**Aimee O post to Class 7 week 1 discussion**

Hello Dr. B. and classmates.  My name is Aimee O, and I currently reside in Charleston, SC.  I am happily married to my high school sweetheart of 22 years, and we have a 10-year-old son in the 5th grade.  I am an active duty military member in the Air Force and looking forward to retiring from the military next year.  At this time, I have not secured another job, but I am very excited to begin a new career and chapter in my life that does not involve continuous moving or deployments.

Before my military career, I worked with autistic children by supporting the school and their homes.  However, I joined the military to advance my career and continue my education.  Although I was not hired into the mental health arena, I’ve had the opportunity to work in various fields.  I started my military career as a pharmacy technician and later trained to become a Professional Military Education (PME), Instructor.  Upon finishing my tour as a PME Instructor, I returned to the pharmacy for a year before being selected to work in the Inspector General’s (IG) office.  As the current IG Superintendent of Complaints Resolution, I manage base-wide complaints for Charleston Air Force Base and the nearby Naval Weapons Station.

As an active duty military member, I’ve enjoyed applying my psychology background to work with individuals in counseling arenas, such as the Patient Advocate for various Medical Group Facilities and the Superintendent of Complaints Resolution.  With that in mind, a potential career interest of mine upon military retirement is to continue in this field.  In my search for this discussion, I found a Patient Advocate position on Indeed.com at my hometown hospital in West Virginia.  An excerpt of the job posting is as follows:

West Virginia University (WVU) Medicine

WVU Medical Center

Martinsburg, WV

Position Title: Patient Advocate

During my military service in the medical field, I’ve worked as the primary Patient Advocate in my unit on several bases.  The experience gained from this position and my current position as the primary Complaints Resolution Specialist for two military bases provides me with the skillset needed to exceed the job requirements.  Additionally, by obtaining my master’s degree from Ashford, I will have increased my likelihood of standing out among my peers for that particular position.

If I had to state a particular weakness, it would be that I sometimes take on too much because I have difficulties delegating responsibilities.  For the most part, I prefer to complete the job tasks on my own -- but I need to be more open to delegation and to providing others the opportunity to succeed.  Delegation is a weakness for me in my personal life as well, so at least I’m consistent.  With that said, despite my tendency to take on everything on my own, I am very dependable and always get the job done with the utmost quality and care.

Oh -- and I applied for the position I listed above for this assignment!  I figured now is as good of a time as any to start looking beyond my military retirement.  Wish me luck!  I look forward to working alongside you throughout this course.

Aimee