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*Veteran spotlight questionnaire*

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Name: Eric Shafer

Current job title: Senior Drilling Engineer

Current location: Houston TX



**What are some of your passions away from work?**

I enjoy practicing martial arts and spend a lot of time preparing for the arrival of the twin daughters I have on the way.

**Describe your current job:**

As a drilling engineer I plan and support the drilling of wells in the Bakken asset as well as investigate ways to optimize and improve operations.

### **Why ConocoPhillips?**

ConocoPhillips believes in investing in its employees. I have, and continue to work with supervisors and managers who treat their people as the company's best asset.

### **What was your background in the military?**

I served in the USMC from 2003-2007 as an Infantry Assaultman with A Co. 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion 5<sup>th</sup> Marine Regiment. I completed two tours in Iraq, Fallujah in 2004 and Ramadi in 2005, and deployed with the 31<sup>st</sup> Marine Expeditionary Unit to Japan and the South Pacific in 2006.

### **How my military skills translate to work at ConocoPhillips:**

The leadership skills and objective-oriented attitude learned while serving help every day. It imparts the idea that you should look for a way to accomplish the goal instead of letting obstacles keep you from it.

### **Best advice for transitioning service members:**

Take advantage of your GI-Bill. You earned those benefits and they can help you better yourself.

**Share your unique experience. This can be about any challenges you faced, how you are currently connected to veterans affairs, why working in the oil industry seemed attractive to you, what matters most, your work/life balance, etc. Think of the "people" component of ConocoPhillips' [SPIRIT](#) values and how someone currently serving may be able to relate.**

I came to the company via the WFIT program in 2007 after my discharge. After completing the training I was assigned to the Piceance Basin project as a drilling supervisor. In early 2009 I was moved the Williston Basin and continued working there as a supervisor until I returned to school to complete my engineering degree.

Even though I had technically left the company, my supervisors and managers maintained their relationship with me while I was at school. During the first two summers I worked as a consultant supervisor and for my final summer at school I was invited back as an intern. After graduation I was hired as a drilling engineer in the Williston group where I had been a field supervisor before. The fact that the managers and supervisors in the group were willing to work with me so I could continue my education and eventually return to the company shows how much the culture of valuing our people is key to ConocoPhillips.