

# WHY HIRE A WOUNDED SERVICE MEMBER?

## When service members become wounded, ill, or injured, they often face a change in their military career

trajectory. While approximately 50 percent return to their military careers, many separate from service and begin new careers in the civilian workforce. These wounded service members are well-trained, highly skilled professionals who can become assets to any organization, increasing an organization's diversity and bottom line.

## WHAT IS A WOUNDED SERVICE MEMBER?

There is no standard definition of a "wounded service member." Today's military personnel experience a wide range of injuries, from amputations and burns to traumatic brain injury (TBI) and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Wounded Warrior Project<sup>®</sup> (WWP) specifically serves veterans and service members who incurred a physical or psychological healthrelated injury, illness, or wound co-incident to their military service on or after September 11, 2001. What is most important is that rather than preventing these wounded service members from contributing to society, their injuries often make them more resilient, determined, and ready to serve.

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"At BAE Systems we understand the value wounded service members bring to our workforce, and we are proud to have them on our team. Most importantly, wounded service members bring firsthand knowledge of the utilization of our products while deployed overseas and while serving in combat environments. Therefore, they possess indispensable personal knowledge and professional military skills that are extremely valuable to the success of our enterprise, which is evident in a recent Facebook post by one of our veteran employees."

> ~ James Rodriguez, 1st Sgt USMC Ret., Director, Government Relations, Electronic Systems and Warrior Integration Program

### **REASONS TO HIRE**

There are a number of different sources that promote the benefits of hiring a wounded service member. Often included in these benefits are the soft skills that employers clearly value, such as the ability to quickly learn new skills and concepts, strong leadership qualities, flexibility to work in teams or independently, respect for procedures and accountability, and a results-oriented approach to work.

#### WHAT IS THE NEXT STEP?

Understanding the reason to hire is only half the battle. The other half is figuring out how and where to find these talented men and women for your organization.

- CONTACT US TODAY wtow@woundedwarriorproject.org TO BEGIN THE DISCUSSION.

The WWP Warriors to Work<sup>®</sup> program is here to help you as you consider hiring wounded veterans who look forward to contributing to your company.

WWP can support your company in becoming a preferred employer, providing reasonable accommodations and facilitating a productive and long-lasting relationship once the wounded veteran begins work — and continuing through the life cycle of employment.



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