

AFTER ACTION REPORT		VETERANS IN PROJECT MANAGEMENT
CREDENTIAL PMP® · Project Management Professional	US SALARY \$135,000 with · \$109,157 without	REPORTED OCT 07, 2026
REPORTING Trevor Greenberg, PMP® · Army · Episode 008		

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY · EPISODE 008

Trevor Greenberg served seven years in the Army as an airborne infantryman with the 82nd Airborne Division and left as an E6 in 2011, with an MBA from Auburn finished on active duty. He's spent more than 15 years since in project and program management, in commercial and government work, and holds a Lean Six Sigma black belt and a second master's in organization development and change. He passed the PMP on his fourth attempt.

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 Anything written before July 2026 is out of date.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

\$135,000 and \$109,157 are PMI Earning Power medians, 14th edition, November 2025.

4 OBSERVATIONS

SUSTAIN ❑ 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.	IMPROVE ❑ <i>Find out whether you understand the job before you chase the credential. Ask a PM where you work if you can shadow them.</i> ❑ <i>Learn the fundamentals as the standard teaches them first. You can't adapt the theory to the real world until you know what it is.</i> ❑ <i>Don't treat a failed attempt as the measure of you. Sit it again.</i> ❑ <i>Use the credential to get past the screening. Then show you can do the work.</i> ❑ <i>Make it clear you're not above the room. Letters after your name can scare off the people you need to talk to.</i>
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5 REMARKS — REPORTING INDIVIDUAL Trevor Greenberg, episode 008 – <i>I failed the PMP three times before I passed it on the fourth. But you know what? I'm still a fantastic project manager.</i> – <i>Certifications are great. The textbook teaches the theory, and it has to teach it in a sterile environment.</i> – <i>A certification is like a skill badge on a uniform. It's not a check on learning. It tells me we speak the same language.</i> – <i>Not everybody in the military is meant to be a project manager. You may be predisposed to aspects of project management.</i> – <i>It's not about whether you've got the answers. It's about understanding how to adapt and how to find them.</i>
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NEXT STEP <u>Read the full PMP® route, kept current</u> Eligibility, the path, cost, renewal, and what a US veteran should know about funding it.
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FULL ROUTE, KEPT CURRENT https://veteransinprojectmanagement.com/certifications/pmp/training-guide/ Reported October 7, 2026 with episode 008, 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.	EPISODE, TRANSCRIPT AND LINKS https://veteransinprojectmanagement.com/podcasts/vipm/008-trevor-greenberg/
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