

## Pondering a return

Written by Medic215

Friday, 21 January 2011 15:10 -

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It has been just over a year since I have worked for any EMS agency. I know some medics who have gone years before coming back. What is it that draws us back into it? Certainly not the pay or the soreness that comes as a result of common strains of the job. Maybe it's the cold Iowa winter weather. No, that's DEFINITELY not it! Nonetheless I do miss it. I have enjoyed the peace that comes with my I.T. career, controlled environment, steady income as well as holidays and weekends with my family. I am contemplating a return to the private service that I have worked for in the past. My passion is truly a volunteer EMS provider, however, I don't live in the ideal place to fulfill that passion. It's not as if I really make a profit working for the private service here in our town that is the primary 911 provider. In fact, the last year I worked there it cost more to work there than I made working there. Of course that includes the continuing education that was not provided by the company, so I had to foot that bill myself and utilize paid vacation from my full time employment to cover it. Digging deep down within myself to find the true reason I miss it I find myself in the same frame of mind that got me into EMS to begin with. I love helping others. I enjoy that fast pace, the environment, the comradery with co-workers, community involvement and keeping my skills fresh. Like it says at the top of this page, it's not JUST a job - it's a way of life. For many EMS providers that make it past their first few years it becomes a part of your identity. When I hear the calls that my ex-coworkers are taking I want to be there with them. I want to help them help the patient. I want help keep them safe. I want to be there for them when they experience a difficult situation to listen to them talk and offer advice, friendship, confidence, reassurance or just to be their sounding board. My passion for EMS is as much for my co-providers as it is for the patients. I think that makes any of the undesirable things tolerable. In EMS there is a lot of undesirable conditions/situations. A good medic not only recognizes when things are bad, but does not get overwhelmed and can keep cool and collected with the fecal matter hits the fan. It would be easier if I could make a list of my favorite things about EMS and my least favorite things and use that to make a decision. But the truth is, if it weren't for the "undesirable" or "less than ideal" situations, it wouldn't be as rewarding. So perhaps my mind is made. I don't know. I'll continue to ponder. Since I am starting to remind myself of Brett Favre, I should sign off.

To all of my EMS family, I will be praying for you. Please let me know what you think.

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