

ORM NEWS

From the Office of the
Deputy Assistant Secretary for
Resolution Management
Department of Veterans Affairs



November 2003

From the Deputy Assistant Secretary

Veteran's Day 50th Anniversary



Veterans Day originated as "Armistice Day," which commemorated the end of World War I on Nov. 11, 1918. Proclaimed by Congress each year starting in 1926, Armistice Day became "Veterans Day" in 1954 as a result of legislation signed by President Dwight D. Eisenhower. The intention of the name change was to honor all of those who served the nation in wars or conflicts. Veterans Day has been observed annually on this date since 1978, following a brief period of observance on the fourth Monday of October.

November 11, 2003, marks the 50th anniversary of Veterans Day. Veteran's Day has even more resonance this year because of the daily sacrifice of our service men and women in places like Iraq and Afghanistan. VA's theme for this year's Veterans Day is "Honoring All Who Served."

To commemorate this milestone we are dedicating this month's edition of ORM News to honoring ORM employees who have served, and are serving, in our Nation's armed forces. We also want to salute the family members (past and present) of our employees who have also served our nation.

ORM employees, including myself, have served in a variety of military services and occupations during peacetime and armed conflicts. As of June 30, 2003, there were approximately 62 military veterans (46 males and 16 females) employed

In this month's edition:

Veterans Day By the Numbers	Page 3
Serving Our Nation -Profiles of Military Service	Page 4

in ORM. As many of you know, Ventris Gibson, the first Deputy Assistant Secretary for ORM, is also a proud veteran. While in the U.S. Navy, Ms. Gibson served as an air traffic controller in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba and Sigonella, Sicily. She has gone on to a distinguished career with VA.

We have also recognized some of our employees in earlier additions of ORM News. Just last month we highlighted the home coming of Vernet Fraser of Policy and Compliance who was home temporarily and returned to active duty in Kuwait. Vernet is just one of our employees, along with Everett "Chuck" Gruver and Adin Morales, who have been called to active duty during the present military crises in various parts of the world. We also highlighted, in last month's ORM News, Operation Tribute to Freedom that seeks community partnerships to honor the military.

Our employees are a cross-section of America, representing those who have served on active duty and those who have not served on active duty, but who have supported their loved ones and others who have, and are, serving our nation. The profiles you will see on the following pages are just a small reminder of the military service ORM employees and their families have rendered to uphold and protect the freedoms we sometimes take for granted. VA's mission, "*to care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and his orphan*" speaks to the principals that support our recognition of the service to the Nation provided by those who have and are serving in uniform.

Veteran's Day represents our collective recognition of the sacrifices the citizens of this nation have made to protect and defend the freedoms we hold so dear.

James S. Jones ■

Veterans Day by the Numbers

Born in conflict, America's success is built squarely upon her veterans. Today 26.4 million veterans help form her character and reflect the ideals of service. They make up 13 percent of all Americans (civilian) 18 and over.

Comprising 1 in 8 U.S. adults, veterans are not just our grandfathers and graybeards. They're you and me -- husbands, wives, neighbors, and co-workers. In fact, just 37 percent of U.S. veterans are 65 and older, and 6 percent are women. Comprising almost 22.6 million Caucasians, 2.6 million African Americans, 1.1 million Hispanics, 284,000 Asian Americans, and 196,000 Native Americans, America's veteran population represents all her peoples.



More than half of today's veterans have served during time of war or hostilities. One in 5 (6 million) served in World War II, 4 million (1 in 6) served in Korea, and 8 million (1 in 3) served during Vietnam. Three million have served since 1990 during years of the Gulf War, peace keeping actions in Eastern Europe, Operations in Afghanistan and Iraq and the War on Terror.

Many veterans served in more than one war – 384,000 served during World War II and the Korean War, 328,000 served during both the Vietnam era and the Gulf War, 274,000 served during both the Korean and Vietnam Wars, and 161,000 served during WWII, Korea, and Vietnam.

America is blessed to have such brave men and women living within her borders, and a few states are privileged to count over a million veterans among their citizens. They include California with 2.6 million veterans, Florida with 1.9 million veterans, Texas with 1.8 million veterans, New York with 1.4 million veterans, Pennsylvania with 1.3 million veterans, Ohio with 1.1 million and Illinois with 1 million veterans. Veterans comprise more than 15 percent of the adult populations of Alaska, Arizona, Florida, Maine, Montana, New Hampshire, Nevada, Oregon, Virginia, Washington, and Wyoming. ■

(VA Office of Public Affairs)

Profiles of Military Service

ORM Employees Serving Our Nation, Past and Present



Everett "Chuck" Gruver is an Investigator at the Leavenworth Satellite Office of the Houston Field Office. Chuck e-mailed the following from his military assignment in Kuwait.

"I am a member of the 190 Air Refueling Wing, Forbes Field Topeka, KS, currently deployed to the 486th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron at Ahmed Al Jaber, Kuwait for 120 days. I have been acting as a convoy commander for the "Red Tail Express" going into Iraq on a weekly basis. My current grade is Technical Sergeant and I have been in the military since 1971 except for the period of 1976 to 1983. All is well over here and I expect to be coming home soon. I have been pleasantly surprised by the character of the majority of the young people I have had the opportunity to work with on this deployment."

Sergeant First Class Vernet Fraser, Compensatory Damages Investigator, Office of Policy and Compliance, is assigned to the 220th Military Police Brigade in Gaithersburg, MD. Vernet is currently deployed with his Army Reserve unit as a Senior Paralegal Noncommissioned Officer for Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. He is stationed in Kuwait. Vernet joined the Army, serving six years, and then enlisted in the Army Reserve. During his years in the Army, he served as a Military Justice Clerk, Claims Adjudicator, and Legal Noncommissioned Officer at both overseas and continental United States locations. His awards include the Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, 3 Army Achievement Medals, Overseas Ribbon, Good Conduct Medals, Army Reserve Medals, and the Army Service Ribbon.



Vernet Fraser in Kuwait



Sgt. Adin Morales is third from the left in this photo.

Sergeant Adin Morales, 94th Regional Support Command, is an EEO Assistant Worker Trainee, at our Bedford Office. Adin was called to active duty in support of Operation Nobel Eagle in April 2003. He is the Finance Non-Commissioned Officer (NCO) for the Regional Support Command for the Army Reserves at Devens Reserve Forces Training area (formerly Ft. Devens) in Ayer MA.

James S. Jones, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Resolution Management, served in the U.S. Army from November 1968 to August 1970 as a Sergeant, Light Weapons Infantry. Mr. Jones is a Vietnam veteran who also served at Ft. Leonard Wood, MO, Ft. Lewis, WA, Ft. Benning, GA, and Ft. Polk, LA.



James S. Jones



Amber Lyn Fisher

Amber Lyn Fisher, EEO Investigator, Pittsburgh Satellite Office, served in the U.S. Army from 1988 to 1992 and the U.S. Army Reserve from 1993 to the present. Amber is a Chief Warrant Officer 3 (CW3), (Linguist). Her tours of duty included Ft. Meade, MD; Defense Attaché Office, Brussels, Belgium; and Yongsan Garrison, Seoul, South Korea. Her commendations include the Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Good Conduct Medal, Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Non Commission Officer Professional Development Ribbon, Army Service Ribbon, and the Army Reserve Component Overseas Training Ribbon with 1 Oak Leaf Cluster.

Earnestine Richardson, EEO Specialist, Office of Policy and Compliance, served twenty-two years in the U.S. Army, from 1974 to 1996, starting in the Women’s Army Corps (WAC). During her tenure in the Army she served as a Military Policewoman, Protocol Specialist, Executive Administrative Assistant, and Equal Opportunity (EO) Advisor. Twelve of her 22 years were spent as an EO Advisor. While on active duty, she managed the Equal Opportunity (EO) program for an organization comprised of more than 80,000 personnel nationwide and abroad. Earnestine’s military decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, and two National Defense Service Medals. She is a graduate of the Department of Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute (DEOMI) and is a current member of the Women in Military Service for America (WIMSA). Of her military experience Earnestine had this to say, “ My entire 22 years of military service is treasured because of the place’s I’ve been; the lasting friends I’ve made and I’ve had the honor to have served my country.” She went on to say “My experiences in the U.S. Army, especially my stint at the Department of Defense Opportunity Management Institute, made me who I am today.”



Earnestine Richardson

Malcolm Porter, Chief Operating Office (COO), served in the United States Navy from September 1972 to September 1976 and the Naval Reserve from 1976 to 1980. Malcolm was a Dental Technician, E-4 while on active duty and an E-5 in the Naval Reserve. He was also designated as a Medic. His main duty station was the Regional Naval Dental Center, Norfolk, VA.

Vanessa Deal, EEO Intake Specialist, Washington Field Office, served in the U.S. Army from February 1973 to February 1976 and the U.S. Army Reserve from February 1976 to February 1986 as a Specialist 5th Class, Human Resources Personnel Specialist and as a Management Specialist. Vanessa entered military service towards the end of the Vietnam era and survived basic training in the Women’s Army Corps (WAC) at Ft. McClellan, AL. She served as an Assistant NCOIC (Non-Commissioned Officer-In-Charge) at a large personnel-processing center staffed by both military and civilian employees. She also served in an Army Reserve MASH Unit in addition to working as a recruiter. She was offered a commission as a 2nd Lieutenant but declined to accept her appointment so that she could pursue her college career full time. Of her many experiences in the military she remembers her first social encounter while in basic training when she was invited to attend church by a member of the 52nd Airborne who gave her a set of his jump wings as a memento of the occasion.



Vanessa Deal



Ronnie Snowden

Ronnica “Ronnie” Snowden, EEO Assistant, Washington Field Office, is a member of United States Naval Reserve. Ronnie, who holds the rank of YN2 (Yeoman, Petty Officer, 2nd Class, E-5), entered the Naval Reserve in September 1993. Ronnie has served at various duty assignments including her favorite duty stations in London England, Seoul Korea, and Oeiras, Portugal. She has earned the Joint Service Achievement Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, Naval Reserve Meritorious Service Medal with 2 Bronze Stars, the Navy Overseas Service Ribbon, and the National Defense Service Medal with 1 Bronze Star.

James “Jim” Cameron, EEO Investigator, Lake City Satellite Office, served in the U.S. Army from September 1969 to September 1974, as a Personnel Actions Specialist 5 (E-5). He received the Army Commendation Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Good Conduct Medal, and the Expert Rifle Badge (M-16). Jim served at Ft. Gordon, GA (Basic Training), Ft. Jackson, SC (AIT/Personnel School), as a Company Clerk, Headquarters, U.S. Army Element, Allied Forces Central Europe and at Brunssum, The Netherlands as a Senior Personnel Actions Specialist.

Paul A. Crain, EEO Manager, Central Plains Operation, served in the United States Air Force from November 1973 to February 1987 as a Technical Sergeant (TSGT), Mental Health Technician. Paul served at a number of Air Force installations including; Lackland AFB, San Antonio, TX (1973), Sheppard AFB, TX (1974), Wright-Patterson AFB, OH (1974 - 77), Clark Air Base, Republic of the Philippines (1977- 78), Andrews AFB, MD (1978 - 1985), and Travis AFB, CA (1985 - 87). He received the following medals; Air Force Commendation Medal, Air Force Achievement Medal, Air Force Good Conduct Medal with 3 oak leaf clusters, National Defense Service Medal and the Humanitarian Service Medal (Jonestown Tragedy).

Daniel K. Prater, EEO Intake Specialist, Great Lakes Operations, served in the U.S. Army from January 1971 to April 1973 as a Specialist, 4th Class (Spec 4) in the Airborne Infantry and as a Personnel Specialist. Daniel was assigned to Ft. Dix, NJ; Ft. Polk, LA; Ft. Benning, GA; Ft Richardson, AK; Ft. Sill, OK; and Ft Monmouth, NJ. He received the following awards: Distinguished Graduate Airborne Class 14-72; Post Soldier of the Month-Ft. Richardson, AK; and Post Soldier of the Month at Ft. Monmouth, NJ. He also served in the U.S. Arke Reserve from 1975 to 1979, as a 2nd Lieutenant, Civil Affairs Branch, 402d Civil Affairs Co., Tonawanda, NY.



Charlotte Barr

Chief Warrant Two (CW2) Charlotte Barr, EEO Counselor, Little Rock Field Office, is a technical expert in personnel administration and human resources for the U.S. Army Reserves. She joined the Army in 1986 and worked in the following positions: Electronics, Radio Repairer, Administrative Specialist, and Personnel Specialist as an enlisted soldier, and Military Personnel Technician, as an officer. She is also a certified Drill Sergeant. CW2 Barr also has a son, **Jeffery C. Parks**, who is trained as Medical Logistical Supply Staff Sergeant for the U. S. Air Force and has been deployed twice in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Charlotte Jones, Manager, Enterprise Office, served in U. S. Army from 1975 to 1977. She trained in the Signal Corp. and worked has a Health System Specialist-Medical Corp, while assigned to 121 Signal Corp. Her duty stations included Basic Training - Ft. Jackson, SC where she was a PFC -Squad Leader and earned the Sharp Shooter medal. She was also assigned to Ft. Gordon, GA with the rank of Specialist 4, Squad Leader. After earning the Battalion Leadership Award, she was offered a position as a Commission officer - 2nd Lieutenant, which she declined. Charlotte graduated MOS training with the highest score in her Company. Her permanent duty station was Ft. Riley, KS. Charlotte was one of the first ten women selected to enter West Point, however, she also declined this appointment. Charlotte said, "After I declined this appointment, the General requested that I meet with him and it was decided, that if I would not enter West Point or accept a commission, I should not extend my military career. Thereafter, I completed my two years of military service and entered graduate school at the University of Kansas."

Kevin T. Thomas, Telecommunications Specialist, Information Technology Service (ITS), served as a Staff Sergeant, Tactical Communication Chief, in the U.S. Army from March of 1975 to March of 1978 and in the National Guard from January 1983 to January 1993. He served in Operation Desert Storm (Saudi Arabia) and received the Southwest Asia Medal.



Kevin Thomas

William E. Sanders, EEO Investigator, Cleveland Field Office, served in the U.S. Army from August 1969 to March 1971. He was a Specialist 4th Class in the Military Police. He is a Vietnam veteran who served in Phu Bai, Vietnam from January 1970 to March 1971.

Tyrone Eddins, External Affairs Program Manager, served in the U.S. Navy from April 1971 to April 1975 as a Personnelman Third Class. He was assigned to the USS Fairfax County (LST) Norfolk, VA; Naval Construction Battalion 5 (C-BEES) Providence, RI; and the Naval Air / Test Station (NAS) Patuxent River, MD.

GO NAVY!!

James M. Foster, Regional EEO Manager Western Operations, served in the U.S. Air Force with the rank of Sergeant (E-5) from June 1968 to June 1974, including service in the active reserve. He is a Vietnam veteran with overseas tours at Cameron Bay, South Vietnam and Seoul, Korea with stateside tours at Elgin and Lackland Air Force bases.



David Betts as an Air Force Recruit

David Betts, EEO Manager, Mid-Atlantic Operation, retired as a Captain in the U.S. Air Force. He served as Chief of the 314th Airlift Wing Military Equal Opportunity Office located at Little Rock AFB, Arkansas. He was responsible for administering the wing commander's equal opportunity and treatment program. He served as the wing commander's principal advisor on equal opportunity and treatment policies and procedures and human relations education programs. David enlisted in the United States Air Force upon graduation from high school in 1977. During his enlisted tenure he served as an Aircraft Armament Systems Specialist, loading nuclear weapons on B-52s, and as a Wideband Communications Equipment Specialist, maintaining fixed and tactical electronic communications

equipment, and restricted area security systems. In 1991, David was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant through the Air Force Officer Training School. He served as a squadron and group executive officer, wing protocol officer, squadron section commander, operations officer for a Military Entrance Processing Station, and as the Chief of Military Equal Opportunity. David served at a number of military installations both in the U.S. and overseas. Throughout his military service, David received a number of educational degrees including; Associate of Applied Science in Electronic Systems Technology, Associate in Aircraft Armament Systems Technology, Bachelor of Arts in Management of Human Resources, Master of Arts in Business Administration and Juris Doctor, Law. His awards included the Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal with 5 Oak Leaf Clusters, Air Force Achievement Medal, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with 4 Oak Leaf Clusters, Air Force Good Conduct Medal with 3 Oak Leaf Clusters, and the National Defense Service Medal with 1 Bronze Star.

Maurice Holman, EEO Investigator, Hines Field Office, served in the United States Marine Corps from February 4, 1970 to November 5, 1971 as a Private (Cook). He was assigned to the 1st Marine Division, Fleet Marine Force, Camp Pendleton, California. His decorations include the National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal with one Star, Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device, Good Conduct Medal and the Sharp Shooter Medal.

Ava'Maria Marshall, EEO Counselor, Little Rock Field Office, served in the United States Marine Corps from April 1978 to April 1998 as a Gunnery Sergeant, Equal Opportunity Advisor and Personnel Administrative Chief. She received the Meritorious Service Medal, Navy Commendation Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, National Defense Medal, Meritorious Unit Citation, Navy Unit Citation, Good Conduct Medal, Overseas Ribbon, and the Secretary of the Navy Letter of Commendation. Her duty stations included Headquarters Battalion, Camp Smith, Hawaii; Marine Corps Supply Depot, Albany, Georgia; 3rd Brigade Service Support Group, Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii; Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, Quantico, Virginia; 1st Marine Air Wing, Iwakuni, Japan; and the 12th Marine Corps Recruiting District, Treasure Island (San Francisco), California; 1st Marine Division, Camp Pendleton, California; 3rd Force Service Support Group, Okinawa, Japan (Camp Foster); 3rd Marine Division, Okinawa, Japan (Camp Courtney); and the 2d Force Service Support Group, Camp Lejeune, North Carolina.



Ava'Maria Marshall

Willy L. Jenkins, EEO Investigator, Los Angeles Satellite Office, served as a Sergeant (E-5) in United States Marine Corps from August 1967 to July 1971. He is a Vietnam combat veteran who served in Vietnam from 1968 to 1969 (13 months) as an Infantry / Radio Operator. He was awarded the following medals: National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal w/device, Combat Action Ribbon, Good Conduct Medal, Certification of Commendation, Vietnam Service Medal w/5*, Vietnam Cross of Gallantry w/palm and frame, Rifle Marksmanship Badge, Pistol Marksmanship Badge.

“I entered the Marines two months after completing high school because there were no jobs and I wanted to go to school to earn some type of degree. I could not afford to go to school; so, I gambled on serving time in Vietnam to earn the GI Bill for college. Because at that time, if you joined or were drafted you knew that Vietnam was the pay off for what they offered you. Many young men chose to hide in college or just leave the U.S. This was not an option for me; I could not afford school or even to leave my neighborhood. I joined the Marines against the wishes of my mother and family. I spent my first year in the Marines learning how to fight and to use all types of weapons. My second year was spent in Vietnam trying to remain among the living at the age of 18. My third and fourth years I spent in Hawaii as a Military Police, I used what I learned in Vietnam to make my point, and I decided not to remain in the Marines because I did not want to roll the dice again in Vietnam. They told me that more than likely I would have to return to the war zone if I re-enlisted. War was not my cup of tea. So, I left with honor to make a life for myself. I purchased my first home and earned my Associates of Arts and Bachelors degrees Under the GI Bill.

Now was it worth it? Yes it was because someone before me put their life on the line in the name of the United States of America...”

Zakia Batchelor, Human Resource Training Officer, Office of the DAS, is currently enlisted in the United States Air Force Reserve as a Human Resource Training Manager for the Medical Field. She also served on regular active duty in the Air Force from April 1995 to August 2002 at Bolling Air Force Base. Her medals include the Good Conduct Medal with one Oak Leaf Cluster, Air Force Achievement Medal, and the National Defense Medal. While on active duty she received a Community College of the Air Force Associates Degree and recognition as the Airman of the Year, Airman of the Quarter, Team Leader of the Quarter, Team of the Quarter, and Organization of the Year.



William Suddeth

William Suddeth, EEO Intake Specialist, Little Rock Field Office, served in the United States Marine Corps as a Corporal, Infantry, Rescue Swimmer from 1986 to 1990. His duty stations included Parris Island, SC, Camp Lejeune, NC; USS Midway; Marine Detachment (Far East/Africa Tour); and the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Middle East Tour). He was awarded the Expeditionary Medal, Good Conduct Medal, and the Meritorious Mast.

Allen Mitchell III, EEO Counselor, Detroit Satellite Office, served in the U.S. Air Force from January 1968 to January 1989. His military specialty was Administration with the rank of E-6. Allen served at a variety of locations in both the U.S. and overseas, these included; Amarillo, Tex; Shemya AFB, Alaska; San Vito AS, Italy; Langley AFB, VA; Weisbaden AS, Germany; Rimini AFB, Italy; Lackland AFB, Tex; Offutt AFB, NE; USAF Recruiting Squadron in Minneapolis, MN, and Selfridge ANGB, MI. His medals included the Meritorious Service Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal, National Defense, Outstanding Unit Medals and Administrator of the Year, and others.

John Sequin, EEO Intake Specialist, Houston Field Office, was an Officer in the United States Army Reserve. John was a Hospital Commander and proudly served for eight years. In addition, he received several awards, medals and commendations.

Herbert I. Wilkins, EEO Investigator, Vancouver Field Office, served in the U.S. Army, from Dec 1962 - August 1986 with the rank of E-7. He was a Heavy Weapons Specialist, Subsistence Supply Specialist and an Equal Opportunity Advisor. Herbert is a Vietnam veteran and received the Combat Infantryman Badge, Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Good Conduct (7 Awards), Viet Nam Service, Viet Nam Campaign (5), and the National Defense Medal. He served in following locations: Hawaii, Taiwan, Thailand, Philippines, Viet Nam, Fort Dix, N.J; Fort Lewis, WA; Fort Ord, CA; Fort Leonard Wood, MO; Fort Lee, VA; and Germany (Stuttgart & Zweibrucken).

David Woodly, EEO Intake Specialist, Little Rock Field Office, served as a Captain (Supply) in the U.S. Air Force from January 1966 Through May 1969. His awards included the Air Force Achievement Medal, Air Force Achievement Medal with First Oak Leaf Cluster and an Outstanding Service Certificate. His tours of duty included Wheelus Air Force Base Tripoli, Libya; Nellis Air Force Base, Las Vegas, Nevada; and Takli Royal Thai Air Force Base Takli, Thailand. He is also a member of the Air National Guard with service from 1979 to the present. He has held various positions in the Air National Guard including Vehicle Operator, Entomology Technician, Clinic Administrator, and Health Services Officer.



David Woodly

Jo Ann Blackmon, EEO Assistant, Little Rock Field Office, retired as a Sergeant, Administrative Specialist, with an honorable discharge from the United States Army. Jo Ann's overseas tours consisted of Heidelberg Germany, (Headquarters United States Army, Europe and Seventh Arm; Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff, (Operations) where she performed duties of a Coordination Noncommissioned Officer (NCO); and Seoul Korea, (Eighth United States Army Aviation) where she performed duties as an Administrative Noncommissioned Officer in Charge (NCOIC). Her stateside tours included Fort Polk, Louisiana; Fort Jackson, South Carolina; Fort Lee Virginia and Fort Sill, Oklahoma. Highest award received was the Meritorious Service Medal (MSM).

George Randy Garrett, Investigator, Little Rock Field Office, entered the U.S. Navy in February 1972. After receiving basic, intermediate and advanced training at the Fleet Anti-submarine Warfare Training Center in San Diego CA., He received additional specialized training at the Special Warfare Training Center at Coronado CA. Following training and specialized deployments, he was assigned to the USS James K. Polk, SSBN 645 in March of 1974. George completed 9 ballistic missile patrols, serving under 3 different Commanding Officers. While stationed aboard the Polk, he was assigned to the Sonar Division as a Lead Sonarman, ships destruction team and tactical defense response team. He was also a member of the Nuclear Weapons Personnel Reliability Program. The Polk operated out of Rota Spain and was home-ported in Charleston, SC. He received the National Defense Medal, Submarine Dolphin Pin (Silver), FBM Patrol Pin with one (1) silver and four (4) bronze stars and Commanding Officer's Commendations. George was Honorably Discharged in October of 1978, as an STS2 SS (E-5) selected for meritorious advancement to ST1 SS (E-6), effective in December of 1978.

Vanessa Dawson-Vaughn, Computer Operator, ITS Division, served nine years in the U.S. Army with the rank of Staff Sergeant, from 1982 to 1991. During her tenure in the Army, she served as a Food Service Specialist, Administrative Assistant, Finance and Mail Clerk. Three of her nine years were spent as the Administrative Assistant in Bad Kreuznach, Germany. She also spent six months in Panama and nine months in Saudi Arabia. One of her greatest experiences was being the Dining Facility Manager for 400 soldiers for the 3rd Cavalry in Ft. Bliss TX during Desert Shield and Desert Storm. Vanessa's military decorations include the Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal 1st OLC, Good Conduct Medal, two National Defense Service Medals, Southwest Asia Service Medal with 2 service stars and NCO Professional Development Ribbon. Of her military experiences Vanessa had this to say, " My entire nine years of military service is treasured because of the places I've been, like Berlin participating in the Combat in the City Training and the lasting friends I've made." She went on to say "My experiences in the U.S. Army, contributed greatly to who I am today and who I will become in the future."



Vanessa
Dawson-Vaughn

Kenneth Gipson, EEO Specialist/Counselor, North Little Rock, served in the United States Navy from 1988 to 1992 as an E-5 where he was in the Supply Logistics Department. He also served as an EEO Counselor for the Supply Department from March 1989 until September 1992.

Kathy Michael, Education Training Specialist, Bay Pines, FL. served in U.S. Air Force from June 1978 to June 1985 with the rank of Staff Sergeant. Kathy was a Materiel Facilities Specialist/ Quality Assurance Evaluator. She spent two years (1978-1980) at Dover AFB, Delaware, three years (1980-1983) at Kadena AFB Okinawa, Japan and two years (1983-1985) at MacDill AFB, Florida. Her medals included the Air Force Accommodation Medal, AF Achievement Medal, Air Force Good Conduct Medal, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, Meritorious Service Award at MacDill AFB, Noncommissioned Officer in the Air Force, Air Force Longevity Service Award, Air Force Overseas long tour ribbon, Air Force Training ribbon, Airman of the Quarter at Dover AFB, Technician of the Month at Kadena AFB and Technician of the month at MacDill AFB,

Terry Washington, Program Analyst, External Affairs Program, served in the U.S. Navy from 1969 to 1973, as a YN3 (Yeoman, Petty Officer 3rd Class, E-4). After boot camp at Great Lakes, IL and "A" School in Bainbridge, MD, he was assigned to the Submarine Base, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. "I have three generations of Navy veterans in my family, starting with my father who served in WWII, my oldest brother, myself and three nephews."

Carselia Renard, EEO Investigator, Little Rock Field Office, is a 22-year veteran of two military services. She enlisted in the U.S. Air Force in 1971 and was a Disbursement Accounting Specialist. She spent her tour of duty in the Air Force at Maxwell AFB in Montgomery, AL. She enlisted in the Louisiana Army National Guard in 1975 as an E-3 and began her second hitch as a Medical Supply Specialist. She was hired as a full-time Guard/Reserve in the Automated Data Processing at the USPFO Headquarters in 1976. She was promoted to the rank of Sergeant in 1977 and reassigned as a full-time Supply Sergeant with the 159th Mobile Army Surgical Hospital. She transferred to the 812th Medical Detachment (Hel Amb) as an aviation supply sergeant where she remained until she was commissioned. In 1978 she applied for, and was accepted as a candidate in Officer Candidate School. Carselia was not the first female to attend the course, however, she was the first to complete the yearlong course in 1979 when she graduated and received the Commandant's award.

Commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant she served as an Administrative Officer in the 20th Area Support Group. She was promoted to 1st Lieutenant within one year and Captain three years later. She served as the State Personnel Officer and the Adjutant. She was reassigned and served as a Field Services Officer and appointed as the HAZMAT and Field Sanitation Training Officer for the state of Louisiana. She served as the first female Company Commander for a Major Command in the Louisiana Army National Guard and the unit was recognized during her tenure with the Combat Readiness Training award. She was promoted in 1994 to the rank of Major and was assigned as the Liaison Officer for the Area Support Group. She served OCONUS in Germany and Belgium as the Communication Security Officer for several Joint Readiness Training Commission exercises. She also participated in writing the redeployment plan for troops returning from Bosnia to Germany and received the Army Commendation Medal. Her last duty assignment was as a Major who was qualified in Engineering, Logistics, Adjutant, Quartermaster and Transportation.

Thomas E. Allen, Sr. EEO Counselor, Lake City, FL serves in the U.S. Air Force (Air National Guard) as a Master Sergeant (E-7), Civil Engineer in the 125th Fighter Wing, Jacksonville, FL.

Robert P. Moran, EEO Counselor, Lyons Field Office, served in the U.S. Air Force from February 1972 to February 1976 as a Sgt. (E-4), Automatic Flight Control Systems Specialist. His awards and medals include the National Defense Ribbon, Good Conduct Medal, Air Force Loyal Service Award, Marksmanship Ribbon, and the Southeast Asia Service Medal. He served at a number of locations including Griffiss AFB, Rome, NY; 416th Bomb Wing Utapao, Thailand, RTAFB; 8th Air Force, Anderson AFB, Guam; 8th Air Force, Beale AFB, CA, 9th Recon Wing.



Thomas E. Allen, Sr.

Michael Fulton, EEO Assistant, Little Rock Field Office, is a retired Master Sergeant of the U.S. Air Force. Michael served from January 1978 to Jun 1995, as an Administration Specialist and Education & Training Specialist. He received the Meritorious Service Medal; Air Force Commendation Medal; Air Force Achievement Medal; Outstanding Unit Award Ribbon; Air Force Good Conduct Medal; Overseas Service Ribbon (Long Tour); Overseas Service Ribbon (Short Tour); Longevity Service Award Ribbon; NCO Professional Military Education Graduate Ribbon; Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon; Air Force Training Ribbon. He was also a Certified Master Instructor and Technical Training Instructor Course Honor Graduate. His duty stations included the Little Rock Air Force Base; Kunsan Air Base (Korea); Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, AZ; Chanute Air Force Base, IL; Soesterberg Air Base (Holland); and Vance Air Force Base, OK.

Waltrunette Gardner, HR Manager, DAS Staff, served in the U.S. Air Force in an active duty status for 1 1/2 years, and in an inactive reserve status for 4 1/2 years. Waltrunette completed 12 weeks of training in San Antonio, Texas, and served as a Security Specialist while on active duty in Okinawa, Japan. Although Ms. Gardner was released from active duty early, she received several citations for her outstanding performance as a Security Specialist and received an honorable discharge in 1988.



Waltrunette Gardner

Rafael J. Lobato-Martinez, EEO Counselor, Hines Field Office, served in the Navy from 1969 to 1971 as a Journalist Third Class with the staff of the Commander-in-Chief, Pacific Fleet (CINCPACFLT).

R. LaMont Johnson, ADR Co-Manager, DAS Staff, was drafted into the Army in February 1967 and completed basic training at Ft. Bragg, Fayetteville, NC. He completed Advanced Infantry Training at Ft. Jackson, Columbia, SC. LaMont served in Viet Nam from July 1967 to July 1968 on the front lines with the 25th Infantry, Division, and within 5 months became a Combat Infantryman Platoon Sergeant who was responsible for the welfare of 40 infantry soldiers during combat. During the same period, he was collaterally responsible for the company's Fire Direction Control that included providing targets for air strikes and artillery. He attended Non-Commissioned Officer's Academy in January 1968 and was promoted to Staff Sergeant in April 1968. After returning from Viet Nam, LaMont was a Drill Sergeant at Ft. Jackson, SC. On his military experiences, he had this to say; "I was highly decorated with awards that included the Army Accommodation Medal with Valor, and twice the Outstanding Drill Sergeant award for outstanding platoons during training cycles. In 1985, I was featured in a Washington Post newspaper article on the transition from a combat soldier to a successful professional career."

David Williams, EEO Intake Specialist, Washington Field Office served in the U.S. Army as a Master Sergeant, E-8 (Retired) from January 1974 to December 1997. His military specialties included Military Police and Equal Opportunity Advisor (EOA). Highest award received was the Legion of Merit with 1 oak leaf cluster. David served in Germany, Panama, Korea, and at various locations in the United States. His most rewarding positions were as an EOA, drill sergeant and 1st Sergeant.

Gwendolyn Gantt, EEO Investigator, Washington Field Office, served in the U.S. Army from 1976 to 1979 in purchasing and contracting. The experiences gained from serving in the military equipped me for my first government position with the VA Medical Center in Washington DC as a GS-4 clerk in the purchasing and contracting department.

Barbara A. Wilson-Coleman, EEO Counselor, Great Lakes Operation, asked if we would include the following military profiles of her daughters, **Sharon M. Wilson** and **Lt. Colonel Victoria Bowens**, in recognition of their military service.



Sharon M. Wilson, Captain (Ret.), U.S. Army Airborne, Ordnance Corps. Captain Wilson was medically retired in 2000, for a service-connected disability. She served in the 18th Airborne Corps, Fort Bragg, NC and 2nd Infantry Division DISCOM in Korea. Assignments include Platoon Leader, Executive Officer, Assistant S3 Operations, Assistant Brigade Maintenance Officer, DISCOM Adjutant, and Commander, HHC DISCOM.



Lt. Colonel Victoria Bowens is commander, 319th Mission Support Squadron, 319th Mission Support Group, 319th Air Refueling Wing, Grand Forks Air Force Base, N.D. She is responsible for personnel, airmen leadership, education, and family support for over 3,200 military and DoD civilian personnel, in addition to numerous National Guard, Reserve, and geographically separated units in North and South Dakota and Minnesota. She also serves as the senior personnel officer on base. Lieutenant Colonel Bowens graduated from the University of Akron, Ohio, and was commissioned through the Air Force ROTC program as a distinguished graduate in 1986. She has held a variety of squadron, wing and staff positions at major command and joint organizations. Prior to being assigned to her current position she was Chief, Assignment Procedures/PCS Budget/Joint Officer Management Branch, Headquarters Air Force Personnel Center, and Randolph Air Force Base, Texas.

ORM SALUTES Those Who Have Served



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