

March 19, 2014

Dear To Whom It May Concern,

During my service with the United States Air Force, I realized a technical degree is a safe career field to be a part of and grow. Technology is forever improving and changing; making life easier, safer, and even making us live longer. With all these great advancements in the technology field and the fact that you can be an electronic detective trying to find the problem with a product. I still can't help but want to be in a civil service career.

In the start of my military career, they imbedded in us all three-core values. These values are: Integrity first, service before self and excellence in all we do. All on which I stand by as long as my heart beats. These core values greatly represents not only myself but also the greatest air power the USAF.

- **Integrity first** - being honest and fair, plainly just having good morals.
- **Service before self** - putting your job first, sacrificing personal time.
- **Excellence is all we do** - putting your best in everything you do.

The FDNY Core values coincide with the USAF core value. The FDNY core values are: service, bravery, safety, honor, dedication, and preparedness.

- **Service** - unwavering call to protect and serve.
- **Bravery** - the ability to overcome fear through fortitude, instinct, compassion for others and training.
- **Safety** - striving to keep the citizens free from danger.
- **Honor** - excellence of character. We inspire each other through pride in our unit, which is a belief that every action reflects on all the members of the unit, both past and present.
- **Dedication** - A commitment to the objectives of our mission is an essential part of our code of conduct. The faithful observance of duty calls for us to fulfill our obligations professionally and honestly.
- **Preparedness** - combining all of the components of our core values, the FDNY will maintain its constant state of readiness to meet all threats and challenges, traditional and new.

The ability to serve and protect, no matter if it is city, state, or federal, gives one's self an undeniable sense of pride and the ability to do the right things in any occasion. From pointing lost tourist in the direction to returning incorrect change back to the cashier because they handed you back too much. This is ever so much more present and noticeable now that I have been out of the military for close to three years now. I secretly compare them to my friends who haven't served in a

Para-military or military organization and can definitely see that some the values mentioned are missing.

While serving in the military, just applying to serve shows bravery honor and dedication, but once in I was always prepared to go overseas. My certificates were always up-to-date, I was known as the Short Assignment go to person at our workplace. My willingness to serve and take the place of a fellow co-worker so he/she can stay with their family for the holidays; to my abilities to work having the shop leaders to say "I rather have one Gonzalez than five other guys working for me". All are examples telling you what I'm capable of doing, not only becoming a great model fire fighter for the FDNY, but exceeding them.

When I was in college I saw myself doing great things my life. Even though my goal is not to change the world but continuing to serve my city as a civil servant (fire fighter) I can endure this lifelong pursuit to do and be a great person, and New Yorker.

Sincerely,

Wilfredo Gonzalez