



## A BRADLEY-MORRIS CASE STUDY

*Jake Dobberke*

### **CANDIDATE PROFILE:**

Jake Dobberke lost both of his legs below the knee while serving in Afghanistan. But after a year of therapy at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, Dobberke successfully navigated job hunting and landed a rotational training opportunity at APi Companies. His first rotational assignment at LeJeune Steel Co. in Minneapolis went so well that he was offered a full-time position as Special Projects Manager. He handles projects that range from employee training to improving efficiency in the shop.





## MILITARY CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

Former Marine Capt Dobberke was a logistics advisor to the Afghan Army in combat in Afghanistan. He led more than 12 counterinsurgency missions in a hostile environment, continuously evaluating and improving the overall performance of Afghan officers and Marines within the advisor team. Dobberke joined the Marines after graduating from Iowa State University with a B.S. in Management. He completed the Marine Officer Leadership Course later in Quantico, VA. For the next two years, Dobberke was front line supervisor, then executive officer, of the Transportation Company at Camp Lejeune in Jacksonville, NC. He then became logistics advisor in Afghanistan before he was injured. He was awarded the Purple Heart and Combat Action Ribbon.

## CIVILIAN CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

After a year-long rehabilitation at Walter Reed, Dobberke worked with a Bradley-Morris recruiter. He landed interviews with eight companies at a job fair. Of those, six extended on-site interview offers. He chose the rotational program opportunity with APi Companies. "I started my rotation at LeJeune Steel (in February 2013) and liked it, and they made me an offer. I didn't rotate to any other company," he says. Although he relies on prosthetic legs to walk, he is able to complete all duties. Dobberke is also working part-time on his MBA. He expects to graduate from the University of Minnesota.

## THE RESULT

Dobberke's wounded warrior civilian transition success story took a lot of determination. The Marines taught Dobberke how to adapt despite circumstances. So when it came to looking for a job as a wounded veteran, Dobberke continued to apply the principle of conquering everything one step at a time. It led to landing a job he loves and helps him with daily challenges. "For me, writing down goals of individual steps is key. For example, I said, 'I will take the stairs instead of the elevator to get back to that strength,' or, 'This month I'll start walking a certain distance every day,' and, 'This month I start jogging a mile.' With my job, it comes down to narrowing down what I wanted to do and looking back at jobs I'd done and why I enjoyed certain things. I tried to make sure that I was focusing my search on those jobs that fulfilled what I wanted to get out of them."



"Through the assistance Bradley-Morris, I was able to choose between seven companies for follow-on interviews. I accepted a position with a company that has been a great fit for me at a generous starting salary."

– Jake Dobberke