

# WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY SPOTLIGHT

## Ms. Julia Withers

**TITLE:** Government Team Lead, Acquisition Team- Pacific and Europe, PM P2E

**HOW LONG AT PEO EIS:** Since 2008



### 1. WHAT DO YOU DO AND WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO THE SOLDIER?

I work with a largely unsung group of acquisition subject matter experts providing cradle-to-grave IT acquisitions engineering support for Soldiers in the Pacific Rim, Germany, and the Pacific which is in support of the Yongsan Relocation Program/Land Partnership Plan (YRP/LPP) effort. We work in direct collaboration with other functional groups to solicit acquisition requirements through to contract award to the lowest risk and most qualified vendor. The resulting contracts provide Soldiers with the full spectrum of OCONUS network, information, and infrastructure modernization services so that Soldiers, commands and supporting organizations can access, process, and act upon information, anytime, anywhere, thus enabling information dominance across all phases of joint and coalition operations.

### 2. WHAT LED YOU TO A CAREER WITH THE ARMY?

Twenty years of acquisition support in various government agencies led me to a DoD contractor for whom I worked on Army Reserve contracts. That led to an assignment in an Active Army program office that "owned" four Major IDIQ contracts each with three prime contractors that was available to DoD for use. I conducted business development activities to attract users to our contract vehicles and gradually segued into a more direct acquisition support role. Because the program was subject to the Base Realignment and Closure Act of 2005, contracts moved to Ft. Belvoir in 2010 and repositioned to Ft Knox, KY. Coincident with the transfer, my colleagues and I were hired as government civilians and continued providing direct acquisition engineering support for PEO EIS at Ft. Belvoir. So, I went from developing content and writing proposals for government contracts to developing requests for proposals and subsequently evaluating those submissions and provide my consensus and recommendation for award!

### 3. WHO WOULD YOU CONSIDER TO BE YOUR MENTOR AND WHY?

I have gained a significant amount of knowledge through the many people I have encountered and engaged with along my journey. I will say that the DAU contracting courses and professors were tremendously helpful and I highly recommend their Contracting series.

### 4. MOTTO OR FAVORITE QUOTE?

Wayne Gretzky, said "You miss 100 percent of the shots you don't take" and although he was referring to ice hockey, it rings true in other arenas as well.

### 5. ADVICE TO THE NEXT GENERATION OF WOMEN?

Follow your passion but also strive to maintain the proper balance between your head and your heart! Don't be afraid to ask for advice when needed and don't forget to help others when they are in need!