

AFTER ACTION REPORT		VETERANS IN PROJECT MANAGEMENT
CREDENTIAL PMP® · Project Management Professional	US SALARY \$135,000 with · \$109,157 without	REPORTED SEP 23, 2026
REPORTING Brian Demer, PMP® · Marine Corps · Episode 006		

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY · EPISODE 006

Brian Demer spent five years in the Marine Corps as a CH-53 helicopter mechanic, leaving in 2002 with a maintenance award and no civilian certification of any kind. Sales at Enterprise Rent-A-Car turned into twelve years in banking, then consulting at Booz Allen Hamilton. He passed the PMP about four years ago, above target in every domain, and is now a civilian action officer at the Department of the Air Force.

US job postings ask for the PMP by name, and it turns "I ran operations" into a number a hiring manager can price. It isn't entry level: PMI wants documented months of leading projects first.

CONDITIONS · CHANGED JUL 09, 2026

PMI replaced the PMP exam on July 9, 2026: 240 minutes, new domain weightings, and four eligibility routes instead of three, with a 10-year experience window. Anything written before July 2026 is out of date.

1 TASK AND STANDARD

TASK: qualify for and pass the PMP®. **STANDARD:** one of four routes, by education level.

High school diploma or GED	60 months
Associate's or equivalent	48 months
Bachelor's or higher	36 months
Bachelor's from a GAC-accredited program	24 months

Non-overlapping months, earned in the past 10 years. Every route also needs 35 hours of PM training from any provider, and an active CAPM waives that.

2 ASSESSMENT – WHAT COUNTS FROM YOUR SERVICE

PMI wants months of leading and directing projects, and the word project never had to appear in your job title. Most people who assume they aren't eligible already are.

- ☐ A deployment workup
- ☐ A unit move, PCS of a squadron, or a base closure
- ☐ Standing up or shutting down a capability
- ☐ An exercise: Red Flag, RIMPAC, a CPX or an FTX

Doesn't count: Standing a watch, your duty section rotation, routine admin with no end date, and anything you supported but didn't lead.

3 RESOURCES AND RETURN

Exam	\$425 member · \$675 non-member
35 hours of training	\$0 to \$2,000+, by provider
US median, PMP	\$135,000 · \$109,157 without it
The difference	\$25,843 a year, about \$2,150 a month

4 OBSERVATIONS

SUSTAIN	IMPROVE
□ A CCAF associate degree sits at the level the 48-month route asks for, not the 60-month one. That's a documented year you don't have to go and find. □ Join PMI before you apply. Global dues are \$129 plus \$10 to join, and membership takes \$250 off the exam, so it pays for itself on the first attempt. A retake saves another \$100. □ Still serving is stronger: Credentialing Assistance can cover training and the exam and you don't pay first. Get the credential and provider approved in your service's COOL portal. □ Confirmed on VA's approved test register at \$675, about eight days of entitlement. VA reimburses up to \$2,000 per test on Form 22-0803 after you pay, and failed attempts count. □ Onward to Opportunity training is free, and its exam voucher covers your last six months or unemployment.	□ <i>Start now, while you're still in. The lesson he learned at the gate is one nobody needs to learn the hard way.</i> □ <i>Write down what you already do. The phase inspection you plan and the parts you order ahead are the project record your application will need.</i> □ <i>Don't shotgun resumes. Work the Rolodex instead, because twenty years of people who know what you're worth beats an easy-apply button.</i> □ <i>Learn the vocabulary before you need it. He'd been running change management for years and couldn't name it, and that's what kept him out of consulting.</i> □ <i>Ask your supervisor to fund it. Explain what the certification lets you give the team and the answer is usually yes.</i>

5 REMARKS – REPORTING INDIVIDUAL	Brian Demer, episode 006
– <i>I didn't have the right certifications, or any civilian certifications, despite five years of hands-on experience. That was the part that hit hard.</i> – <i>Never again will I not have a certification. Never again will I not be prepared. That's been in the back of my head ever since.</i> – <i>I didn't just pass it. I went three for three, above target across the board, and yes, I showed the certificate to the supervisor who told me I'd come in below.</i> – <i>I have my bachelor's and I have my MBA. Getting the PMP meant more to me than either of them.</i> – <i>You might cuss me while you're taking that test. After you pass it, you won't regret it.</i>	

NEXT STEP
Read the full PMP® route, kept current Eligibility, the path, cost, renewal, and what a US veteran should know about funding it.

FULL ROUTE, KEPT CURRENT	EPISODE, TRANSCRIPT AND LINKS
https://veteransinprojectmanagement.com/certifications/pmp/training-guide/ Reported September 23, 2026 with episode 006, and unchanged since. Requirements were last checked August 22, 2026 and they do move: the full route above is maintained, this report is not. This is a guide, not advice, it isn't an official or government document, and PMI had no part in it and did not endorse it. Where a training provider or a school is named, assume we may have a commercial interest in it.	https://veteransinprojectmanagement.com/podcasts/vipm/006-brian-demer/