

VETERAN SUCCESS STORIES



J. BRYAN COOKSEY, III
President, McCall Service, Inc.

Q: What was your primary occupation in the military?

US Army Officer, Airborne Ranger Infantry, Platoon Leader, Scout Platoon Leader, Executive Officer, Officer Basic Trainer

Q: What are you currently doing?

I am running the headquarters of McCall Service in Jacksonville Florida. McCall is a second-generation family-owned business started by my parents that I now co-own with my two brothers. My brother David is still serving as a LTC in the Air Force Reserves and is Deputy Commander of a squadron in Florida.

Q: What attracted you to the pest management industry?

I grew up in the industry, but did not initially think I would make it a career. I wanted to see the world and do something different than what I saw everyday. Eventually, my brothers and I came to our collective senses and over the past 26 years, I have had to opportunity to work in every role possible in the company – and I have never looked back.

Q: How did your experience in the military prepare you for this career path?

So many of my experiences have prepared me – but there are three key things that stand out: leadership; calmness under fire; and creating a sense of purpose in others through achieving the company mission and being a part of something bigger than themselves.

Other things that I learned through my experience in the military include effectively managing my time, being goal oriented, never saying never, taking care of your soldiers and understanding their limits, not overextending your resources or supply, always telling the truth and living by a code of ethics, sharing in the planning and execution of the mission, expecting what you inspect, managing by walking around and visiting the troops, doing the difficult missions and building a team that believes in their ability to do whatever mission they are assigned no matter how difficult, teaching team first and holding each other accountable.

And, I always remember that on a bad day at work you still get to come home. Keep your day in perspective and always be thankful for what your veterans on active assignments are doing for you every single day.

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