

GETTING OUT ALIVE

SO YOU'RE FACING THE END OF YOUR TOUR OF DUTY AT THE UNIVERSITY, AND YOU'RE HAVING TROUBLE STAYING FOCUSED. WELL, YOU'D BETTER STAY SHARP, BECAUSE THIS IS THE TIME MORE THAN ANY OTHER WHEN YOUR MISSION CAN GET FUBARED. A SHARP, FOCUSED MIND WILL SERVE YOU WELL WHEN COMPLETING YOUR FINAL OPERATIONS, WHICH ARE OFTEN THE MOST DIFFICULT. BUT LET'S FACE IT: THE LIGHT AT THE END OF

THE TUNNEL CAN BE BLINDING. FIGHTING OFF THE APATHY AND LETHARGY IS PARAMOUNT TO YOUR SUCCESS—AND TO GETTING OUT OF THIS WAR ZONE WITH ALL OF YOUR LIMBS INTACT. REMEMBERING WHAT YOU'VE BEEN FIGHTING FOR (THAT IS, YOURSELF) CAN HELP PUSH YOU THROUGH TO THE BITTERSWEET END, BUT OFTEN IT'S NOT ENOUGH. KEEP THESE EXTRACTION PROTOCOLS IN MIND TO SEE YOUR WAY THROUGH TO DISCHARGE.



WHISKEY-INDIA-ECHO (WORKING IS EASIER)

University is a constant bombardment of stress. At times, it's more than a full-time job. But the work world is a bit different—it's a place where "nine to five" means nine to five. That means hopefully no more late nights poring over intel for the next day's interrogation.

FOXTROT-SIERRA-GOLF (FINISHED SCHOOL FOR GOOD)

You made it through to the end, trooper. Feel free to stop now and get yourself out of this mess—just make sure you aren't

followed. After all, it took a lot out of you, and most agents line up for reassignment the first chance they get.

GOLF-BRAVO-DELTA (GOOD-BYE DEBT)

It might take a while, but it's time to stop living like a serf with huge amounts of debt and time to start living like a serf paying it off. Most student loan programs will offer a grace period of up to six months after graduation before you have to start paying interest, and you'd be a fool not to take advantage of this. You'll probably have the urge to treat yourself to an extended overseas vacation after crossing the stage, and maybe

you don't see the point of worrying about a few extra thousand dollars of debt. However, think of the money you'll save on the extra interest you didn't have to pay—money that can go towards buying a vehicle or even a housing unit.

DELTA-ECHO-ALPHA (DEGREE EQUALS AWESOME)

Congratulations, you've completed your assignment. As underwhelming as it may feel, it's actually a damn fine accomplishment. Be proud, soldier—put that piece of paper on your fridge or something.



43 Weekday Schedule

AM	University Transit Centre Depart Eastbound	122 Street 51 Avenue Depart Southbound	119 Street 28 Avenue Depart Eastbound	Heritage Transit Centre Arrive Northbound	Heritage Transit Centre Depart Northbound	Saddleback Road 27 Avenue Depart Westbound	172 Street 48 Avenue Depart Northbound
	A	B	C	D	D	E	F

CIVILIAN LIFE

While you may have gotten out of your assignment alive, the things you saw and were forced to do will likely haunt you forever. You'll never be the same again, no matter how long you're away from it. But you knew what you were getting in to when you signed up for this post—the stress and nightmares just comes with the territory. Just don't say we didn't warn you.

There will definitely be an adjustment period once you leave your tour of duty. You'll probably find yourself less tired, with more free time on your hands, and maybe even with some disposable income. However, you can quadruple the first two and completely negate the last if you fail to get a job.

Lots of former recruits will lament the lack of opportunity in their respective fields. While this may be true for some vocations, the bulk of you shouldn't have problems landing jobs outside of the force. However, first and foremost, realize you're probably not going to stumble into your dream assignment right away, if ever. You've been trained for pain resistance: deal with it for a second or two, realize it's not going to kill you, and move on.

That said, respectable employment can be secured if you look hard and put yourself out there. Sites like Career and Placement Services (ualberta.ca/CAPS), Craigslist (edmonton.craigslist.org), and the Canada Job Bank (job-bank.gc.ca) are all great places to start and can often lead to a good job, but they are often infiltrated by agents from around the country. Instead, put the skills of hard work and determination that you learned as a cadet.

Conduct recon on the organizations that you think might be a good fit for your skills, and then hit the Streets. Drop off cover letters (take the time to actually do a different one for each job) and CVs at their offices, regardless of whether or not they have any openings listed. Leave no stone unturned.

Look to government agencies as well. There are countless departments at both the federal and provincial level, and almost any degree can be put to use somewhere. Look into which ones you think would be a good fit for you, and contact their HR department. A lot of hiring for mid-level positions is done internally, which then opens up entry-level positions for you to slip into.

Lastly, utilize your former superiors. The people who shaped you into the person you are—professors—often have great connections that they will pass on and that can lead to great jobs. At the very least, they should be able to offer some good suggestions for employers you would have never thought of, and reference letters from profs you were involved in research projects with are invaluable. This also means you should start sucking up now.

Subject to change without notice.

L=Low Floor Bus

RE-ENLISTMENT

If, after serving your first tour of duty, all you can say is "thank you sir, may I have another?", then this is when your past performance will really count. You'd better hope you kept your GPA high and made plenty of contacts in high places, or your chances of getting in again undetected will be slim to none.

Grad school or an after-degree is always a viable option following graduation, but it's something that you should consider before jumping in head-first. Is it really something you want to do, especially after the four-to-eight-year quagmire that was your undergrad experience?

That said, if you do choose to re-enlist, your rank will be increased. That's right: more work, more responsibility, and more consequences for failure. If you're already sweating about this new assignment, it's probably best you walk away from front lines right now.

If you think you may like to stay on and get re-assigned, you have the choice of moving to another base of operations. While admittance is not guaranteed, it's sometimes a good option to pursue. Research other schools online, and don't be afraid to contact that institution's brass to get more information.

That's all we here at Operation Gateway can reveal to you for now. If you have the proper clearance levels, you can access more information, including supplemental reading and photographic material, off of our website at www.thegatewayonline.ca

Of course, this kind of intel doesn't declassify itself. This feature was brought to you by the Gateway staff, with photo contributions from special agents Michelle Chan, Steffi Roskopf, Nick Wiebe, and Pete Yee.

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