

Sarah Barnes Interview

Video Transcript

So my name is Sarah Barnes. I'm a private banking client associate. I've been with the bank for almost two years now. So I joined the Army National Guard when I was 17.

It was the summer between my junior and senior year. In the National Guard, I was a military police officer. While I was drilling, we did different missions, including a Homeland Response Force mission, I did a little bit of everything, and I was in for six years. So my transition into banking wasn't a one day I got out of the National Guard and one day I joined banking.

When I was in the National Guard, I went to Missouri State University to get my bachelor's, and I started at Commerce as a part time teller. I was a referral from another friend that was going to school. I never in my wildest dreams sort of ever thought I was in the National Guard. Never would have thought I had been a banker, but that is what led me to here today.

But being in the National Guard developed me into the adult I am today is what I always answer. I joined when I was 17. I thought I knew what the world had for everything, but I grew up in the National Guard and it developed me into the person that I am today.

The values that I hold true, the way that I work with people and collaborate and look at the world I think is highly influenced by my time at the National Guard. For me, Veteran's Day is an opportunity to show our appreciation for a group that so easily puts others before themselves. The type of people that serve our generally, somebody that is willing to make sacrifices for others and they don't stand up for the recognition a lot. I myself struggle to stand up for the recognition, and it's so important for us to show that to veterans and I think that it's amazing that Commerce supports that so much so our Veterans Employee resource group has really helped me connect to other veterans within the bank.

The veteran employee resource group specifically has really focused, especially in the last year, of within our hiring process and making sure that we are able to see the value and our new veteran employees as well as any of the employee resource groups. They are so good at creating a space in a big company like Commerce, and being able to connect you with people that understand or can create that space with you to feel comfortable.