

# THE NEXT MISSION

A FILM BY ROADTRIP NATION



RESOURCE AND VIEWING GUIDE FOR TRANSITIONING SERVICE MEMBERS



ROADTRIP NATION

# THE NEXT MISSION

For over 15 years, Roadtrip Nation has made it our mission to help individuals pursue fulfilling careers aligned with their interests and strengths. **We show people how to turn the things they like into careers they love**—and we do it with the most powerful of tools: personal stories.

From MMA fighters to filmmakers, we've sat down with professionals of all kinds and asked them honest questions about their struggles, successes, and how they figured out the age-old question, **"What should I do with my life?"** These conversations form the foundation of our career resources, which introduce job-seekers to new paths and how to pursue them.

We believe that anyone can harness their skills, passions, and experiences to find a fulfilling career—or to find a new one if that career runs its course. With that in mind, we've joined forces with the USO Transition 360 Alliance to support a vitally important group that's taking on the mission of finding new careers: transitioning service members and veterans.

Over the next five years, an estimated one million service members will transition back into civilian communities. **These military personnel faced untold challenges during service—but one of their most formidable missions will be reintegration into civilian society and finding new purpose.**

**Whether you're a transitioning service member, a veteran, or an ally of the military community, you can use Roadtrip Nation's resources** to explore all of the possibilities of post-military life and learn from veterans who have successfully navigated the transition.

Moving into a new phase of life is never easy, but by discovering the opportunities that await, we know the talented men and women who have served our country can thrive in the next chapter—and beyond.

## ABOUT THIS VIEWING GUIDE

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We created this guide to accompany our documentary film *The Next Mission*, which follows three transitioning service members as they travel the U.S. to discover their purpose in the civilian world. Throughout this resource, you'll find discussion questions that prompt transitioning service members to reflect on their service, their strengths, and how they can apply their skill sets to new ventures.

Transitioning service members are the primary audience for this guide, but they aren't the only ones who can benefit from it—it's also a great way for family members, potential employers, and others to learn more about supporting successful military transition.

## HOW TO USE THIS VIEWING GUIDE

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### Step 1: Watch

This viewing guide is a companion resource to [our documentary \*The Next Mission\*](#). To get the most out of this guide, first watch the documentary, then begin working through the discussion questions.

★ *Warning: The following program contains scenes of war. Viewer discretion is advised.*

★ *Total documentary running time: 60 minutes*

### Step 2: Reflect

Once you've watched the film, use this guide as a catalyst for further exploration and discussion. Pass out the guide and either divide transitioning service members into small groups or work with them one on one to facilitate meaningful discussions.

Throughout this guide, transitioning service members will be challenged to explore six key themes covered in the film: **Transition, Success and Failure, Purpose, Mindset, Openness, and Transformation.**

### Step 3: Connect

After viewing the film, encourage transitioning service members to explore the many resources that are available to them. Below is a list of helpful links you can provide as a starting point.

1. Visit [roadtripnation.com](http://roadtripnation.com) to watch more interviews with successful professionals and engage with interactive tools.
2. Visit [USO.org/360](http://USO.org/360) to connect with free tools and resources to plan for the future, pursue a new career, and strengthen your family.

## THE NEXT MISSION: FILM SYNOPSIS

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In the spring of 2016, Roadtrip Nation partnered with the USO Transition 360 Alliance to send three transitioning service members on an unforgettable road trip. For four weeks, the team sought out fellow veterans who have successfully transitioned into the workforce, gaining the insights they need to tackle their next mission: the transition into civilian life.

## MEET THE ROAD-TRIPPERS

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### HELEN CHANDLER

Age 33  
Enterprise, AL

Helen Chandler has always considered herself a soldier, through and through. She was literally born in an Army helicopter, watched her parents serve, and dedicated 15 years to service in the Air Force and the Army. But after being forced to retire early due to an injury, the military identity that's been the driving force of her life feels like it's been snatched away. She's struggling to cope with the loss of who she was, but looks forward to who she can become when she applies her skills and experience to new avenues.



### SAM SHOCKLEY

Age 28  
Tacoma, WA

From an early age, Sam Shockley was drawn to the military's philosophy of camaraderie and selfless service. He enlisted in the Army as soon as he finished high school, ready to offer a lifetime of service. But during a tour of Afghanistan, while leading his team, he stepped on an explosive device and lost both legs. The incident sent him spiraling into depression, but with the help of his family and community, he feels he's finally ready to take hold of his life and find a passion that will push him forward.



### BERNARD EDWARDS

Age 35  
Oahu, HI

Bernard Edwards spent his childhood bouncing from country to country as his family was dispatched to different military installations. This nomadic upbringing—and the cultures, philosophies, and people he encountered along the way—inspired him to join the Air Force. Now retired, Bernard seeks to pursue the one thing that's always driven him: travel and self-discovery. He's starting a nonprofit that helps fellow veterans keep adventure in their lives, but he's looking for guidance to realize his vision.

# TRANSITION

Moving from one way of life to another is no easy task, and the path forward is rarely the same for everyone.

As road-tripper Bernard says, there's no cookie-cutter way to transition from one way of life to another. Service members all come home to different lives and different circumstances.

*How have you changed as a result of your military service?*

*How would you describe the person you were before you joined the military?*

*How would you describe the person you are today? What are the biggest differences?*

*Sometimes it can feel as though you have to let go of everything you experienced during your service to move forward—but maybe you don't have to let it all go. How can you honor your time as a service member and combine who you were then with who you are now—and who you want to become in the future?*

Veteran, athlete, author, and speaker Daniel Rodriguez came home to a place that was the same; however, he was different. He pushed away from those who wanted to help him because he felt like no one could understand what he had gone through except those he'd served with.

*In what ways do you feel like no one else understands what you've gone through?*

*What are three things you can do to help your family, friends, and community understand who you are and what you've experienced during your service? How might this help others to support you during your transition?*



# SUCCESS & FAILURE

While our society describes success and failure as opposites, many Roadtrip Nation interviewees have shown us how closely related they really are. Success can be defined in terms of happiness rather than money and status. In fact, success often comes after experiencing valuable failures that point you in the right direction.

Robert Kiyosaki, veteran and best-selling author, credits his military training as the reason for his success. He says the military not only taught him valuable life skills, it taught him “keep failing until you get it right.”

*During your military service, was there ever a skill that you failed at a few times before you got it right?*

*What valuable skills do you feel you have to offer because of your experience in the military?*

*Thinking about the skills you just listed above, what careers come to mind that utilize these skills or consider them valuable?*

YouTube star and entrepreneur Mat Best experienced failure before he achieved success. Before he began to gain traction and hit his stride on YouTube, he made plenty of videos that people hated. “You have to make sacrifices on a personal level to be successful at what you want to do,” he says.

*As a civilian, recall a time that you failed at something. What did you learn because of that failure?*

*How were you able to use that failure to move forward and inform your next attempt?*



*“The reason why most people aren’t successful is because they don’t fail enough. I attributed most of my financial and business success to military education.”*

Robert Kiyosaki  
Best-Selling Author & Entrepreneur

# PURPOSE

We all want to find our reason for being, our intention. Our purpose is clear during an assigned mission, but it's not always as clear once we return home.

Fitness was always an important part of Army veteran Derek Weida's life, but after he lost his leg in combat, he felt there was no longer a reason for his fitness. Feeling cut off from the world, he regained his purpose when friends convinced him to join their Tough Mudder obstacle race team. With the help of his friends, Derek finished the race, inspiring others with his determination. The race helped Derek find a new path. "I help other people," he says. "That's my meaning and purpose." He learned that sharing his story can help others realize what they're capable of; if he can do it, they can, too.

*Have you ever done something you didn't think you could do at first? What was that experience like?*

*Have you ever felt as though you've lost your purpose? If so, what are some steps you can take, like Derek did, to find purpose in civilian life?*

*What parts of your story can you share with others to inspire them to try things they never thought they could do?*

Speaker and activist Jas Boothe was honorably discharged after receiving a cancer diagnosis, and the rapid changes in her life left her feeling alone and without purpose. She prepared to fight for her life against cancer just as she'd fought during service—but this time she thought she was on her own. It wasn't until she saw the struggles of others that she realized she wasn't alone; seeing other service members return from their missions with similar challenges gave her strength and a sense of camaraderie. Jas realized that the warrior ethos she maintained during service was just as important to her purpose in civilian life as it was during her military career.

*Have you ever felt alone? How did you overcome those feelings?*

*What are three things you can do to prevent yourself from feeling alone in the future?*

*How might you help another transitioning service member feel less alone?*

# MINDSET

Your mindset describes your overall outlook on life. It can be positive, negative, or anywhere in between—and it can change or be changed by experiences you have throughout your life.

Retired MMA fighter and former Marine Brian Stann realized that he needed to change his mindset in order to keep moving forward. “When you focus on the negative, then you will it to happen,” he says. “Focus on what is and what you can do.”

*How might you shift your mindset to be more positive?*

*How can you focus on “what is and what you can do” in your own life?*

Road-tripper Sam calls his dark place the “bat cave”—a reference to a time when he struggled with addiction and depression. Interviewee Daniel Rodriguez shares his battle with suicidal thoughts, advising that to overcome hardship, you need to “utilize the resources around you, whatever they are.”

*If depression begins to affect you, how can you avoid getting stuck in your own “bat cave”?*

*What are some resources you can tap to help you overcome your obstacles?*



*“No matter what your circumstances are, everybody has adversity, everybody has tragedy, but you can come out. Shed that image. We’ll flourish.”*

Daniel Rodriguez  
Athlete, Author & Motivational Speaker

# OPENNESS

Being open to new experiences, environments, people, and ideas is something that most service members can relate to. When you first joined the military, you learned right away that being flexible and adaptable were key skills you would need to master.

MMA trainer Danny Ruiz encourages the road-trippers to take time for “mat therapy” as they practice jujitsu with other veterans in Danny’s gym. His students learn to get comfortable in bad positions while on the mat so they can use it as a lesson for later. “If you can breathe here, you can breathe anywhere,” he says.

*When was the last time you did something outside your comfort zone that turned out to be a positive experience?*

*“Mat therapy” isn’t limited to the gym—it’s a concept that can be actualized in a number of different ways. If jujitsu or grappling isn’t your thing, what activities can you do to get your “mat therapy”?*

*What are some ways you can practice getting comfortable in what seems like a bad position in order to be more prepared for the future?*



# TRANSFORMATION

During your transition, it's possible that you will experience some dramatic changes as you evolve from who you are today to who you want to become in the future. Bumps in the road come with the territory, but creating a positive and fulfilling future has a lot to do with how you approach the journey.

Jas Boothe struggled with understanding her new role in civilian life. After serving with others for so long, she says, "The hardest part of transitioning was becoming an individual." Jas identified herself as a warrior during active duty, but after she returned home, people expected her to be traditionally feminine. She learned how to be both a woman and a warrior, and that it's OK to be both.

*Have you ever felt like you had to play one role during certain situations, while playing a different role in other areas of your life? How did you deal with the challenge of acting differently in each of these settings?*

*How does your role or identity in civilian life differ from your identity during active duty military life? How might these identities overlap and work together to create a unified identity?*

Jacqueline Carrizosa came home after her deployment just wanting to fit in. She didn't want people to treat her differently, and to some extent, she wasn't sure if she even wanted people to know she was a veteran. Finding her place in civilian life wasn't easy, but she was able to find a career she loves that combines the best of her military training with her talent for teaching others.

*Have you ever felt like you didn't want someone to know you were in the military in order to avoid being treated differently? In what ways does being open about serving benefit you or have a positive impact on your life?*

*Jacqueline found a career where she combines her talents and interests. List two of your talents and two of your interests. What are some careers that would allow you to combine some of the talents and/or interests that you listed?*



*"Be proud of who you are and who you were. But also, yesterday is yesterday, today is today. Do something today."*

Jacqueline Carrizosa  
Fitness & Weapons Instructor

## Closing Conversations:

*How were you able to relate to each of the road-trippers?*

*Helen:*

*Sam:*

*Bernard:*

*Which interviewee did you relate to the most? Why?*

*What quote or quotes from the documentary will you take with you as you continue your journey of transitioning?*

## POST-VIEWING RESOURCES:

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### The Interview Archive

Free Membership

This online career exploration resource can help you connect what you love to educational and career possibilities. You'll start by answering a quick sequence of self-assessment questions to identify your core interests. Based on your answers, we'll show you careers that match what you like to do, as well as advice from professionals working in those fields.

With this viewing guide, we're offering you a free membership to the Roadtrip Nation Interview Archive so you can watch full video interviews and exclusive clips to inform your path. Follow these instructions to get your free membership:

1. Go to [roadtripnation.com/user/signup](https://roadtripnation.com/user/signup)
2. Create an account
3. Click on "Membership"
4. Enter this promo code: **G6JBSU2C**
5. Hit the "Explore" tab at the top to start your journey
6. Share this code with others so they can get inspired, too!

### Share Your Road

Visit: [veterans.shareyourroad.com](https://veterans.shareyourroad.com)

To get somewhere, it helps to see how others navigated the same path. So we've created an online community where veterans who have successfully reintegrated into civilian life can share advice with service members who are in transition. Discover a community of people who know what it takes—and what it feels like—to pivot toward a new chapter of life.

Don't just get advice—give it, too. Now that you've heard the stories of each road-tripper and the many transitioned veterans they spoke with on their trip, share your own story and what you've learned in the course of transition. The more veterans share their experiences, the less lonely others feel. And if someone you know has a story that could help others, encourage them to share, too!

### **Transition 360 Alliance**

Visit: [USO.org/360](https://www.uso.org/360)

The USO Transition 360 Alliance brings together partner organizations that will keep you connected to family, home, and country during your transition to civilian life. Preparation is key, so beginning to think about transition early on can often lead to a smoother process—both for the service member and their family.



**#TheNextMission**

# INTERVIEW GUIDE



Over the next five years, an estimated one million service members will transition back into civilian communities. These military personnel faced untold challenges during service—but one of their most formidable missions will be reintegration into civilian society and finding new purpose.

Whether you're a transitioning service member, a veteran, or an ally of the military community, you can use Roadtrip Nation's resources to explore all of the possibilities of post-military life and learn from veterans who have successfully navigated the transition.

## ABOUT THIS INTERVIEW GUIDE

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The following interview guide focuses on full-length interviews from the documentary *The Next Mission*. Each of the four featured interviews shares the story of a professional who has successfully transitioned from military to civilian life. They're asked about their struggles, successes, and how they figured out the age-old question, "What should I do with my life?" These four individuals embody what it means to serve honorably and transition successfully, which can often be a difficult venture.

Transitioning service members are the primary audience for this guide, but they aren't the only ones who can benefit from it—it's also a great way for family members, potential employers, and others to learn more about supporting a successful military transition.

## HOW TO USE THIS INTERVIEW GUIDE

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### Step 1: Watch

This interview guide is a companion resource to four select full-length interviews from the documentary film *The Next Mission*. To watch, go to [roadtripnation.com/user/signup](https://roadtripnation.com/user/signup) and create an account, then click on the "Membership" tab and enter the code **GP841A41**. Click on the "Explore" tab and you're ready to watch. To get the most out of this guide, first watch each interview, then review the related reflection questions.

### Step 2: Reflect

Watch each interview and use the questions as catalysts for exploration and reflection. Each leader speaks to different interests, themes, and foundations. Consider themes that you have struggled with in your own life and what your personal interests and foundation might be. Remember that your foundation is the thing you enjoy doing no matter how much money, time, or experience you have.

### Step 3: Take Action

After viewing each interview and responding to the reflection questions, use this section to list actions you might be able to take in order to kick-start your transition into civilian life or help others along their journey.



Transition 360 Alliance™



# DEREK WEIDA

Co-Founder & President, The Next Objective

*“I believe that we’re all great. You’re great! You’re lost? You’re sad? I don’t care: you’re great. Go be great.”*

## LEADER INFO

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### Interests

Action Sports, Sports

### Themes

Confidence, Inspiration, Negativity, Struggle, Individualism, Transitions

### Foundation

Helping People

### Step 1: Watch

Watch the full interview with Derek Weida: [roadtriplnation.com/leader/derek-weida](https://roadtriplnation.com/leader/derek-weida)

### Step 2: Reflect

Sam said that Derek inspired him to “push further and harder” during his workout. Who inspires you to push further, and how has this person inspired you?

What motivated you to join the military? How has this source of motivation in your life changed or stayed the same? How can you build off the same motivation source in your civilian life?

How can you motivate or inspire others to “go be great”?

### Step 3: Take Action

Derek was able to find a way to give himself purpose and have something to look forward to. List three things you can look forward to in the next few months.

Now, list three goals you would like to set for yourself during these next few months. Maybe you’d like to find a new job, eat healthier, or clean out your garage. As you list each goal, think about what steps you might take to start working toward accomplishing these goals. Write down your plan under each goal.



# JACQUELINE CARRIZOSA

Instructor, Firearms for Life

*“Be proud of who you are and who you were, but yesterday is yesterday—do something today.”*

## LEADER INFO

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### Interests

Action Sports, Armed Services

### Themes

Goals, Passion, Struggle, Transitions, Experience, Opportunity, Conflict, Societal Pressures, Education

### Foundation

Being Physically Active

### Step 1: Watch

Watch the full interview with Jacqueline Carrizosa: [roadtripnation.com/leader/jacqueline-carrizosa](https://roadtripnation.com/leader/jacqueline-carrizosa)

### Step 2: Reflect

Have you ever felt encouraged to “step up your game” after being around someone you admired? What was that experience like?

Jacqueline had to learn the value of patience. Explain a time when you had patience and it paid off for you in the long run.

Jacqueline was able to build a career around her military training. Think about your training and reflect on what you enjoyed learning the most. What industries might celebrate the unique skills that you have mastered during your time of service?

### Step 3: Take Action

Opportunities can come when you least expect them. How can you take steps to prepare yourself for opportunities in your future? Maybe you’d like to take a class to learn a new skill, or move to a city where there are more job opportunities in your field of interest. List three things you can do to prepare for your next opportunity.

Jacqueline says, “Yesterday is yesterday—do something today.” List one thing you can do today to take a step forward in reaching your goals, and explain how that action will help you get closer to your goals.



# JAS BOOTHE

Founder, Final Salute

*“We live in one of the greatest countries in the world because we don’t have to ask permission to make a difference.”*

## LEADER INFO

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### Interests

Entrepreneurship, Non-Profit Organizations

### Themes

Dedication, Opportunity, Support & Encouragement, Struggle

### Foundation

Upholding a Cause or Belief

### Step 1: Watch

Watch the full interview with Jas Boothe: [roadtripnation.com/leader/jas-boothe](http://roadtripnation.com/leader/jas-boothe)

### Step 2: Reflect

Think back to a time when you were able to lean on someone for support. How did that person show you that they were there for you? How can you show others that you care and that you are there for them?

Jas refers to herself as “a person who saw an issue and wanted to help.” Have you ever been in a tough situation where you needed help? What did you do to get help, and how might you help someone facing the same problem?

Each branch of the military has its own set of principles to live by. How have you lived these principles in your military life and in your daily life now?

### Step 3: Take Action

List three ways that you can help another service member along their journey. As Jas suggests, you might be able to watch their kids for them while they apply for a job, or help them with their résumé. If you need help, what are some ways you might be able to reach out to someone close to you, at the VA, or at the USO?

What resources on the Transition 360 Alliance website ([uso.org/360](http://uso.org/360)) might help you discover what’s next for you and your family?



# ROBERT KIYOSAKI

Businessman / Educator

*“The reason that most people aren’t successful is simply because they don’t fail enough. How do you learn if you don’t make mistakes?”*

## LEADER INFO

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### Interests

Business, Entrepreneurship

### Themes

Dedication, Education, Success, Values, Experience, Failure, Perseverance, Hard Work, Money & Financial Security, Honesty, Beliefs & Faith, Individualism, Self-Reflection, Confidence, Risk, Transitions, Support & Encouragement

### Foundation

Accomplishing Goals

### Step 1: Watch

Watch the full interview with Robert Kiyosaki: [roadtripnation.com/leader/robert-kiyosaki](http://roadtripnation.com/leader/robert-kiyosaki)

### Step 2: Reflect

Robert shares the ethos he lived by during his service in Vietnam. What words do you live by?

What was the most valuable thing you learned during your military training? How has it helped to prepare you for the real world?

How can having high spirits help you be successful during times of transition?

### Step 3: Take Action

Just as a baby has to fall down a few times when learning to walk, Robert believes that the reason people aren't successful is because they don't fail enough. What is something you could be more successful at if you practiced more? How could this practice pay off for you in the long run?

Robert talks about the importance of getting your spirits up. List three things you can do to raise your spirits and make yourself feel happy.