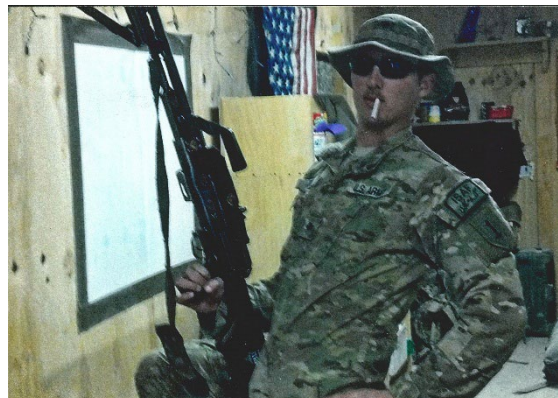


From Combat Roads to Country Roads: Shayne Cook's Path from the U.S. Army to Western Plains Energy

Shayne Cook, a U.S. Army veteran, serves as a truck driver for Western Plains Energy LLC. He spent nearly nine years in uniform from November 2010 to June 2019 as a 91 Foxtrot Small Arms and Towed Artillery Repairer. His military journey took him from the cold training grounds of Fort Wainwright, Alaska to Fort Riley, Kansas and Fort Stewart, Georgia, with a ten-month deployment to Afghanistan.



Shayne says his motivation to join the Army came from a desire to pursue higher education. During his deployment, one of his most memorable moments was not during operations but during a rare moment of fun. Within the last three months of deployment a heavy snowstorm rolled over the mountain top, which turned into a spontaneous snowball fight among the group. He said it was a great break from their work and a memory that always makes him smile.

After leaving the military, Shayne found a home in the ethanol industry. He credits his military background, especially the discipline and resilience he developed, for helping him succeed in his civilian career. Those traits carried over and helped him adapt quickly to the structure and responsibility that comes with the job.



At Western Plains Energy, Shayne enjoys the autonomy that comes with his role. He appreciates having the freedom to drive the hours that best fit his schedule. He also expressed gratitude to his company for supporting his transition to civilian life by providing meaningful employment and standing behind him as a veteran.

Outside of work, Shayne enjoys reading and spending time with his four dogs, a loyal pack that keeps him company on and off the road.

His story reflects the steady professionalism and quiet strength that veterans like Shayne bring to the renewable fuels industry every day.