking back to when I wanted to be a firefighter, which was really about wanting to help others in their times of need. As a military medic, I spent much of my time focused on trauma and traumatic injuries, much like an EMT, helping others as I’d always wanted to.

When I returned to Massachusetts, my Army experience as a medic qualified me for EMT certification. I liked working in ambulances in hands-on, fast-paced emergency situations and realized that the next step in my career would be to become a full paramedic.

Why Pro EMS Center for MEDICS?

The question for me was to figure out specific next steps in continuing my education to become a paramedic. Did I want to go to college? Or did I want more specialized training? After meeting with the team at Pro EMS Center for MEDICS, I knew it was the right place for me. The program actually feels similar to some of my training in the military – hands-on, situational, experiential learning in simulated environments. It felt familiar and I knew it worked.

Some of the CFM instructors also come from a military background, and it was helpful to have that common experience. It gave me confidence in my decisions to know that others had walked the same path I was on. As an Army Medic, I had some experience with suturing, starting IVs, airway management, and other emergency procedures. The program and instructors at CFM are able to build on the skills I already had to give me a fully developed and complete paramedic education. The combination of classroom and clinical, real-world learning is invaluable and really helps all students understand and retain the concepts and procedures needed in emergency situations.

Advice for Other Veterans

Research all the different types of educational opportunities open to you through the G.I. Bill. Using those resources to further my education at Center for MEDICS has been incredibly rewarding for me.

When you’re trying to figure out what comes after a military career, make a plan and a backup plan. Be thorough about your research before making any decisions, because it can be hard to change paths once you’re on one. But if you know yourself, take some initiative, and work towards a goal you can achieve what you want to.

About Pro EMS Center for MEDICS

As the first nationally accredited paramedic program in the state of Massachusetts, Pro EMS Center for MEDICS offers a rigorous paramedic program, as well as a variety of specialty courses that are designed to allow EMS service providers to achieve the highest standards in the industry.

The Center works with all members of the EMS community – from EMTs and Paramedics to Firefighters, Police Officers, Military Personnel, Physicians, and Nurses. It is the first EMS educational facility in Massachusetts to be accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) upon the recommendation of the Committee on Accreditation of Educational Programs for the Emergency Medical Services Professions (CoAEMSP). The Center is also accredited by Massachusetts Department of Public Health as a Training Institution.

For more information about Pro EMS Center for MEDICS, please visit www.centerformedics.com or call (617) 682-1811.

Student Profile

Pro EMS Center for MEDICS Student and Veteran John Giasullo Puts Military Skills to Work as a Paramedic

John Giasullo, a United States Army veteran and a native of Billerica, MA, is a student at Pro EMS Center for MEDICS (CFM) who enrolled to experience a rigorous paramedic program that also offers a variety of specialty courses designed to help EMS service providers achieve the highest standards in the industry. John's military career helped give John a wide variety of skills and training that supports a career as a paramedic. He expects to graduate as a paramedic from CFM in December 2015.

John joined the U.S. Army at the age of 19 and spent seven years in military service. He did two tours of duty in Afghanistan and spent time working as a military nurse and medic in the field and on base, gaining significant experience in managing trauma situations in high-stress environments. After his military discharge, he knew he wanted to continue working in EMS and helping patients facing traumatic situations, but was unsure if he should find work in the field or go back to school.

"After meeting with the team at Center for MEDICS, I knew that was the right place for me," said John. "The hands-on, fast-paced style of teaching felt very comfortable and familiar to me. It's very similar to how we were taught in the military, with a focus on clinical simulations that teach you how to assess and treat patients quickly in practical situations. Students leave CFM with confidence in their own skills and knowledge because of the practical training CFM provides."

John always knew he wanted a hands-on career that involved helping others in their times of need. He had been drawn to firefighting, but his experience as a military medic showed him the rewards of working in EMS. After being certified as an EMT, becoming a paramedic through a program like the one offered at Center for MEDICS was the next step on John's career path.

Some of the CFM instructors also have a military background. According to John, it was helpful for him to have that shared background and experience. "It gave me confidence in my decisions to know that others had walked the same path I was on," said John. "As an Army Medic, I had some experience with suturing, starting IVs, airway management, and other emergency procedures. The program and instructors at CFM are able to build on the skills I already had to give me a fully developed and complete paramedic education. The combination of classroom and clinical, real-world learning is invaluable and really helps all students understand and retain the concepts and procedures needed in emergency situations."

John is excited about the opportunities for his career in EMS. He enjoys working in the ER and other fast-paced environments, and appreciates the connections and networks he has formed in Boston's extensive medical community through CFM.