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My Accenture Military Career Story: Melanie Golladay

Video Transcript:

Mellanie Golladay, Manager

My name is Melanie, I am a solution architect with Accenture Operations and I'm a military hire.

My last year or so in the Air Force was a really unique opportunity. I moved into a role where I was an integration lead and I worked on the general staff to help plan and bring together: okay, we've got three different offices that have three very different ways of doing things and how are we actually going to bring it all together into one office. So that was really interesting going through the change management with government and that experience was actually what kind of led me to look at Accenture.

One of the things I learned in the military was how to adapt and when I first got to Accenture actually, one of the first projects I was on that I was architecting was a really large deal.

I was given the chance to stretch and grow but I had a safety net of support network in the background, helping me and encouraging me and teaching me the right way to do it. And we came out and we won the deal and it was a really great experience. I do think the experience I had in the military really helped prepare me to take on that challenge and not shy away and really get the job done.

Since then, we've developed a military mentorship program and I've actually been paired with a couple of recent military hires to be a buddy or a mentor for them, being another friendly person for them to talk to or share anything with - because we understand and sometimes we have similar connections or know similar people from our military background.

While we are a very large company and very spread out across different geographies, my experience as a solution architect is that it very much is a family and I am very much connected with the people that I work with, something that a lot of veterans really long for is a place to belong and really community where they can plug in and they can develop lasting relationships.

The next would be, the different career options; they like to move around, they like a challenge and at Accenture it's so large that, there are people who have been here for 25 years and it's almost like they have had their major career change every five to seven, but all with Accenture.

I do think Accenture's commitment to hire 5,000 veterans over the next few years is really exciting. What will make it a successful veterans hiring program, is that we hire those 5,000 and they stay and they're contributing and they are happy to be here and so far from what I've seen, that's what Accenture's been doing