



# Graduate Success Story

## **Oliver Hollaender**

**2014, Associate of Science,  
Biomedical Equipment Technology**

Oliver Hollaender has endured physical attacks during both military service and civilian life. Serving in the United States Air Force from 2002 to 2006, he spent two years in Iraq as a combat medic, primarily serving in the Fallujah area. He came under an improvised explosive device (IED) attack twice during his deployment and was shot once.

“I was part of a special Patient Decontamination HAZMAT (Hazardous Material) Team in Iraq, and worked as an ID-EMT (Infectious Disease-Emergency Medical Technician) at Luke Air Force Base in Glendale, Arizona when not deployed,” he says. Oliver was promoted to the rank of staff sergeant (E5) before separating from the military. He was awarded the Purple Heart for the injuries he sustained while in Iraq and also received an Air Force Achievement Medal.

He began his medical training in the military and continued in the career field when he returned to civilian life. “After a few years of working as a paramedic, I specialized in hemodialysis and became a certified clinical hemodialysis technician,” says Oliver. About five years into this career, he experienced a bizarre attack by a patient.

“One of my patients stabbed me with a dirty syringe at work,” he says. “That’s when I decided to return to school. I wanted to remain in the medical field, but get out of direct patient care.” Oliver explored Brown Mackie College—Phoenix and was drawn immediately to the Biomedical Engineering Technology program. “Repairing hemodialysis machines was something I enjoyed at

my last job, so transitioning to biomedical engineering technology was a natural step for me,” he said.

Oliver entered college with an eye toward a promising future. He had moved ten times in the previous nine years, and was dealing with financial issues, as well as raising his two-year-old child as he began the program. He enjoyed the curriculum and excelled in class, which led to membership in Alpha Beta Kappa Honors Society during his studies.

“My education gave me the general electronics knowledge base that I was lacking beforehand,” says Oliver. “My knowledge of physics and mathematics increased throughout the coursework.” Graduating in 2014, earning an Associate of Applied Science degree in Biomedical Equipment Technology, Oliver found employment with the help of the Career Services department.

Working now as a field service engineer at OrthoScan, Inc in Scottsdale, Arizona, Oliver is happy with his career. “I travel to various medical institutions nationwide to repair, maintain, and calibrate state-of-the-art mini C-arm and fluoroscopic systems.” Additionally, he helps customers resolve various issues on X-ray C-arm systems by phone.

“I enjoy traveling and specializing in radiological biomedical equipment,” Oliver says. “I’m proud of my military service and proud of finally earning a college degree. I intend to remain in my current position as field engineer for a few years before probably moving on to a more localized position at one of the major hospitals around town.”