



“MY GOAL IS TO GET THESE SOLDIERS WORKING AS FULLY QUALIFIED CAMERA OPERATORS ON ANY HVX200 SHOOT BY THE TIME MY TOUR OF DUTY ENDS...”

to video. Teacher Phillip Caruso is also opening their eyes to the many career opportunities available to a good stills photographer plus the options available for video shooters.

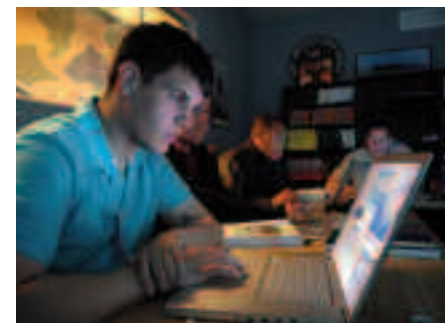
My goal is to get these soldiers working as fully qualified camera operators on any HVX200 shoot by the time my tour of duty ends by using some of the most intensive levels of camcorder instruction available.

Later in the program, they'll get experience with other leading cameras including the Phantom HD and 35mm movie cameras. Hands-on is key; book learning will take you only so far. We're aiming to get them well rounded and fully competent.



1/18/08:

Perhaps one of the most satisfying experiences is knowing that we've opened their eyes to what types of careers and futures await them. They came to the program with certain preconceived notions (as we all do); but at the end of the second week most are now considering a career in a field different than what they originally thought they'd pursue. It's fantastic to see their eyes opened and see how rabidly they attack these new career options.



Several employers have already extended offers to hire the first graduates from the class. And the benefits aren't just in careers.

“Some of these students have been living at the hospital for a year, a year and a half,” says Paixao. “But now, just nine days into the program, I'm already hearing from their counselors about how much happier and more optimistic they are.”

1/25/08:

My three weeks are up. I have to get on a plane to leave. I look back at the first night—the intimidation of being entrusted with the career hopes of 20 fallen heroes. They've exceeded my every expectation, and I can easily say that this has been the most rewarding three weeks I've had in my career.

I'll reunite with them at the NAB convention in Las Vegas in April. The WMCF has a booth at NAB. Stop by, meet these guys, and—if you can—give them a job. You'll be amazed. I was.



For more information, to donate to the Wounded Marine Careers Foundation or to hire a wounded marine, call (203) 253-5116 or visit www.woundedmarinecareers.org. The WMCF is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation. HDVP

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