
Veteran spotlight questionnaire

Name: John Williams

Current job title: Market Intelligence Analyst

Current location: Houston, TX



What are some of your passions away from work? Sailing, Traveling, Reading

Describe your current job: I support the development and execution of global supply chain strategies through market intelligence and advanced analytics

Why ConocoPhillips? I was born and raised in Houston and knew ConocoPhillips to be a vital part of the local community and economy. When transitioning, I wanted to work for a company that shared my values when it came to integrity, safety and people. The support I have received as a veteran in my organization and throughout the company has been amazing and I am proud to contribute to the team environment here.

What was your background in the military? I spent eight years on active duty as a Naval Flight Officer commanding the Navy's EP-3 reconnaissance aircraft.

How my military skills translate to work at ConocoPhillips: I was fortunate to support and lead several procurement initiatives during my time on active duty which ultimately drove my transition to supply chain. However, the ability to maintain mission focus in a highly complex and evolving operation has been the most significant contribution to my work at ConocoPhillips.

Best advice for transitioning service members: My advice to transitioning veterans is to acknowledge that your skills and experience in the service will not always translate directly into the civilian workforce. Focus on what differentiates you as you begin your transition, but don't rely on it exclusively. Instead, be mindful of the qualities that have enabled you to differentiate yourself along the way. Qualities like discipline and determination will help you rise to the challenges of your new opportunities and build new skills.

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 SPIRIT values and how someone currently serving may be able to relate. One to two paragraphs works best.

I think the most significant parallel to my military experience here at ConocoPhillips is the largeness of the endeavor that the two organizations achieve. Exploring for and producing oil and gas is a dynamic and complex challenge that requires individuals of many disciplines and skills to be focused and working as a team. And like a military operation, there is not always certainty in the outcome. However, there is an excitement and reward in that that has always appealed to me.

My most significant challenge in transitioning was learning how to communicate my experiences and getting to know what was expected of me. I encourage transitioning veterans to reach out to others making the transition to share experiences and build a support network. It can be difficult at times, but the relationships I have built with fellow veterans here and in my extended peer group have made the experience a better one.