



# Voice of the Veterans Survey



## Survey Overview\*

The *Voice of the Veterans* survey explores the attitudes and mindsets of veterans and service members who are transitioning to civilian careers. It surveys their educational goals, perceptions on the role work plays in one's life, important skills and job characteristics, and types of resources such as education and training programs that may be valuable to them.

## Key Findings

### *Veterans are optimistic and confident in their future*

- While faced with many challenges when transitioning to civilian life and a civilian career, young veterans are optimistic. 76% are confident they can be successful in their careers, and this confidence level increases with age.

### *Yet respondents do not feel equipped to overcome the challenges of transitioning to civilian careers*

- Nearly half (48%) of active duty military preparing to transition in less than two years say they do not feel equipped to overcome the challenges of transitioning from military to civilian careers. This number decreases to 33% for veterans who feel unprepared for the transition.

### *Respondents feel their skills are undervalued and face significant challenges in translating skills*

- 66% of those surveyed feel their skills are currently undervalued and that they have more to offer to the civilian workforce. Unparalleled work ethic (15%), leadership and teamwork skills (9%), discipline (8%) and dedication (8%) are skills they have to offer to the civilian workforce.

### *Education and training are important to the transition*

- Approximately 60% of those surveyed say they are currently pursuing further education to ease their transition. Those who are currently pursuing further education are motivated by career advancement (24%), expanding their knowledge (20%) and developing field-specific skills (19%).

### *Respondents are motivated to find opportunities to help them get to their ideal career*

- 79% are motivated to find educational opportunities that can help them advance their civilian career. However, several barriers pose challenges to the pursuit of education, including work/school balance (48%) and the financial burden (35%).

### *Respondents want to make a difference and feel a sense of pride in their career*

- 76% are looking for a career through which they can make a positive difference in the world; 78% seek a career that fills them with a sense of pride.

### *Respondents expect private companies to help veterans succeed in the civilian job market*

- 62% believe private companies have a responsibility to provide veterans with opportunities to enter and succeed in the civilian job market.

## \*Survey Methodology

- Research was commissioned by GE and the Institute for Veterans and Military Families at Syracuse University (IVMF), and conducted by independent research firm Edelman Berland
- Online survey of 1,000 U.S. veterans and active duty military (under the age of 45). The survey was deployed (1) online through social media from IVMF and other partners, and (2) online through a panel of general consumers, targeting those with military experience. Sophisticated software technology guaranteed completion of one survey per respondent

### **Voice of the Vet**

*"I have a lot of self-discipline, drive and a strong ability to problem solve. I think in many cases these qualities overcome a deficiency in training or experience."*

### **Voice of the Vet**

*"My only complaint is that I have been expected to re-do training and certifications I already did while on active duty because my employer does not have the ability to translate my training records as they do for people that come from"*