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Called to Serve

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What's it like to serve your country and KPMG clients at the same time? Advisory Manager **Ryan Bolz** and Marketing Coordinator **Frankie Long** know firsthand. Both have built successful careers with the firm while also serving in the Army Reserve. Here, find out how they balance their various responsibilities, how their two careers complement each other, and how KPMG provides support when duty calls.

Ryan Bolz, Advisory Manager, Washington D.C.



"The Army is all about getting to work on time, being respectful and honorable, and doing your job with integrity," says Bolz. "Really, those qualities apply to every part of life, and certainly to my job at KPMG."

Bolz was in the Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) in college, then served two years of active duty before going into the Army Reserve. His reserve unit was activated after September 11, and Bolz spent the next two years at Guantanamo Bay detention camp, eventually becoming a Major in Military Intelligence. "I bounced back and forth between GITMO and Washington," says Bolz. "While in Washington I ran into someone who had been a Colonel and now was a manager at KPMG. That led me to the firm."

Time is a precious commodity for Bolz, and flexibility at work has helped him perform better in the office and out. "As an officer, I have to check in daily with my team, and I have a two-hour conference call once a week. I could be mobilized at the drop of a hat, but KPMG has been great in understanding that and working with me to get to the best outcome for everyone involved," he says. "My PML, Partner Tony Hubbard, picks up whatever I can't do, and it's important to have people like that behind you. Tony's not only helping KPMG, but the Army as well."

Bolz says his time in the military also has helped his career in business. "In Washington, you never know when you're going to meet someone important – a potential client – and being in both spheres has opened a lot of doors in that regard."

Bolz's dedication to both KPMG and the Army has been far-reaching and long-lasting. "When I go to universities to recruit for KPMG," he adds, "I tell them I've only had three employers in my life, and I'm still with two of them."

Frankie Long, Marketing Coordinator, Atlanta



Though they certainly have their differences, the corporate and military lifestyles converge in many ways for Command Sergeant Major (CSM) Frankie Long. "The Army and KPMG actually share many of the same ideals," she says. "The pace is constantly moving and changing, so flexibility is crucial. You need to understand the vision and be informed and relevant at all times. And you need to have strong communication and relationship-building skills."

Most recently, CSM Long has been engaged at Fort Stewart in Hinesville, Georgia, training soldiers and commanders to go to Iraq, Afghanistan, and Kosovo. Her daily duties include Urban Operations, Training Mentor Assistor, and Weapons training, as well as individual counseling, and she must be willing to change roles as the mission dictates.

CSM Long is no newcomer to the Army: She has 28 years of service under her belt already. "Physical and book training are great, but people skills will always be useful," she says. "There's a basic understanding of needs and feelings that puts you a step ahead in business and in the field, and both KPMG and the Army get that."

When she's at home in Atlanta, CSM Long applies what she's learned in the military to her work at KPMG and to being a mom. "It's difficult to balance my two jobs and my family, but KPMG has supported me the whole way," she says. "When I'm called to serve I can be gone for up to three months at a time, but the firm always makes sure I have enough time with my daughter while I'm home. It gives me one less thing to worry about, and for that I'm grateful."

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