

Opening The Aperture

Over decades, I have had the opportunity to chat with folks about their career plans. This was always a fun part of my HR career. When I retired, I directed those skills and talents to helping military folks, be they retired, veteran or spouse, in transition. I've had a lot of fun in these past years doing so.

One of the most effective tools that I've found is using examples, especially stories, to highlight opportunities. So many times, the folks have no clue as to the many opportunities beyond the gate. They are looking to stay in their comfort zone of what they've done in the past. These conversations lead to a "widening of the apertures." That means they discover opportunities that they didn't know exist. They are now finding passion in a whole new world.

Here are two such examples. The first I found in a www.cnn.com feed on 11 October 2024 about Master Sergeant Gordon Storey. While still on active duty he was tasked with organizing a team to help repair some houses in the Abilene community around Dyess AFB, TX. Fast forward to today, he is now leading a nonprofit, Dyess We Care, that continues that mission.

I also recently had lunch with the chair of the board of directors of our Alamo Chapter. Besides the business that we had to discuss, I had the opportunity to catch up on his business. He started it upon his retirement a few years ago as a side thing. He is now at a transition point. The decision is whether to grow or keep the business at the current momentum where he has more freedom and flexibility. There are opportunities either way.

Life is full of opportunities. Dare to explore. If I had followed a predetermined path, I would not be here writing this article for you. There are risks. One path may be rockier than others. Even when you encounter the "rocks," there are lessons learned. Value those as well.

Please reach out to meet over coffee to chat about your journey.

Best wishes.

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