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**My Accenture Military Career
Story: Melanie Golladay**

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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 in to a role where I was an integration lead and I worked on the general stuff 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 in to 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 you know 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, not shy away and really just you know get the job done. Since then we've developed a military mentorship program and so I've actually been paired with a couple of more recent military hires to be kind of a buddy or a mentor for them, being another friendly person for them to talk to or share anything with. Because we understand you know 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 being a solution architect is that very much though as a family and I am very much connected with the people that I work with, something that a lot of veterans you know really long for is, is a place to belong and really community where they can plug in and they can develop you know 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 have been people that have been here for 25 years and it's almost like they have had their major career change, you know 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.

[accenture.com/military](https://www.accenture.com/military).

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