While as a junior Army Officer, my teams were responsible for defending South Korea and Europe in the event of foreign missile attacks. Like many Officers, I assumed a great deal of leadership responsibilities early in my career, with most of my training occurring “on the job.” Within two weeks of arriving at my first duty station, I received a team of 35 Soldiers, $128M of equipment, and the mission of providing air defense for South Korea. Though the learning curve was remarkably steep at first, the results explain themselves: doing is the best way to learn.

Stanford’s GSB embraces this sentiment. The experiential approach of the *Executive Challenge* and the Leadership Labs present opportunities to “do.” The University, situated in the cradle of innovation, entices and invites entrepreneurs who embrace the value of action. Their presence in both the faculty and student body combine to form a unique community of do-ers.

In the Army, my mission provided safety to the community but would only be felt in the worst of circumstances. Moving forward, I want to continue creating benefits for others, but in a more tangible form. In 5 years, I aspire to be leading a product division at a socially-conscious company, providing customers and communities with high quality and innovative products that enhance lives. I want to enrich and leverage my experience in the Army managing people and projects to become an impactful product manager that alleviates poverty.

The Stanford GSB community presents the ideal environment to develop my action-oriented mindset and join a cohort of similarly-minded leaders. While at GSB, electives like *Strategies of Effective Product Management* will deepen my understanding of products and their role in society. d.school courses will help me sharpen my creative problem-solving acumen. As a part of experiential courses such as *Design for Extreme Affordability*, I will use my military experience to successfully collaborate with diverse groups to design products that positively impact the community*.* Beyond the classroom, I am eager to interact with like-minded individuals in the Social Impact Club to better society around us. I also look forward to joining the Veteran’s Association to connect with other veterans and strengthen our community.

After spending four years in the Army, I realize that I learn best by doing and by collaborating with others who challenge and support me. I want to use my passion for learning to improve lives through product innovation. Stanford’s community of collaborative and innovative do-ers provides the best opportunity for me to achieve this aspiration.