



Valuable Lessons Learned from Military Service

By R.K Dutcher, III, MA

May has been recognized as Military Appreciation Month, since Congress passed legislation on April 30, 1999. Throughout May, we honor not only those who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to their country but also the many who have served—and continue to serve—in uniform. Several observances throughout May pay tribute to veterans, including Memorial Day, formerly known as Decoration Day until 1971, as well as Armed Forces Day, Military Spouses Day, Loyalty Day, and Victory in Europe, (VE) Day.

Within the Department of the Treasury, many of our colleagues have proudly served in one of the six active-duty branches of the armed forces, as well as the Reserves and National

Guard. In honor of this year's recognition of those in uniform, we invited members of our Treasury family to share the valuable lessons they have gained from their military service. As many individuals are transitioning from military service to the civilian workforce, we posed this question to a few of our colleagues, "What valuable lessons from your military career can be applied to civilian life?"

United States Air Force veteran Poretta King and member of Treasury's Human Resources team provided a unique perspective pointing out that "During my Air Force career, I learned a lot of valuable lessons. If I had to choose one that can be utilized in civilian life, it would be teamwork. The value of teamwork cannot be understated, it provides a wide range of perspectives and the collaborations can produce better overall results."

United States Army veteran Corey Scott, who served as an Intelligence Specialist, currently working in the Division of Taxation Call Center, emphasized the importance of integrity, stating, "It is important that you always keep integrity as the first priority. This is the foundation of success in the military and civilian world."

Building on Scott's insight, United States Navy veteran Jeremy Lemmon and member of the Treasurer's Office Communication team, who served six years as a Mass Communications Specialist, offered a concise, yet impactful response: "Discipline." He elaborated explaining, "There is nothing more important than this concept, which will define your character over a lifetime. Continuing to follow defined patterns of conduct will prove to be an asset in confronting challenges in both a public or private sector setting."

Michael Games a veteran of the United States Air Force, who works in Taxation's Office of the Taxpayer Advocate, stated, "Teamwork is a critical component in accomplishing any

assigned task whether as a member of the military or in civilian life. In the service, if you are completely focused on each segment of the project or operation, you are doomed to failure, and there is no difference between the military or civilian world.”

United States Marine Corps veteran, Cristian Cambara, another member of Treasury’s Human Resources team, built upon the reflections of his colleagues by sharing a powerful lesson from his military career, “One of the most valuable lessons I learned during my military career, and continue to apply, is the importance of enduring hard times. No matter how difficult the situation, there is always a light at the end of the tunnel. Whether facing physical, mental, or emotional challenges, I developed the resilience to push through. That mindset stays with me today, and it gives me confidence that I can overcome obstacles in both my personal life and my work with the state.”

These veteran perspectives from Treasury employees highlight how military service instills qualities that serve as a strong foundation for future career paths, bridging the gap between the military and civilian communities.