

I am E-6/AWO1 (Ret) Kevin Thompson, I have served in the US Navy for 20 years, have over 3,500 flight hours, multiple tours to the gulf in support of Operation Desert Shield, OEF and OIF as well as trained, instructed or mentored over 200 individuals. Like many individuals who leave the military, my job does not relate to any in the civilian world. Thus, I had to go to college to be able to find a job that would pay for me and a family of 6. I attended a community college in Illinois where I completed 2 associate's degrees with one B and the rest As in both online and in person classes. My family and I moved to Phoenix, AZ for the weather 78and with the intention of completing my bachelors in information systems.

After seeing an advertisement from ITT Tech that I could complete a degree in 18 months I decided that it would be the best fit as I only had 17 months and 23 days left on my GI Bill. When I finally connected with ITT Tech in Tempe, AZ, I was told that I could not continue my degree and had to pick Project Management. This would allow me to complete the degree in time and have a better chance to get a job. They also said that they would help in the process of obtaining a job for the time that I was in the school as well as when I graduated. I gave ITT Tech my resume never to be heard from again in regards to any help obtaining employment.

ITT Tech also stated that the GI Bill would cover all of the fees associated with attending the classes and nothing else would be needed. I had already applied and was approved for the Pell Grant prior to moving to AZ. Neither I nor any of my fellow classmates ever received the funds from the Pell Grant as I had been for every other school that I attended. ITT Tech did receive the grant money but it is unclear what it went toward as my family and I were homeless twice while attending ITT Tech.

The instructors for ITT Tech were like most, some were good while others were not. It is all about reading a paragraph and writing a 6 page paper on it to meet the requirements set by the accrediting association. The instructors did bring to the class the actual experience from their jobs associated with the subject being taught. Yet the school fell short of providing the recourses that they had promised such as job placement and how the school would be paid, and of course the ability to obtain a degree in the allotted time.

I learned that ITT Tech was closing only by listening to the radio during the course of my job. I was to start class the following Tuesday. With ITT Tech closing, the VA was/is trying to collect on funds that they had gave out prior to the start of the class. I was left without a degree, loans that needed to be repaid back and 6 months and 13 days of the GI Bill remaining. I contacted the colleges in the area to be told that they would not accept the credits from ITT Tech. Finally DeVry University said that they would accept some of the classes provided by ITT Tech but could not say if I would be able to complete the degree in time. I am now 2 classes short of BS in Technical Management and unable to complete due to not having the GI Bill to cover the classes and living expenses as well as have no job as the company that I was working for lost their contract.

I request that you do anything that you can to stop schools like ITT Tech from taking individuals funds, lives and dreams. Make schools be more open about what type of jobs their graduates are able to be employed, being in the area of study or general. Lastly, hold schools accountable for the false promises and enable individualis like my son and myself to recover the funds given to these institutions.