

Women

*Sustaining
the*

American

Spirit



*A Salute to the Women
of the
Arkansas National Guard*

Presented by

Major General Don C. Morrow

The Adjutant General

and

The Federal Women's Program

March 2002

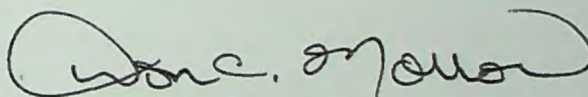
PREFACE

The theme for Women's History Month 2002 is "Women Sustaining the American Spirit." What better way to showcase this spirit than by honoring the women of our organization? These women most definitely represent the American spirit. They are daughters, wives, mothers, even grandmothers, who have chosen to live the adage that "you can be anything you want to be in America." They not only chose what is commonly referred to as a "non-traditional" career path for females by joining the military, but by succeeding in their chosen careers they are helping to eliminate that stigma.

When women were first allowed to join the military, career paths were limited primarily to the medical and clerical fields. This is no longer true. With the exception of combat arms positions, there are few restrictions on females in the military today. This is reflected in the careers of the women included in this booklet. The Arkansas Army National Guard recently appointed its first female Brigade-level Commander. The Arkansas Air National Guard boasts four female C-130 pilots. We have female aircraft mechanics in both the Army and Air National Guard. These are just a few examples of the broadening opportunities for females in the military. It is impossible to honor all the deserving women in our great organization, but we have attempted to paint an accurate picture of the opportunities available, along with some of their accomplishments.

In February, we sent a mass e-mail requesting biographies of anyone who wished to be included. Not only did many respond personally, but proud co-workers and supervisors forwarded information as well. As you read the profiles in this booklet, you will undoubtedly be impressed with the skills and dedication these women bring to this organization. They are trailblazers for women who follow and they have set a remarkable example.

I am very proud to serve along side of these outstanding Americans and honored to have them as members of the Arkansas National Guard.



DON. C. MORROW
Major General
The Adjutant General

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Major Patricia Anslow 875th Engineer Battalion

Major Patricia Anslow is the Executive Officer of the 97th Engineer Battalion in Jonesboro, Arkansas.

Major Anslow was born and raised in Troy, New York. Upon completion of high school in 1985 she entered the United States Military Academy at West Point. She was in the 10th graduating class of females to the Academy. In May 1989, she received a BS in geography and was commissioned as a 2LT in the Engineers Branch. 2LT Anslow first completed the Engineer Officer Basic Course (EOBC) and Mapping Charting and Geodesy Officer's Course (MCGOC) at Fort Belvoir, VA and Airborne School at Ft. Benning, GA before heading to her first assignment with the 30th Engineer Battalion, Ft. Bragg, NC.

2LT Anslow had been Platoon Leader of the Production Platoon, 100th Engineering Company (Topographic), for only three months when the United States had embarked upon Operation Desert Storm. She deployed her unit with the 20th Engineer Brigade in December 1990. The platoon successfully supported the mapping efforts of Gen Schwartzkopf and the entire CENTCOM staff in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. The platoon supplied base mapping, imagery, obstacle and operation graphics, as well battle assessment imagery for the entire battlefield. The platoon provided over 500 copies of 16 different mapping products daily for the war effort. Upon return to the United States in April 1991, 2LT Anslow was promoted and served as Executive Officer of the 100th EN CO. She helped transition the company to Airborne status and has over 15 military jumps. She also served as Battalion Adjutant prior to departure from the United States Army in May 1992.

1LT Anslow entered the Arkansas Army National Guard in May 1993. Her first assignment was as a civil engineer in the Director of Engineering and Housing (DEH) for the Installation Support Unit (ISU), Camp Robinson. She was promoted to Captain in 1994 and served as JHC Commander from 1994-1996. During her command, ISU was the only TDA unit in the state to be awarded the Distinguished Unit Award for their readiness and capability. After command, she became a Facility Engineer, for the Deputy Chief of Staff for Engineering (DCSEN) and was promoted to Major in 1997. During her time there she developed Geographic Position System (GPS) data formats for all the facilities in the Arkansas National Guard and began a program to capture the digital data. After a year with STARC, Major Anslow served as the Area Damage Control (ADC) officer with the 25th ROC and accompanied the unit to the Joint Readiness Training Center (JRTC) for Annual Training in 1999. She was then transferred to the 875th Engineer Battalion, Corps Mech, FSP-1, where she served as the Battalion S-3. Major Anslow was the first female staff engineer in the battalion. U.S. Army LTG Robert Flowers, Chief of Engineers, noted during a regimental dinner that to his knowledge, Major Anslow was the first female to serve as an S-3 of a Corps Mechanized Engineer Battalion in the reserves or active component. She now serves as the Executive Officer of the 875th. The unit has supported reserve and active armor units at Ft.

Hood, TX for the past two annual training exercises.

While establishing her military career, Tricia Anslow has also kept busy pursuing a civilian career. Tricia worked for the Arkansas State Military Department's environmental office from 1993-1994. She established the Land Condition Trend Analysis (LCTA) program, which continues to annually monitor the impacts of training on local environment to ensure adequate training areas for the long-term.

In an attempt to further her understanding of biological sciences, she enrolled at University of Arkansas at Little Rock (UALR). While working full-time and having a company command, she completed a second BS in biology in January 1997 with a 4.0 GPA. Tricia took a position with the Little Rock District Corps of Engineers in July 1994 as their first Geographic Information System (GIS) Manager. She helped develop a program that now includes over 40 workstations and gigabytes of digital data of Arkansas and Missouri. She was instrumental in expanding digital databases of Camp Robinson, Ft. Chaffee, Little Rock Air Force Base, and Pine Bluff Arsenal as well. She also served on numerous national committees to help develop geospatial data standards for the entire U.S. Corps of Engineers.

After five years as the GIS Manager, she decided to assume additional responsibilities and serve as project manager for small construction and environmental restoration projects. She was recently promoted to Chief of the Environmental Section, Planning Environmental Regulatory Division. She supervises six individuals and all environmental studies in the District.

Major Anslow is an avid runner and outdoor enthusiast. She has competed in seven marathons to include the Bataan Memorial Death March, at the White Sands Missile Range, NM, in 2001. With four other Arkansas National Guard teammates; they took 4th place in the co-ed light National Guard division. A new team is assembled and ready to again take on the challenge in April 2002. She will also accompany the Arkansas National Guard team to the Lincoln, Nebraska marathon in May 2002.

Major Anslow is a graduate of the Engineer Officer Advanced Course, CAS3, and Command & General Staff College. Her awards include Meritorious Service Medal (2), Army Commendation Medal (5), Army Achievement Medal (2), Southwest Asia Campaign Ribbon (w/3 bronze leaf clusters), Kuwait Liberation Medal, Saudi Arabia Liberation Medal, and the LTC Tharel W. Sroczynski Leadership Award, 1997. Also, she was been awarded the Department of the Army Achievement Medal for Civilian Service, 1999; Federal Employee of the Year, Scientific and Medical Field, 1998; Thomas Hogue Research Award, Department of Biology University of Arkansas at Little Rock, 1997.

Sergeant Valerie Banks 172nd Medical Company

Sergeant Valerie Banks, a member of the 172nd Medical Company. She is a full-time technician, working as a Tools and Parts Attendant at the Combined Support Maintenance Shop at Camp Robinson.

Unlike many soldiers who begin their careers in their teens or early 20's, SGT Banks completed the rigors of Basic Training at the age of 34. She has been a proud member of the Arkansas National Guard for 13 years and is a veteran of Desert Storm. SGT Banks has an Associate Degree in Early Childhood Education.

Valerie is married to Bobby Banks. They have four children, Laval Ezell, Richard Johnson, Jr., Cameron Johnson, and Sandra Johnson. She attends the Second Baptist Church in Little Rock. Her hobbies are reading, cooking, and decorating.

SGT Banks stated, "I'm proud to be a soldier in the Army National Guard. I've never regretted my decision to serve in the military."

Sergeant Christina M. Barton 172nd Medical Company (AA)

SGT Christina M. Barton is a UH-60A Crew Chief, in the 172nd Medical Company (AA) and a WG-11 Aircraft Mechanic at the Arkansas Army Aviation Support Facility (AR AASF).

SGT Barton's military career began in August 1992 in the U.S. Army active component as an AH-1F Cobra Crew Chief and she later served as an AH-64A Apache Crew Chief. SGT Barton says of this experience, "I quickly learned to overcome the challenge of being a productive member of the team in the male-dominated field of Army Aviation. The "guys" quickly learned that females have areas in the maintenance world in which we excel. Being the first female that a majority of the men in my units have ever had to work with, I faced several stereotypical challenges - anything from the amount of weight I could carry to 'could "she" handle 30-plus days in a field environment?' In all cases, we learned to utilize the strengths and minimize the weaknesses of both sexes. For example, on the Cobra, most men have hands that are too big to change the cannon plugs on the Torque Transducers. Being that women have smaller hands, I am able to switch the cannon plugs without any problems to complete the troubleshooting process without having to have the pilot shutdown the airframe. In return, there are torques that have to be applied to the Main Rotor Head that I cannot physically do. The "guys" understood and gladly helped. Because we learned to capitalize on the differences, our maintenance was accomplished with greater proficiency and with better results."

In February of 1999, after 7 years in the active duty component SGT Barton joined the 172nd Medical Company. After completing UH-60 Transition school, she started Readiness Level training. Once again the old familiar song was sung to her. The men in the unit had to adjust to a woman doing the same job. As the first female RL-1 UH-60A Crew Chief in the state, SGT Barton had to once again prove that a woman could handle the task of excelling in what was once "a man's world." Christina stated that this time the adjustment was not as difficult as it was on active duty. Soon after joining the unit she became the first woman to be hired as full time aircraft technician at the AR AASF. She states, "Although the adjustments have been difficult for both sides, we have learned to complement one another."

SGT Barton, who is a single mom of a three-year old daughter, does not take motherhood lightly. She said that she has had to learn to balance work, flying, and family life. Christina involves her daughter as much as possible. Her daughter knows that she flies in Blackhawks and enjoys going to see the helicopters at the hanger. When speaking of her daughter she says, "Since my time is somewhat limited, we spend a lot quality time doing things that she enjoys." SGT Barton feels that the more her daughter learns about Mom's job and flying, the more she feels a part of it all.

SGT Barton also finds time for community involvement. She has contributed to the youth of the A-OK Arabian Horse club in Fort Smith, serving as Youth Director. Christina feels that this time with the youth in the horse club helps them develop responsibility and character through the horses and the classes at shows.

In conclusion, SGT Barton says, "It can be difficult to find that balance between all aspects of my life, but with proper time management and desire it all can be rewarding."



Sergeant Barton with daughter, Shelby, aboard the Blackhawk

Staff Sergeant Tricia Bear Fort Chaffee Maneuver Training Center



Staff Sergeant Tricia Bear is an Active Guard Reserve member of the Fort Chaffee Maneuver Training Center. She is stationed at the Fort Chaffee Maneuver Training Center, as the Assistant Ammunition Supply Point Manager.

At the age of 19, SSG Bear joined the United States Marine Corps where she served in the HQ BN, 2nd Marine Division, Communications Company at Camp LeJune, North Carolina. She joined the Arkansas Army National Guard in 1997.

In June 2001, SSG Bear wrote a song about soldiers and the symbolism of the American flag. The song, "March on Soldiers (Bear's Inner Peace)" was written to encourage soldiers to stay motivated and to enhance the American spirit. The song describes the challenges that soldiers must overcome and how important the support of family and loyal Americans is to the morale of the military. SSG Bear stated that her military background enabled her to portray the honor and dedication displayed by soldiers as they provide security for our country's rights and freedom in the lyrics of this song. "March on Soldiers (Bear's Inner Peace)" has been broadcast on the Soldiers Radio and Television Network from Alexandria, Virginia that airs at 22 bases in the United States, on local radio stations in Fort Smith, Arkansas and across Tennessee. With the help of Chaplain Aaron Nowland of Fort Hood, Texas, the CD has been distributed to soldiers in Afghanistan in hopes of boosting their morale. SSG Bear states, "I am proud to be an American soldier and I want to encourage dedicated soldiers to carry on the American spirit." The song, which is dedicated to her brother, also a Marine, who died tragically in 1999 at the age of 29, will be used in the American Values exhibit at the U.S. Army Women's Museum in Fort Lee, Virginia.

In addition to her full-time military career, SSG Bear is married and working on an associate's degree in Business Administration at Vincennes University. She serves her community by sponsoring children who perform in talent shows and musical performances throughout Arkansas to help them develop their talent and confidence.

Technical Sergeant Susan E. Bowden *123rd Intelligence Squadron*

Technical Sergeant Susan E. Bowden joined the Air National Guard as an Imagery Analyst for the 123rd Intelligence Squadron in 1996.

Susan modestly states that she has been deployed to several locations outside the United States, such as Ramstein, Germany, Panama City, Panama, Aviano, Italy, along with many locations within the United States.

Lt Col Stanton, Commander of the 123rd Intelligence Squadron proudly added, "TSgt Bowden has the distinction of being one of four squadron members, and the only female, selected to take part in the development of a new imagery system that was used for the first time in combat during Operation Allied Force (Kosovo) in 1999. At the time TSgt Bowden and the other squadron members were deployed to the 31st Air Expeditionary Wing at Aviano Air Base, Italy. She was among the first to volunteer to fly combat missions aboard the Airborne Command, Control, and Communications (ABCCC) EC-130 aircraft, assisting the Fast Forward Air Controllers (FAC) in locating and destroying enemy targets in Kosovo. She flew eight missions (88 hours) and was a key analyst in the development of the new system. TSgt Bowden is a full-time member and is assigned to work our counter-drug mission."

During her career, TSgt Bowden has received several decorations, including the Air Force Commendation Medal, the Air Force Achievement Medal, and the NATO Medal. In addition, she was chosen as the Arkansas National Guard Enlisted Person of the Year, 1999.

Susan is married to her husband, Thomas Bowden, for two years. She has a nine-year old stepson, Cameron, who attends Angie Grant Elementary School in Benton, AR. Thomas and Susan have a photography business and are active in their church.

TSgt Bowden, along with many other members of the 123rd Intelligence Squadron, has been called to active duty to support Operation Enduring Freedom and is currently deployed to Langley AFB, Virginia, where she is NCOIC of Combat Targeting Flight at the 36th Intelligence Squadron.



MG Don C. Morrow, The Adjutant General, presents TSgt Bowden the Arkansas Air National Guard Enlisted Person of the Year 2000 award

Senior Master Sergeant Mary S. "Susan" Bridges 188th Fighter Wing



Senior Master Sergeant Bridges, a native of the Fort Smith area, is a Logistics Management Specialist with the 188th Fighter Wing.

SMSgt Bridges began her military career in February 1985 as a traditional guardsman in the Administration career field. She became a full-time technician as a procurement clerk in the Contracting Office of the 188th Fighter Wing in January 1986. She then cross-trained into the contracting career field and attained the rank of Staff Sergeant. After four years in Contracting, SMSgt Bridges was looking for greater career opportunities and cross-trained into the Vehicle Maintenance career field as Maintenance Control and Analysis. Not only did the move allow her to advance to Master Sergeant in her military career, but also afforded her an opportunity to advance in her civilian career, as well. Still full of ambition and goals to be met, SMSgt Bridges applied for the Logistics Specialist position in the Wing Plans office and was hired in June of 1995. She again cross-trained, this time into the logistics career field. It is in this capacity that she obtained the rank of Senior Master Sergeant and has continued to further her civilian career.

SMSgt Bridges believes hard work, education, and setting and obtaining goals is a must if you want to succeed. The 188th Fighter Wing has definitely allowed this belief to be put to the test. By hard work she has been able to advance her military and civilian careers. She has pursued higher education through the Community College of the Air Force (CCAF) and through the local college in Fort Smith. She has completed required career development courses for each Air Force Specialty Code (AFSC) she has held, obtaining at least a seven level in each, and completed all professional military education courses required. Susan has been attending Westark College, now known as University of Arkansas Fort Smith, pursuing a Business Management degree. One goal she has set for herself is to obtain an Associate of Applied Science degree through CCAF for each of her AFSC. Part of that goal has come to pass when

she received her Information Management certificate in 2001. She believes you improve yourself by a continuing education cycle. Susan says, "A few ways to obtain this is by formal education, attending workshops and conferences, and being involved."

SMSgt Bridges has received several awards, letters of appreciation, and special recognition for her hard work and dedication. During a recent Operation Readiness Inspection she received the Total Force Excellence Award from Air Combat Command, Eight Air Force. She was also chosen the 188th Federal Employee of the Year 1999. She went on to receive the 1999 Arkansas Air National Guard Technician Employee of the Year. She was a 2000 Nominee for Woman of the Year from the Federal Women's Program.

SMSgt Bridges has received the Air Force Meritorious Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal, Air Force Achievement Medal, Air Reserve Forces Meritorious Service Award (3 devices), National Defense Service Medal, Air Force Longevity Service Ribbon (2 devices), Armed Forces Reserve Medal, Air Force Training Ribbon, Arkansas Distinguished Service Medal, Arkansas Commendation Medal (1 device), Arkansas Emergency Service Ribbon, and the Arkansas Service Award Medal (2 devices).

SMSgt Bridges believes in what the guard stands for. She stated, "The guard provides an individual the opportunity to discover what type of person they are and then improve that person further. The guard gives you the right to belong to an elite group of individuals that promotes the American Spirit, values and freedom." SMSgt Bridges further said that she feels she would not be where she is today without the opportunities offered to her through the National Guard. In her words, "What other job sends you to England, Germany Kuwait, United States and other areas to receive training and while you are there make a difference and show others Americans take pride in a job well done?"

SMSgt Bridges is an active member of the 188th Honor Guard and has been appointed to several 188th committees and boards. She attends and is a member of Christ the King Catholic church. As involved with the guard as she is, Susan always finds time to spend with her family – husband Harry, daughter Charity, son Jason, and granddaughter Mikaela.



SMSgt Susan Bridges at her computer

Chief Warrant Officer Three Pamela R. Brown STARC (-) AR ARNG

Chief Warrant Officer Three Pamela R. Brown is the Military Personnel Officer within the Enlisted Actions Branch for the Deputy Chief of Staff, Personnel (DCSPER) located at Camp Robinson, North Little Rock, AR.

CW3 Brown began her military career in 1975 with the Arkansas Army National Guard. Her first duty assignment was with the 204th Dental Detachment as an Enlisted Dental Assistant. In 1980, she received the Humanitarian Service Medal for Ft. Chaffee Cuban Relocation Operations. She then moved within the ranks from an Enlisted to a Non-Commissioned Officer (NCO) and achieved additional Military Occupational Skills (MOS) w during a tour of duty with HHC 39th Infantry Brigade, STARC (-) AMA, and 119th Personnel Service Company.

Fifteen years later, as a Sergeant First Class, CW3 Brown made a major decision that would affect her military career for the rest of her life. She decided to become a Warrant Officer. With the training and skills she learned as an NCO, she felt she had the leadership capabilities, personality, and determination it would take to become not only an officer, but also a specialized officer within the Personnel field. In September of 1990, she completed her Warrant Officer Candidate (WOC) and Technical/Tactical Training, becoming the first Black female Warrant Officer in the Arkansas Army National Guard. She was also the first Black female instructor at the Arkansas National Guard NCO Academy.

During Desert Storm CW3 Brown was activated with the 119th Personnel Service Company in January 1991. Recognized for her Outstanding Meritorious Achievements while performing as the Chief of Personnel Records in Ft Sill Oklahoma during this period, she received an Army Commendation Medal and a letter of appreciation. When the 119th returned to Camp Robinson during June 1991, LTC Grantham, Adjutant General of Ft Sill asked Chief Brown to stay and continue to assist with the demobilization process. She was attached to A Battery Headquarters Command at Ft Sill and served as the OIC of the Mobilization Out Processing Center. She was directly responsible for overseeing the out-processing of approximately 6000 returning soldiers. Her knowledge of personnel procedures, professional competence, initiative, and sound judgment enabled her to accomplish all duties in a superior manner and make a material contribution to the demobilization and well being of these soldiers.

CW3 Brown's achievements and awards include the 1994 NGAA Junior Officer Leadership Award, Army Achievement Medal, Arkansas Commendation Medal, Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal. Pam is also involved in community activities and was awarded the Big Sister of the Year Award in 1995.

CW3 Brown began her civil service career with the Army National Guard (ARNG) as a GS-04 Clerk Typist in 1983. Making many accomplishments as a full time guard person, she

became the first Black female assigned within the Arkansas ARNG United States Property & Fiscal Office's Internal Review Division. With increased responsibility as an Auditor, she became the first Black female to obtain the grade of GS-11.

CW3 Brown is the second of five children in her family and the only sibling to join the military. Upon graduation in December 2001 from John Brown University with a Bachelor of Science and a major in Organizational Management and Business she became the first in her family to graduate from college. As a born-again Christian, she holds firmly to, Philippians 4:13 that states, "I can do all things through Christ which strengthened me."

Technical Sergeant Olivia Monique Burden 188th Mission Support Flight



Technical Sergeant Olivia Burden is the Chief, Personnel Systems Manager of the 188th Fighter Wing, since October 1998. Olivia, the oldest of eight children, wanted to follow in her father's footsteps, and thus became the first female in her family to join the Air National Guard. She has been a member of the 188th Fighter Wing for seven years.

The Air National Guard prides itself in being a family-oriented organization, but it truly is a family affair for TSgt Burden. Her father, Major Richard Denniston, Commander of the 188th Fighter Wing's Services Flight, not only swore her in, but also enlisted her husband and her two brothers into the 188th.

TSgt Burden, the mother of two, says nothing brings her more pride than knowing she is serving her country along side her family.

Master Sergeant Delphine D. Burks 189th Mission Support Flight

Master Sergeant Delphine D. Burks is a Training Technician assigned to the 189th Mission Support Flight, Arkansas Air National Guard. She was born and raised in Shreveport, Louisiana, and is the mother of two daughters and a son.

MSgt Burks served nine years in the U.S. Air Force as a Personnel Specialist prior to joining the Air National Guard. After the completion of Basic Military Training and Technical Training in September 1996 she was stationed at Barksdale AFB in Louisiana. In January 1990 she received orders to Dyess AFB in Texas where she separated from the Air Force in June 1995.

In July 199, Delphine enlisted in the Arkansas Air National Guard as a Personnel Specialist. In February 1996 she was selected for a full time position in the Career Enhancement section. Prior to her current position as Assistant Base Education and Training Manager, she held full time positions in Personnel Readiness and Personnel Relocations.

MSgt Burks is a member of the Non-commissioned Officer Academy Graduates Association and is currently serving as the Secretary and Residence Professional Military Education Coordinator. As a volunteer for Operation Patriotism, she is part of a local program that has been successfully presented in several area schools. This program is designed to instill a sense of dedication, pride, and love of our country, focusing on the hearts of the young people in our community. She also volunteers her time twice a month at a local elementary school to teach a Discover Art class which stresses the importance of seeing, thinking, and imagining art.

MSgt Burks has received numerous awards and decorations which include the Meritorious Service Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal with one device, Air Force Achievement Medal, 189th Mission Support Semi-Annual Top Performer Award 1999, 189th Support Group Outstanding Non-commissioned Officer of the Year 1999, 189th Airlift Wing Non-commissioned Officer of the Year 1999, and 189th Airlift Wing Outstanding Graduate of the Year 2000.

Staff Sergeant Lydia C. Burnett Marksmanship Training Unit



Staff Sergeant Lydia C. Burnett is a Tools and Parts Attendant assigned to the Marksmanship Training Unit, located at Camp Robinson, North Little Rock, AR.

SSG Burnett's military career began in April 1982. She went to Ft. Jackson, South Carolina for Basic Training and Advance Individual Training (AIT). While she was in AIT she achieved the highest APFT score of all females and received the "Brigade Commanders Award of Excellence" award.

SSG Burnett was assigned to Det 1 HHC, 39th Support Battalion, North Little Rock, AR, and served as Admin Specialist and Material and Account Specialist. While assigned to Det 1 HHC, 39th Support Battalion, she again received an "APFT Proficiency Award" for Physical Fitness in 1985. SSG Burnett transferred to State Area Command (STARC) when she was selected for a full-time technician job at the United States Property & Fiscal Office (USP&FO) in 1986. She started as Admin Assistant in USP&FO and later transferred to Logistics Section as a Commodity Manager.

SSG Burnett assisted in the development of the Directorate of Supply and Services Training Plan for FY-92, for which she earned an Army Achievement Medal. She stated, "I believe in fulfilling the extra tasks, working tirelessly and diligently to ensure that the requirements are accomplished and providing assistance in resolving any problem in a timely manner."

In October of 1999, after 13 years in USP&FO, she was affected by a "Reduction in Force" and was transferred to the Marksmanship Training Unit where she is a full-time Tools and Parts Attendant. She is the first full-time female to work in the Supply Section. Of this experience, Lydia says, "I thought it would be hard to work with all males, but they treat me as one of them." SSG Burnett has had to prove that a woman can handle the task. She was assigned as Prescribed Loading List Clerk during the Winston P. Wilson Marksmanship Matches and demonstrated outstanding logistical skills in organizing Common Table Allowance items and Class IX Repair Parts for shooters and range support. She received an

award "The Army Commendation Medal on this task, SSG Burnett reflects, "I believe on devotion to duty, attention to detail, maintaining cheerful and positive attitude is a good influence to others."

SSG Burnett has served on the Governor's Color and Honor Guard, Team B since 1994. Her other achievements and awards include The Arkansas Distinguished Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal and a second Army Achievement Medal.

In 1999 Major General Don C. Morrow appointed SSG Burnett as the Asian Pacific Employment Program Manager for the Arkansas Army National Guard. She also serves on the Equal Opportunity Advisory Committee, along with representatives from Recruiting and Retention and other key individuals to work toward identifying and eliminating barriers to Asian Pacific Americans and all under-represented groups. She organizes the celebration of Asian Pacific Month through the numerous Asian cultures, to include a museum display, foods, dances, and fashion shows. She also organizes the participation of Asian Special Emphasis Program displays and activities in the Arkansas National Guard Multi-Cultural event held in conjunction with the annual Minuteman Day celebration.

SSG Burnett is also active in her community. She was elected President in the Filipino American Association in Jacksonville for two years, member of the Filipino American Dance Group. This dance group performs in schools, weddings, nursing homes, and community events such as WorldFest and GlobalFest. They have also been invited to perform for the Racial & Cultural Diversity in Little Rock, United States Postal Asian Pacific Program and the United States Corps of Engineers. She is also active in her church activities. She is the Secretary of the St Jude Altar Society, in Jacksonville.

SSG Burnett was born and raised from the Philippines and been here in U.S. since 1974. She is married to Scott Burnett and has three children. They reside in Jacksonville, AR.



Staff Sergeant Lydia Burnett (second from right) performs with Filipino American Dance Group during Minuteman Days

Specialist Jeannette G. Cabe Fort Chaffee Maneuver Training Center

Specialist Jeannette G. Cabe is an accounting technician at Fort Chaffee Maneuver Training Center. SPC Cabe's family boasts a long line of military men – dating back as far as the Civil War, but she is the first female in her family to join the military.

SPC Cabe began her military career in 1987 with the Army Reserves as a postal clerk. She joined the Fifth Army NCO Academy at Fort Chaffee in 1989 and became Instructor Qualified. She held several positions in the Army Reserves, including clerk to the Academy Command Sergeant Major and later in operations at the Consolidated Training Activity Headquarters at Fort Chaffee. Due to pregnancy, SPC Cabe chose to transfer to the Individual Ready Reserve (IRR) in 1991.

SPC Cabe became a "stay-at-home mom" with the birth of her daughter in 1991, which was followed by the birth of a second daughter in 1997. Her spouse at that time was an AGF soldier. She showed her support of him and his units by performing clerical duties, sewing, babysitting, and cooking. In December 1998 she received a Certificate of Appreciation from the unit commander in Shawnee, Oklahoma for her efforts.

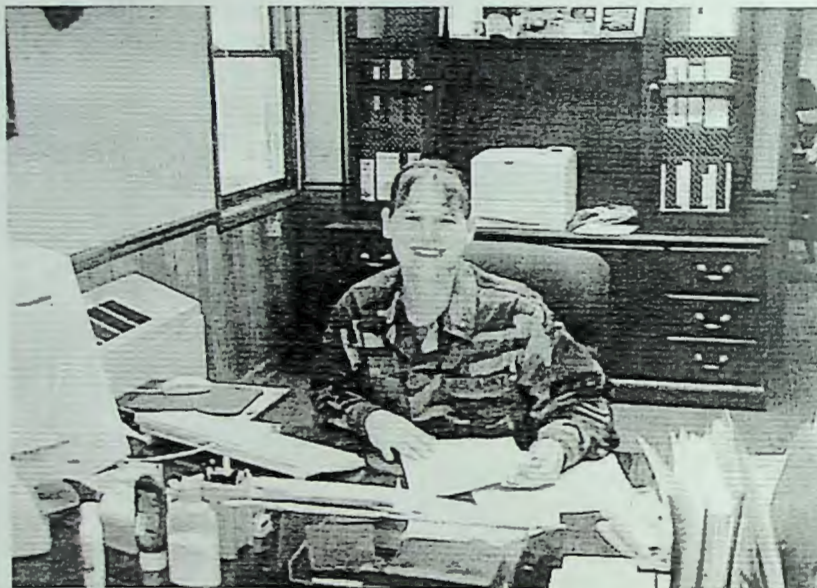
After a separation in 1999, SPC Cabe became a single mom faced with the sole responsibility of supporting her two daughters. She re-entered the workforce as a preschool teacher, a job she enjoyed and found extremely rewarding. Finding it difficult to make ends meet, she began searching for a way to supplement her income without taking too much time away from her daughters. She decided to enlist in the Army National Guard in May 2000 and was assigned to the Fort Chaffee Maneuver Training Center as an Admin Specialist at Detachment Headquarters. In January 2001, SPC Cabe decided it was in the best interest of her family to accept the opportunity to work Active Duty Special Work (ADSW), so she resigned from her preschool teaching job. In April 2001, Jeannette became a full-time technician when she was selected for a GS-05 Accounting Technician position at Fort Chaffee Maneuver Training Center.

Now remarried, SPC Cabe and her husband have a blended family of three daughters. They are active in their community and the Fellowship Baptist Church in Witcherville, Arkansas. SPC Cabe stated, "I owe my blessed good fortune to God and the fact he guided me to join the military all those years ago. It was a long hard road from where I was in August 1999, to where I am today. But my experience in the military enabled me to provide a better, more comfortable way of life for my family.

The military taught me job skills, self-discipline, and how to rely on myself to make it through tough times with what little tools I may have at hand in order to accomplish my mission. My most important mission is to provide for my family and to teach my girls respect and admiration for every branch of service and that we should never forget any of our servicemen and women who so freely gave of the lives to ensure that we had the opportunity to enjoy our freedom. We all play an important part in preserving the freedoms we enjoy today.

No matter what our job, rank or whether we are male or female, we are all equally significant and all have a responsibility to our nation to do our job to the best of our ability in order to successfully complete our mission...preserving our nation's freedom.

I am very proud to be a female soldier and to have the opportunity to serve in the Arkansas Army National Guard. I am even more proud of the servicemen and women who served our great nation before me and also of those who currently serve with me. On behalf of my family and myself, I want to extend my gratitude to all members of the Armed Forces of the United States, past and present, for allowing me to serve my country and for doing your part to ensure that the Stars and Stripes will wave forever."



Specialist Jeannette Cabe provides "service with a smile" at Fort Chaffee Maneuver Training Center

*Captain Regina Meredith Cluck
61st Civil Support Team
(Weapons of Mass Destruction)*

Captain Regina Meredith Cluck is the Medical Operations Officer for the 61st Civil Support Team (Weapons of Mass Destruction) located at Camp Robinson, North Little Rock, AR.

CPT Cluck received her Regular Army commission from Arkansas State University in December 1991 in the Medical Service Corps. Her first duty assignment was to the 326th Medical Battalion, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), Fort Campbell, Kentucky. She served in the 101st from 1992 to 1996 with assignments to the 326th Medical Battalion, 801st Main Support Battalion, Division Support Command Staff and the Division Medical Operations Center. After attending the Logistics Advanced Course at Fort Lee, Virginia Captain Cluck was assigned to the 1st Brigade, 4th Infantry Division (Mechanized), Fort Hood, Texas. Here CPT Cluck was responsible for standing up the Army's first Brigade Surgeon's Section. She did this in support of Task Force XXI and the Army's Advanced Warfighting Experiment. CPT Cluck's other Fort Hood assignments include, Commander, Echo Company and Battalion S3 for the 4th Forward Support Battalion.

In 2000, CPT Cluck transitioned from the Regular Army to the Arkansas National Guard. For a short time she was an Assistant Professor of Military Science in the ROTC department at Arkansas State University before accepting an AGR position with the 61st Civil Support Team (Weapons of Mass Destruction).

CPT Cluck's hometown is Cherry Valley, Arkansas. She is married to Major Damon Cluck of the 1-206th FA, Arkansas National Guard. They reside in North Little Rock,

Technical Sergeant Karen S. Coffey *188th Logistics Group*



Technical Sergeant Karen S. Coffey works for the 188th Fighter Wing, Arkansas Air National Guard as a Jet Engine Mechanic on the F-16 Fighting Falcons. She was recently appointed as the 188th FW Federal Women's Program Manager as a collateral duty.

Karen raised her hand and swore her allegiance on Friday, the 13th of October 1982. She has been a military technician since April 1984. Karen says she is "lucky" in that she is a woman doing what is generally considered a "man's job." As a Jet Engine Mechanic in the maintenance squadron, she has had to contend with two conversions. When she began, the 188th was flying the F-4 Phantom. The first conversion was from the J-79 General Electric Engine to the F-200 Pratt and Whitney engine, which was then upgraded to the F-220E motor. Karen compares this to a teenager who inherits the old family car, then soups it up to go faster. She states that as the technician responsible for all of the Jet Engine Shop equipment, Technical Orders, calibrated equipment, and equipment mobility lists, she has definitely had her hands full, but she feels that her ability to excel in such a "non-traditional" role instilled the trust of management and resulted in her being given these, along with other, responsibilities over the years.

In discussing her chosen career path, Karen states that she realizes that some females would not feel comfortable working in a primarily male environment and "getting their hands dirty," but that there are a few women who are comfortable and enjoy it. There are women that work on aircraft as crew chiefs, avionics specialists, munitions loaders, gun shop specialists, and aerospace ground equipment specialists, just to name a few. She points out that not only are these women faced with the typical challenges of the position such as weather and fitting into a primarily male environment, they have the additional challenges of the more traditional female roles of wife, mother, and homemaker.

Karen stated that working for the Air National Guard not only makes her proud, but all the females in her family are proud of her - especially her mother, who beams with pride when she introduces her daughter and tells where she works and what she does for a living.

TSgt Coffey feels being a Jet Engine Mechanic in the Air National Guard is a great job and that any female with the will to succeed would do well to check out the Guard. It is especially good for those wanting to further their education. She states, "Women have come a long way in being accepted in all career fields. I hope that someday it will not be an issue."

Command Sergeant Major Deborah J. Collins 87th Troop Command



Command Sergeant Major Deborah J. Collins enlisted in the Arkansas Army National Guard in 1975 as a Radio Teletype Operator. She is currently assigned as the Command Sergeant Major of the 87th Troop Command.

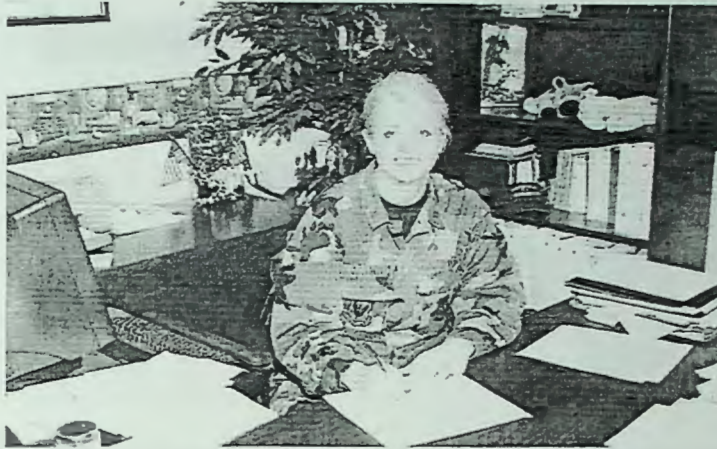
CSM Collins can boast many "firsts," beginning with being the first of four children in her family. Her military career firsts include first female instructor appointed to the Arkansas National Guard Non-Commissioned Officer Academy; first female to achieve the rank of First Sergeant in the Arkansas Army National Guard; first female from the Arkansas Army National Guard to graduate from the U.S. Army Sergeants Major Academy Resident Course; first female Battalion Command Sergeant Major in the Arkansas Army National Guard; first female Command Sergeant Major to serve at Brigade Level of a Major Subordinate Command in the Arkansas Army National Guard; and the first female elected as President of the Enlisted Association of the Arkansas National Guard (Army and Air).

In addition to the above distinctions, CSM Collins served for many years on the State Governor's Color and Honor Guard, and she was selected as the State Non-Commissioned Officer in Charge of the Presidential Inaugural Task Force for President Bill Clinton's inauguration in 1992. Her other achievements and awards include the Meritorious Service Medal – 6th award; Army Commendation Medal – 3rd award; Army Achievement Medal – 1st award, and Arkansas Commendation Medal – 3rd award.

CSM Collins has also had a noteworthy career as a civil service employee with the Arkansas Army National Guard. She began her full time career in October 1976 as a GS-05 Payroll Technician. She has held various positions of increased responsibility throughout the years, including being the first female assigned as a Training Technician for the Arkansas Military Academy. Debbie is currently assigned to the Human Resources Office as a GS-11 Classification Specialist. She serves as the Chairperson for Area D (8 states) National Guard Classification Advisory Council.

CSM Collins is married to her husband, Mike, for over 24 years and has one son, Brent, who is a senior at the University of Central Arkansas. She has successfully completed 115 college credit hours toward a degree in Business. She is also a member of the Preceptor Alpha Chapter - Little Rock, Beta Sigma Phi.

Major Tamhira L. Cusumano 188th Mission Support Flight



Major Tamhira L. Cusumano is the Director of Personnel/188th Mission Support Flight Commander, 188th Fighter Wing, Arkansas Air National Guard, Fort Smith, Arkansas.

Major Cusumano entered the Air National Guard on November 3, 1984, as an Airman First Class, serving in the personnel customer service section. She was commissioned as a second lieutenant on August 3, 1989, after completion of the Academy of Military Science, as the Personnel Utilization Officer. In 1992, Major Cusumano became the first female full-time officer of the 188th Fighter Wing, when she entered the position of Management Analyst. On December 5, 1994, she became the first female commander in the 188th Fighter Wing when she assumed command of the Mission Support Flight, and also wore the hat of Director of Personnel. Tammy is responsible for training, education, recruiting, retention, military and civilian personnel programs, policies and objectives involving assignments, classification, records, separations, systems, enhancements, readiness, retirements, thrift savings, incentive and insurance programs for approximately 1000 members, their families, DOD personnel and retirees within a 200 mile radius.

Major Cusumano's awards and decorations are many, including Air Force Meritorious Service Medal with first oak leaf cluster, Air Force Commendation Medal with first oak leaf cluster, Air Force Achievement Medal with second oak leaf cluster, Air Reserve Forces Meritorious Service Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, Air Force Longevity Service with third oak leaf cluster, Armed Forces Reserve Medal with third oak leaf cluster, Small Arms Training Ribbon with multiple qualification star, and the Air Force Training Ribbon with first oak leaf cluster. She was named the Adjutant General's Outstanding Officer for Fiscal Year 1992.

Major Cusumano is married to Lieutenant Colonel (Ret) Thomas Cusumano. They have six children, Trey, Tyler, Tommy, Michael, Katy and Christopher.

Staff Sergeant Coty Davis 188th Mission Support Flight



Staff Sergeant Coty Davis is the Customer Service Section for the 188th Fighter Wing, Arkansas Air National Guard, Fort Smith, Arkansas.

SSgt Davis entered the Air Force on July 29, 1992 as Airman Basic. Her first duty assignment was Sheppard Air Force Base TX, as an Information Specialist in the 82 Security Police Squadron. Staff Sergeant Davis entered the Oklahoma Air National Guards on November 15, 1995 as an Information Management Specialist at the 219th EIS. She then transferred to the Arkansas Air National Guard 188th Communications Flight on April 6, 1999. On June 1, 2000, Coty crossed trained as a Personnel Specialist and accepted an Air Technician job at Mission Support Flight in Customer Service. She is responsible for DEERS, Health Benefits advisor for Tricare, MMSO, United Concordia, PCARS, Awards and Decorations, SGLI, and FMSGI.

Among her notable achievements, SSgt Davis, has received the Air Force Achievement Medal, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, Air Force Reserve Meritorious Service Medal, Air Force Longevity Award, National Defense Service Medal, Air Force Good Conduct Medal, Air Force Training Ribbon.

Coty is married to Mike Davis and has two children, Chayne and Matt.

Sergeant First Class Rhonda R. Dickerson *HQ Det STARC (-)*

Sergeant First Class (SFC) Rhonda R. Dickerson is the Senior Personnel Services Sergeant at HQ Det STARC (-), Camp Robinson, North Little Rock.

SFC Dickerson enlisted in the Arkansas Army National Guard on Dec 6, 1980 as a Personnel Records Specialist, with Co C 38th Avn Bn. After graduating as Honor Graduate from Advanced Infantry Training (AIT), SFC Dickerson expanded her personnel knowledge under the mentorship of retired Chief Warrant Officer Barbara J. Stephens.

In October 1984, she was selected for a full-time technician position as a Military Pay Clerk. From December 1985 to August 1987, she served in an E4 Active Guard Reserve (AGR) position in the 936th Air Traffic Control Platoon as a Unit Clerk. In August 1987, she accepted a GS-07 Staffing Technician position at Support Personnel Management Office (SPMO), now known as Human Resources Office (HRO) and transferred to JHSC 1-114th Avn.

Rhonda was promoted to SFC in September 1995 and transferred to HQ STARC(-). In July 1996, she was reassigned as Education Technician where she managed the Federal Tuition Assistance Program and the Montgomery GI Bill program, along with administering various civilian tests as a Test Control NCO. SFC Dickerson has been the State Incentive Manager, since November 1998. She is responsible for loading, processing, calculating and terminating soldier's incentives.

In November 1991, SFC Dickerson discovered she was pregnant with her first child, but that didn't stop her. During her pregnancy, she instructed aerobics for the first trimester, completed BNCOG Phase I land navigation requirement, and assisted the Guard with completing DD Form 1172s for soldiers deployed to Desert Storm. Three months after giving birth to her son, she returned to instructing aerobics. SFC Dickerson was an aerobics instructor for Camp Robinson Gym, War Memorial Fitness Center and St. Mark Baptist Church. She was awarded a plaque from the Camp Robinson's Step Aerobics Class for her dedicated service.

SFC Dickerson served as a member and president of the Black Heritage Committee during 1996 to 1998 and currently serves as the Black Employment Program Manager for the Special Emphasis Program. As such, she is a member of the Arkansas National Guard Equal Opportunity Committee. In this capacity, she assists management in identifying and eliminating barriers to the recruitment and advancement of Blacks in the Arkansas National Guard. Rhonda serves as the point of contact for Arkansas National Guard participation in the annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission Parade. The Black History observances she coordinated for the multi-cultural events held in conjunction with Minuteman Days the past two years have received many laudatory comments from Guard members and members of the

community. SFC Dickerson proposed the idea and was assigned primary responsible for the coordination of the 3-on-3 basketball tournament held during Minuteman Days for the first time in 2001. Despite uncooperative weather and a few logistical problems, the tournament was a success.

SFC Dickerson is divorced and has one son, Darius K, Alexander. She is currently working on her degree in Human Resource Management at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. She is the Wedding Ministry Director for St Mark Baptist Church and her son also keeps her schedule full with his athletic abilities in Basketball, Soccer and Baseball.

MSG(P) Gretchen Georgeanna Doty
(Command Sergeant Major Designee)
212th Signal Battalion (CA) (MSE)

Master Sergeant (P) Doty is the First Sergeant of the 216th Military Police Company (Guard). She was selected as the Command Sergeant Major Designee for the 212th Signal Battalion (CA) (MSE) in December 2001.

MSG (P) Doty began her military career when she enlisted as a Private in the U.S. Army in 1979. Throughout her career, she has served in a variety of assignments in the Army. They include assignments with Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff, Intelligence; 66th Military Intelligence Group; Intelligence Support Activity; and 163rd Military Intelligence Battalion. She left the U.S. Army in 1989 and joined the U.S. Army Reserve and served in the 524th Military Intelligence Battalion. In 1992, MSG (P) Doty transferred to the Arizona National Guard with 852nd Rear Operations Center as the Military Police NCOIC. She transferred to the 25th Rear Operations Center, Arkansas National Guard in 1997. She was selected as First Sergeant for the 239th Military Intelligence Company in 1999, the first female 1SG in 39th Infantry Brigade. In the fall of 2000, MSG (P) Doty transferred to her current position.

MSG (P) Doty has received the following awards and decorations: Meritorious Service Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster; Army Commendation Medal with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters; Army Achievement Medal with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters; Army Good Conduct Medal; Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal with 1 Oak Leaf Cluster; National Defense Service Medal; Non-Commissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon with Numeral 3; Army Service Ribbon; Reserve Component Overseas Training Ribbon; Parachute Badge; Arkansas Emergency Service Ribbon; Arizona Commendation Medal and the Arizona Reenlistment Ribbon.

MSG (P) Doty's military education includes current enrollment in the US Army Sergeants Major Academy, First Sergeant Course-RC; Advanced Non-Commissioned Officers Course - RC; Basic Non-commissioned Officers Course - RC; Primary Leadership Development Course - AC; USASMA Instructor Training Course - RC; Intelligence Analyst - 96B Course - AC; Counterintelligence Agent 97B Course - AC; Defense Language Institute-Italian - AC; Military Police - 95B - AC.

Gretchen was born on August 5, 1960, in Lubbock, Texas. She graduated from Abilene High School, Abilene, Texas in 1978, and has completed over 100 semester hours towards a Bachelors degree. She is married to Doug Doty of Galesburg, Illinois. They have one daughter, Danielle.

SMSgt Glenda Edwards 188th Medical Squadron



Senior Master Sergeant Edwards is currently assigned as Health Systems Specialist/188th Medical Squadron NCOIC of Medical Administration, 188th Fighter Wing, Arkansas Air National Guard, Fort Smith, Arkansas.

She is responsible for developing plans, procedures, goals and objectives in support of the overall operation of the Medical Squadron applicable to required regulatory guidance, directs Medical Squadron programs such as recruiting, mobilization, credentials, public relations, inspections, investigations, logistics programs and mass casualty exercises. SMSgt Edwards administers the managed care program to ensure a medically fit force, determines eligibility of care of Air Reserve Component members, manages the Line of Duty determination program and provides guidance to the wing concerning health issues. She prepares the operating budget to include medical/non-medical equipment and supply requirements, serves as a member of the Financial Working Group and responds to incidents and provides initial emergency care as a Nationally Registered Emergency Medical Technician (NREMT).

SMSgt Edwards entered the Air National Guard June 1985 as Airman Basic serving in the military pay section, 188th Fighter Wing. She was selected for a fulltime AGR position in 1986 as Commercial Services technician and later became the Accounting Supervisor in that section. In June 1995, Glenda was selected for the Health Systems Specialist position in the 188th Medical Squadron.

SMSgt Edwards is married to her husband, David, for over 12 years and they have two daughters, Jessica, age 9, and Brittany, age 4. During her military career she has completed three Associate degrees and a Bachelor of Science degree with a Major in Human Resource Management 4 March 1996 from Park College.

Mrs. Elaine W. Ford *Human Resources Office*



Elaine W. Ford is a Personnel Assistant in the Human Resources Office at Camp Robinson. She is one of only 21 Non-Dual Status (also known as Competitive) employees with the Arkansas National Guard.

Mrs Ford was born and raised in Massachusetts. Following graduation from Brookline High, Brookline, Massachusetts, in June 1965 she worked and trained as Nursing Assistant at the Children's Hospital in Boston.

As a young girl in high school, the assassination of President Kennedy and the sacrifices of our military in Viet Nam stirred something inside of her. She states that "Pride in my country and the need for a challenge in my life guided me to join the United States Air Force (USAF) in October 1966." She attended Basic Training at Lackland AFB and was then stationed at Barksdale AFB, Louisiana as Administrative Clerk, assigned to the Transportation Squadron Orderly Room for the duration of her military service.

While she loved her job and took great pride in serving her country, the experience was not entirely pleasant. Elaine recalls, "In 1966 females in the military was in its infancy. I was one of only two females assigned to this Squadron, and in 1966 females had a difficult time being accepted by the male population." She stated that harassment was rampant and that even when reported, little or nothing was done to correct the problems. This is what led her to the disappointing decision to leave active duty.

Upon discharge from the USAF, Mrs Ford accepted a Civil Service position at the Veterans Administration Medical Center in Shreveport, Louisiana as a Nursing Assistant. She decided to give the military a second chance in 1980 when she joined the United States Air Force Reserve. There she was assigned to the 917th Tactical Air Command (TAC) at Barksdale AFB, Louisiana as a Medical Technician where she was part of the team conducting Air Evacuation of patients to other facilities and flight physicals for aircrew members.

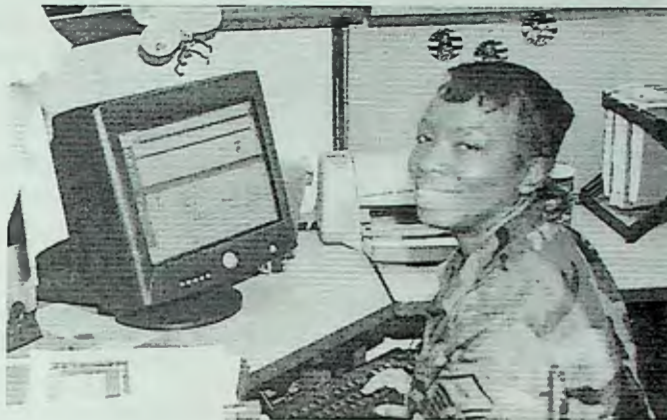
Mrs Ford's Civil Service career led her to the Louisiana Military Entrance Processing Station as a Data Transcriber in 1986. In 1988, she and her family moved to Arkansas, where she accepted a position with the Military Entrance Processing Station in Little Rock as a Data Transcriber/Military Personnel Clerk. She accepted the position of Secretary at the Combine Support Maintenance Shop at Camp Robinson in 1991. She transferred to the Human Resources Office in 1996.

Mrs Ford's patriotism and pride in America is something she shares with her family. Elaine beams with pride as she states "My husband, Jim, served in the armed forces and both of my sons joined the military after graduation from high school. My son, Robert (Bob), joined the Navy and my son James Steve joined the Marine Corps. They felt it their "duty" to give their country four years of their lives and each feels very proud for doing so."

Feeling a sense of satisfaction that she is still serving her country by providing support to the military, she is proud to see the evolution of acceptance and incorporation of females in today's military. Equitable treatment and opportunities for advancement of females has come a long way since 1966. She said that what happened to her would no longer be tolerated.

Mrs Ford and her husband, Jim, live in Mayflower, Arkansas. The proud grandparents of 10 grandchildren and one great-grandchild, living in Arkansas, Louisiana and Texas, is it any wonder that they spend much of their free time traveling ?

Master Sergeant Collette Freeman 188th Mission Support Flight



Master Sergeant Collette Freeman is the Chief of Personnel Employments for the 188th Fighter Wing, Arkansas Air National Guard, Fort Smith, Arkansas. She is responsible for readiness and employment programs for the unit.

MSgt Freeman entered the Air National Guard on March 7, 1983 as an Airman and was assigned to the Public Affairs office as an Administrative Clerk. She then entered active duty Air Force on 27 Aug 1984 and was assigned to the 27th Headquarters Squadron at Cannon AFB, NM. Other positions MSgt Freeman held during her tour at Cannon AFB include Accounting and Finance Administrative Support Clerk, Aircraft Generation Squadron Orderly Room Personnel Clerk, and NCOIC, Transportation Orderly Room. While at Cannon, she completed the United States Air Force NCO Preparatory Course and received her Associates Degree in Applied Science for Administrative Management from the Community College of the Air Force.

MSgt Freeman was reassigned to Lajes Field, Azores, Portugal in March of 1990, where she served in several positions, including INTRO Manager for the base, NCOIC, Security Police Orderly Room, and NCOIC, Classification and Training. In January of 1993, Collette returned to the United States and was assigned to Frances E. Warren AFB, WY as the NCOIC, Operations Group Orderly Room. She served there until October of 1994 when she separated from active duty and returned to the 188th Fighter Wing, Air National Guard, Fort Smith, Arkansas. Her first assignment upon return to the 188th Fighter Wing was Accounting and Finance Clerk from October 1994 to March 1995, when she transferred to the Military Personnel Flight, Customer Service Section. There she worked as a Customer Service Clerk until September of 1997, when she began retraining into the Education and Training career field.

While serving as a traditional guardsman, she attended Westark College at Fort Smith, Arkansas and Arkansas Tech University at Russellville, Arkansas. She received an

Associate of Arts Degree in Business from Westark College in May of 1995, and a Bachelor of Science Degree in Elementary Education in December of 1997. After receiving her teaching license, she worked for Fort Smith and Van Buren Public Schools as a substitute teacher from January 1998 to June of 1998, while maintaining her military career part time. In August of 1998, she was hired into the Active Guard Reserve (AGR) program as Education and Training Manager for the 188th Mission Support Flight. She served in this capacity until March of 1999, when she became Chief, Personnel Employments for the 188th Fighter Wing.

MSgt Freeman completed the United States Air Force Noncommissioned Officer Academy in February of 1999 and received her second Associate Degree from the Community College of the Air Force in March of 1999. She was named the 188th Fighter Wing's Outstanding Active Guard Reserve Employee for 1999, and the Arkansas Air National Guard Active Guard Reserve Employee of the Year for 1999. MSgt Freeman completed the United States Air Force Senior Noncommissioned Officer Academy in January of 2002.

MSgt Freeman is married. Her husband is a truck driver. They have three children, Wykeve, Aurielle, and Alizia.

Major Mary T. Gardner 188th Communications Flight



Major Mary T. Gardner is the Communications Flight Commander for the 188th Fighter Wing. She assumed her current position on 1 December 2001.

Major Gardner was born in Fort Smith, Arkansas on 28 May 1962. She graduated from Muldrow High School in 1980. She received a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education from Northeastern State University in Tahlequah, Oklahoma, and a Master's degree in Education from Arkansas Tech University in Russellville, Arkansas. She began her teaching career in 1986 at Liberty School.

In 1987, she joined the 188th Fighter Wing. Upon completion of basic training, she received technical training in Information Management at Keesler Air Force Base in Biloxi, Mississippi, where she was an Honor Graduate. Major Gardner served as the Public Affairs Information Management Specialist from May 1987 until April 1989. She then moved to the Military Equal Opportunity Office and became the Drug and Alcohol NCO. She served in this position until June of 1991.

Major Gardner attended the Academy of Military Science and was commissioned on 8 August 1991 and was selected as the Military Equal Opportunity Officer. In 1994, she completed the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute at Patrick Air Force Base in Cocoa Beach, Florida. Major Gardner attended Squadron Officer School at Maxwell Air Force Base in Montgomery, Alabama in July of 1997. In 1998, she became the Officer-In-Charge of the Military Equal Opportunity Office and served in that capacity until May of 2000, when she was selected as the Support Group Executive Officer. Major Gardner attended the Basic Communication and Information Officer Training Course at Keesler Air Force Base and received The Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association Honor Award. On 1 December 2001, Major Gardner resigned her position in the Public School system to become the Telecommunications Manager and the Commander of the Communications Flight.

Major Gardner is married to Dr. William Gardner of Wewoka, Oklahoma. They have two sons, Evan and Ryan.

Major Karen D. Gattis 2-114th Aviation

Major Gattis is the Battalion S-3 of the 2-114th Aviation Battalion. Major Gattis joined the Arkansas Army National Guard in 1981, after graduating from Charleston High School in Charleston, AR. Her goal was to use her military pay to finance her college education. To supplement her tuition, she also took a part-time job with United Parcel Service (UPS).

After completing Basic Training, she was assigned as a Private First Class in the 296th Medical Company (Ambulance). She was promoted to Sergeant and attended BNOC. The leadership in the 296th quickly recognized her potential and offered her the opportunity to attend Officer Candidate School (OCS). Never one to refuse a challenge, Karen eagerly accepted the assignment. While at OCS she was awarded the Tactics trophy as best in the class in understanding and applying military tactics throughout the training. She graduated from Arkansas National Guard OCS in June 1985, and was assigned as a Medical Service Corps Second Lieutenant with the 296th Medical Company as a platoon leader. Then in December 1985, she graduated from the University of Arkansas with a BS in Education, all the while working full-time with UPS.

Balancing both a full-time and military career was not enough for Karen. She applied for and was accepted into helicopter flight school in 1989. Completing Initial Entry Rotary Flight training in 1990 – only the second female in the state to complete flight training – Karen was assigned to the 2-114th Aviation Battalion, as a platoon leader. By this time, she had attained the rank of First Lieutenant.

After promotion to Captain in 1991, Karen served as the first female commander of Company D, Air Traffic Control (ATC), and numerous leadership positions in the battalion. She was promoted to the rank of Major in 1997 and selected to command the 172nd Air Ambulance Company. She is the only female to command the unit and served as such during the conversion from UH-1 Huey's to the modern UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter. Major Gattis was the first female (and remains one of only two) in the state qualified to fly the Blackhawk. Her outstanding leadership during new equipment transition was recognized by State leadership and named her Arkansas Army National Guard Commander of the Year, 1999. After three successful commands, Major Gattis was assigned to her current position.

Major Gattis' civilian career has been just as successful. After completing flight school, she quickly climbed the corporate ladder at UPS and was promoted to manager after only three years as a supervisor. She was assigned to manage flight operations at the Little Rock District, where she coordinated air delivery of packages for the entire state of Arkansas, and supervised a staff of 18. After 15 years with UPS, Major Gattis still longed to fulfill her dream of flying on a daily basis. She was qualified as a single-engine pilot, but went on to become qualified as a dual-engine pilot and certified flight instructor with instrument ratings.

She built her hours and taught flying lessons in Little Rock while waiting for an opportunity to join the ranks of the commercial airlines. In 2000, this became a reality. She was hired as a twin engine SAAB 340 pilot with Express Airlines 1 – Northwest Airlink, a subsidiary of Northwest Airlines. She quickly volunteered when the company expressed a need for jet pilots and she now flies Canadair Regional Jet (CRJ), based in Detroit Michigan.

Major Gattis' friend, Major Patricia Anslow, said, "Major Karen Gattis is a unique and talented officer of the Arkansas Army National Guard with over 20 years of service. She began her career as a Private and has achieved the rank of Major, without even realizing that she was a female breaking down barriers in a male-dominated world [in both her civilian and military careers]. Her fighting spirit and internal drive led her to abandon her secure job and follow her dreams. Now she is a commercial jet pilot. I only wonder what the next challenge will be, space?"

Staff Sergeant Marzella Jackson State Area Command (STARC-)



Staff Sergeant Marzella L. Jackson is currently assigned as a Personnel Clerk (75H30) for Human Resource Office at Camp Robinson.

Her military career began when she enlisted in the Arkansas Army National guard in 1980 as a Military Personnel Clerk (71L10). SSG Jackson's first duty assignment was with the 148th Evacuation Hospital as a Military Personnel Clerk for the Hospital Commander. She remained a member of that unit until 1990, when she transferred to HQS 212th Signal Battalion. At that particular time, the unit was on alert in support of Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm. She became a full time Technician with the Arkansas Army National Guard in September 1990 and was mobilized with 212th Signal Battalion in January 1991.

SSG Jackson has received numerous awards such as three Army Commendation Medals, two Army Achievement Medals, and many others. SSG Jackson later transferred to STARC in 1998. Her full-time position was moved to the Office of The Adjutant General, where she served as secretary to the State Command Sergeant Major. She transferred to the Human Resource Office in 1999.

SSG Jackson is married to Deacon Tommy L. Jackson Sr. They have one son, Tommy Jr. SSG Jackson was ordained/licensed by the Late Bishop Helen L. Ballard of Old Land Mark House of Prayer. Marzella moved her church membership to Divine Grace Apostolic Church where her brother, Elder Willie L. Holloway Jr., is the Pastor. SSG Jackson comes from a family of 16, 12 boys and four girls. There are seven ministers in her family, to include her mother and one sister.

Colonel Carol A. Johnson Commander, 87th Troop Command



Colonel Carol A. Johnson is the Commander of the 87th Troop Command, Arkansas Army National Guard at Camp Robinson, North Little Rock, AR.

A native of Kentucky, COL Johnson began her military career as the first female commissioned officer in the Kentucky Army National Guard when she received a direct appointment as a Second Lieutenant on 12 March 1976. She subsequently attended the WAC Officer Orientation/Officer Candidate Course at Ft. McClellan, Alabama in 1976. She transferred from the Women's Army Corps to the Quartermaster Corps in December 1978. She served with the Kentucky Army National Guard as Supply Distribution Officer, HHC, 103rd Support & Service Battalion, from 1976-1977; as General Support Platoon Leader, 303d General Support Company, 1977-1980; and as Automated Data Processing Officer, HHD, 103rd Support Battalion, 1980-1981.

In March 1981, COL Johnson transferred to the Arkansas Army National Guard. She completed the Company Size Unit Commander's Course and became the first female in the Arkansas Army National Guard to assume command when she was assigned as Detachment Commander and Automated Data Processing Officer for Det. 1, HHC, 39th Support Battalion, where she served from 1981-1985. In 1985-1986, she served with the 39th Infantry Brigade at HHC, 39th Support Battalion and Co A (Admin) 39th Support Battalion. Then in 1986, she was transferred to STARC(-) where she served as the first Management Information Systems Officer/Director of Information Management through 1992. In 1993 she was assigned as the Chief Examiner, STARC(-). She was assigned as Commander, 212th SIG BN in 1998 and in 2000 she was assigned as Deputy Chief of Staff-Logistics. On 1 October 2001, COL Johnson became the first female Brigade-level Commander when she assumed command of the 87th Troop Command. COL Johnson was the first female in a non-medical career field to achieve field grade and the first female in a non-medical career field to be assigned as a Battalion Commander.

cludes the Quartermaster Advanced Course, the Signal Advanced Course, the Combined Arms Staff College. COL Johnson is a 1999 graduate and his awards and decorations include the Army Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal, and the Kentucky

with the Arkansas Army National Guard. She was a Logistics Systems Officer (MISO) subsequently a Logistics Management Officer (DOIM). In 1992 she became the Supervisor of the Supply Management Officer where she is

and Robert.

Staff Sergeant Ma
for Human Resource Office

Her military career began in 1980 as a Military Personnel Specialist with the 148th Evacuation Hospital. She remained a member of the 148th Evacuation Hospital Battalion. At that point she was deployed to the Gulf of Persia/Desert Storm. She was discharged from the Army National Guard in September 1990.

SSG Jackson has received two Army Achievement Medals in 1998. Her full-time position was as secretary to the Human Resource Office in 1999.

SSG Jackson is married to SSG Jackson was ordained as a member of the House of Prayer. Marzell where her brother, Elder Jackson, is a member of the family of 16, 12 boys and one sister.

Master Sergeant Janice M. Kilpatrick 223rd Combat Communications Squadron

Master Sergeant (MSgt) Janice Kilpatrick is a Military Personnel Technician with the 223rd Combat Communication Squadron (CBCS) in Hot Springs, AR.

She began her military career at Barksdale AFB, LA in August 1969. While Janice says this was "one of the best choices I ever made," she states basic training at Lackland AFB, TX as "was not a cakewalk, but I was determined." After weeks of hearing her Technical Instructor (TI) call her name day and night, in an attempt to "make or break" her, she finally heard the TI say, "You made it!" MSgt Kilpatrick attended Administrative Specialist technical school at Keesler AFB, MS. On her first leave home after technical school, she learned that her father, who died when she was eleven, had been in the Air Force, which made her even more proud to serve.

While on active duty, MSgt Kilpatrick states she unwittingly made several choices that sabotaged her advancement to Staff Sergeant, such as requesting cross-training from administrative specialist to duplicating specialist, and subsequently requesting to return to the administrative field. Three months after the birth of her son, Johnathan, she received orders for an unaccompanied tour in Korea. Rather than leave her son, she requested and was granted a humanitarian discharge in July 1975.

Following her discharge from active duty, MSgt Kilpatrick used her GI bill to attend a secretarial school and moved to Hot Springs to be near her ailing mother. It was here that Janice heard about what she calls "the best kept secret in the Armed Forces – the Air National Guard." In September 1980, she joined the 223rd CBCS as an administrative specialist. In October 1981, she was promoted to Staff Sergeant, which she states was "the most important stripe to me." She was promoted to Technical Sergeant in 1984

In 1985, MSgt Kilpatrick married her husband, Larry, and "inherited" three sons. With her new husband and four sons, ages six to sixteen, she moved to Garland, TX, where she joined the 254th Combat Communications Group (CCG), and was later hired as a full-time military personnel technician. Because she believes "you are the one who makes your career" and determined to be promoted ahead of schedule, she took every course available to her and was promoted to Master Sergeant in 1987. She was the first female in the 254th CCG to hold the position of First Sergeant. In August 1990, she attained the rank of Senior Master Sergeant (SMSgt). In October 2000, she voluntarily removed the SMSgt stripe in order to take advantage of an opportunity to return to the 223rd CBCS.

MSgt Kilpatrick sums it all up by saying, "I have a wonderful life. I owe it to God, my family, and the military. I have had good, indifferent, and even a few bad role models in my career. You must choose wisely, believe in what you do, do right, and care. It wasn't easy, there were numerous ups and downs, but if I had it all to do over, I would."

Master Sergeant Margaret A. Linton 39th Infantry Brigade (Separate)

Master Sergeant Margaret (Margo) A. Linton is assigned as the Brigade Personnel Senior Noncommissioned Officer and Senior Legal Noncommissioned Officer, 39th Infantry Brigade (Separate).

MSG Linton began her military career in the United States Marine Corps. She left active duty in 1978 with an honorable discharge, in the rank of Sergeant. MSG Linton then enlisted in the Arkansas Army National Guard as a Tank Turret Repairman.

MSG Linton has served as a role model and trailblazer for females, particularly Black females, in the Arkansas National Guard. Margo modestly stated many "firsts" and "onlys" in her career. MSG Linton was the first Black female enlisted in the 172d Maintenance Company, in Russellville. She then began her full-time service as a Technician with the 142d Field Artillery (FA) Brigade, where she was the first Black female in the Brigade to work in a full-time status. She was the "first and only" Black female to work at Fort Chaffee Maneuver Training Center as Admin. NCO and Range Scheduling NCO. At the rank of Sergeant First Class, MSG Linton was the only female first-line leader during the activation of the 142d FA for Desert Storm. MSG Linton was the only female in the Arkansas National Guard to receive the Bronze Star Medal for her service in Desert Storm. MSG Linton was the first Black female to receive the rank of Master Sergeant in the Arkansas Army National Guard. MSG Linton received a special skill identifier "Q" for Equal Opportunity Advisor, and through her example has inspired soldiers of all race, rank and gender to advance in their careers.

Among her many accomplishments, MSG Linton has received four Army Commendation Medals, two Army Achievement Medals, and many other awards for her outstanding performance to include the Meritorious Service Medal. MSG Linton has attended the advanced level of NCOES and is a member of the Enlisted Association.

MSG Linton is the eighth of twelve children in her family, and the first to join the military. MSG Linton will score yet another first within her family, when she graduates from Philander Smith College with a Bachelor Degree in Business Management in May 2002.

MSG Linton is scheduled to retire in September 2002 with 27 years of distinguished military service.

Senior Airman Darda McConnell 188th Mission Support Flight



Senior Airman Darda McConnell is the Civilian Personnel Assistant for the 188th Fighter Wing, Arkansas Air National Guard, Fort Smith, Arkansas. She also serves as the Asian American/Pacific Islander Special Emphasis Program Manager.

SrA McConnell entered the Air National Guard on May 10, 1998 as an Airman Basic, serving in the Personnel Customer Service section. On August 30, 1998, she accepted a full-time technician appointment as the Personnel Clerk for the Customer Service section, only the second person ever to be hired at the 188th Fighter Wing as a full-time employee who had not yet attended basic training and technical training. In June 2000, SrA McConnell accepted the Active Guard Reserve (AGR) appointment of Civilian Personnel Assistant, the first female to hold this position at the 188th Fighter Wing. She is responsible for a wide range of civilian personnel issues and support to all 188th Fighter Wing supervisors and employees. Darda provides advice and assistance to supervisors concerning technician guidelines, directives and required policies and procedures. She also assists all technicians with personnel programs such as retirement annuities, Thrift Savings Plan (both civilian and military) and insurance programs. SrA McConnell processes all new hire technicians and AGR personnel for the 188th Fighter Wing, as well as processing applications and insurance forms for surrounding Army units in the Fort Smith area.

Among her notable achievements, SrA McConnell was an Honor Graduate from the Personnel Apprentice School in 1999, and is the proud recipient of the Air Force Achievement Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, the Air Force Reserve Meritorious Service Medal, and the Air Force Training Ribbon. She serves on several committees including the Base Human Relations Council, the Environmental Differential Pay Committee, the Financial Working Group, and the Arkansas National Guard Equal Opportunity Advisory Committee.

Darda says of her military career, "My greatest aspiration for my military career is to help each and every person to the best of my ability. My goal is to one day be Senior Enlisted

Advisor for the 188th Fighter Wing, where I can assist not just full-time personnel, but every single person of the 188th Fighter Wing. I have a great appreciation for the people of the Arkansas Air National Guard and will enjoy serving them for the extent of my career."

She is married to Staff Sergeant Timothy L. McConnell, also a full-time member of the 188th Fighter Wing. They have one child, Sarah.

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*Senior Master Sergeant Lisa D. McCurdy
188th Mission Support Flight*



Senior Master Sergeant Lisa D. McCurdy is Chief, Base Education and Training for the 188th Fighter Wing, Arkansas Air National Guard, Fort Smith, Arkansas.

SMSgt McCurdy entered the Air National Guard on 20 November 1982 as an Airman First Class, serving the Personnel Customer Service section. She attended Basic Military Training (BMT) in January 1983. Upon completion of BMT, she attended Personal Affairs Specialist Training at Kessler, AFB, MS. In February 1985, she accepted a full-time position as the Enlisted, Reenlistment, and Separation Clerk in the Base Personnel Office. In April 1989, she was selected as the NCOIC, Personnel Utilization Section where she served until January 1997. In January 1997, she was selected as the Chief, Base Education and Training, where she currently is serving. Her duties include coordinating all aspects of training, both formal and informal for the entire 188th Fighter Wing, for all enlisted and officers.

SMSgt McCurdy's achievements include the Air Force Commendation Medal with first oak leaf cluster, Air Force Achievement Medal with first oak leaf cluster, Air Reserve Forces Meritorious Service Medal, Air Force Longevity Service with third oak leaf cluster, Air Force Professional Military Service Medal, and Air Force Training Ribbon.

SMSgt McCurdy is married to CMSgt Steven E. McCurdy, also a full-time member of the 188th Fighter Wing. They have one child, Spencer.

*Master Sergeant Demetra I. Moses
188th Mission Support Flight*



Master Sergeant Demetra I. Moses is NCOIC of Customer Service within the Military Personnel Flight of the 188th Fighter Wing, Arkansas Air National Guard.

MSgt Moses entered the Air National Guard on October 4, 1985 as an Airman First Class. MSgt Moses has always worked in the customer service section as a traditional guardsman. She is responsible for updating information in members' records, assisting with awards and decorations, and assisting members with Tricare issues. MSgt Moses also updates the DEERS system and makes ID cards for members of the 188th and their dependents as well as for members of other branches of the military, their dependents and for retirees and their dependents.

MSgt Moses is the recipient of the Air Force Commendation Medal, Air Force Achievement Medal, Air Reserve Forces Meritorious Service Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Air Force Longevity Service, Armed Forces Reserve Medal, Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon and Air Force Training Ribbon.

MSgt Moses is divorced and a mother of two children.

Sergeant Anjannette Red Horse-Dolan

Det 4 STARC Medical TD

Sergeant Anjannette Red Horse-Dolan is a Personnel Assistant at the Robinson Maneuver Training Area (RMIA), Camp Robinson, North Little Rock, AR.

SGT Red Horse-Dolan began her military career in 1987. After Basic Training, she was assigned to 224th Maintenance Co. as Materiel Control and Accounting Specialist. Other Units she was in include the 119th Personnel Service Company where she was the Unit Clerk, Marksmanship Training Unit where she worked in ammunition, and 148th Evacuation Hospital where she was a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN). Currently, SGT Red Horse-Dolan is assigned to Det 4 STARC Medical TD, where she works on the Physical Exam Team as an LPN.

SGT Red-Horse Dolan was the first female in the Arkansas Army National Guard to compete for and win awards as a sniper. She will be competing at the state-level this year in an effort to go to the National Level. SGT Red Horse-Dolan has received numerous letters of appreciation from various commands for her medical support, marksman skills, and positive attitude.

In 1989, she began her full-time technician career in the United States Property and Fiscal Office (USPF/O) as a Purchasing Agent in Purchasing and Contracting. She has been a Personnel Assistant at RMIA since 1998.

SGT Red Horse-Dolan, who is actively involved in her Native American dance and religion, was crowned the first Ms Indian Arkansas in 1990. She proudly represents her heritage as the Native American/Alaskan Native Special Emphasis Program Manager for the Arkansas Army National, serving as a liaison with Native American organizations and assisting management in identifying and eliminating barriers that affect the recruitment and advancement of Native Americans/Alaskan Natives in the Arkansas National Guard. The Native American dance presentation she coordinated for the Arkansas National Guard Multi-Cultural Program held in conjunction with the Arkansas National Guard Minuteman Days Celebration in 2001 was spectacular. The "sound of the drums" drew spectators from all directions. A clip of the dancers was included in the footage shown during a local television newscast that evening.

SGT Red Horse-Dolan is a Nationally Certified Aerobic Instructor and has been teaching for 12 years. She is the mother of a ten-year old daughter, Wintersage Red Horse. Her husband, SFC Ben Dolan, is also a member of the Arkansas National Guard. He previously served in the Air National Guard Security Police, and prior to that served on active duty as a United States Marine Corps Sniper. His platoon was actively involved in the liberation of Kuwait during Desert Storm and received the Liberation of Kuwait Medal.



Sergeant Anjannette Red Horse-Dolan (right) walks with another Native American dancer following their performance during Minuteman Days.



Sergeant Red Horse-Dolan at her desk in RMTA.

Major Joanne M. Riker Professional Education Center

Major Joanne M. Riker is currently serving a Title 10 tour as an Instructor at the Professional Education Quality Center, Camp Robinson, North Little Rock, AR.

MAJ Riker was commissioned in May 1988 as a ROTC graduate at the University of South Dakota. She began her military career as Personnel Officer with the 26th Personnel Services Company in the Massachusetts National Guard. Her civilian career in Drug & Alcohol Counseling took her to Massachusetts where she worked with head-injured adults resulting from alcohol or drug related accidents.

MAJ Riker's full time career began as a Technician in the Massachusetts National Guard, where she served as the EEO Specialist. Desiring to live closer to her family in Oklahoma, she applied for and was selected for the State Equal Employment Manager position with the Arkansas National Guard where she served from February 1994 until August 1998 when she accepted her Title 10 tour.

MAJ Riker's career has been filled with opportunity. She has attended numerous military schools, including The Adjutant General Officer Basic Course, Equal Opportunity Management Course where she made the Commandant's List, The Adjutant General Advanced Course, and Combined Arms and Services Staff School. Her thirst for knowledge still unquenched, Joanne obtained a Master in Human Resources Development from Webster's University in May 2001.

The Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal with one Oakleaf Cluster, the National Defense Service Ribbon and Army Service Ribbon adorn MAJ Riker's uniform in testament of her dedicated and outstanding service to the military.

Joanne is the oldest of four children and the only one of her siblings to serve in the military. What was the reaction of her family to her decision to join the military? MAJ Riker states that her father (who had prior Army service), was proud of her decision to become an Army officer. Her mother was proud as well, although she was not surprised. She watched Joanne grow up as a "tomboy" learning to hunt with her father and brother. This was just another example of Joanne's desire to be different and be able to contribute to a worthy cause.

As the single mother of two, MAJ Riker is faced with the challenge of balancing home and career, which is not an easy task, — especially in a position that requires a considerable amount of traveling. Joanne states that while it is not always "easy" it can be done. She states her success in her career can only be attributed to her family's support and the divine guidance of the Lord. Her desire to stay in the military was shaped by the caring family atmosphere she found in the National Guard. She also contributes her current strengths as an officer to other officers who were rock steady examples of what to become.

Joanne brags of the world travel opportunities she has had in her military career. "The Army has given me opportunities to travel nation wide and to locations such as Puerto Rico, Germany, and Canada." Because of this exposure to diverse environments she has had a new framework to help shape her daughters' perspectives around differences in people. As a result, her daughters appreciate differences in peoples language, and skin color.

Lieutenant Colonel Alicia Claire Rucker Commander, 1st Battalion 87th Troop Command

Lieutenant Colonel Rucker is Commander of the 1st Battalion, 87th Troop Command, at Camp Robinson in North Little Rock.

LTC Rucker began her military career December 29, 1975. She attended the Arkansas Military Academy and was commissioned a second lieutenant May 13, 1977. The first female in the Arkansas Army National Guard to attend flight school, she completed the U.S. Army Rotary Wing Course in February 1982.

LTC Rucker has held a variety of command and staff assignments in three primary career fields: public affairs, aviation and surface maintenance. In 1990 and again in 1991 she took public affairs teams to Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Iraq, England and Germany in support of Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. She currently is a full-time military technician assigned as Maintenance Manager, Arkansas Army National Guard, which is another first for females in the Arkansas Army National Guard.

LTC Rucker received federal recognition as a lieutenant colonel August 1, 1996. She assumed the duties of Commander, 1st Battalion 87th Troop Command, Arkansas Army National Guard, in October 2000.

LTC Rucker's career is marked with distinction through the receipt of the following awards and decorations: Meritorious Service Medal, Second Award; Joint Services Commendation Medal; Army Commendation Medal, Second Award; Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal; National Defense Service Medal; Southwest Asia Service Medal, Second Award; Humanitarian Service Medal; Armed Forces Reserve Medal; Army Service Ribbon; Army Reserve Components Overseas Training Ribbon; Army Aviator Badge and Senior Aviator.

Her military education includes: Adjutant General Officer Basic Course; DINFOS, Information Officer Course; Officer Rotary Wing Aviators Course; Signal Officer Advanced Course; Command Information Officers Course; Command and General Staff Officers Course; Rotary Wing Refresher Course; Maintenance Managers Course and Pre-Command Course, Fort Leavenworth, KS.

LTC Rucker received a Bachelors degree from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock in 1972 and earned a Masters degree in marketing from Webster University in 1990. She is married to Steve Cole Rucker, COL (Ret) USA and they reside in Little Rock.

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*Lieutenant Colonel Alice K. Sanders
189th Logistics Squadron*



Lieutenant Colonel Alice K. Sanders is Commander, 189th Logistics Squadron, Arkansas Air National Guard, located at Little Rock Air Force Base, AR. As commander, she is responsible for all supply, fuels, transportation and contracting operations within the 189th Airlift Wing.

Born in Toledo, Ohio, she spent her early years in Ohio and New Jersey. She enlisted in the U.S. Air Force in 1974 and later enlisted in the Arkansas Air National Guard, where she attained the rank of Technical Sergeant before receiving a commission. She was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in 1983 from the Academy of Military Science at McGhee-Tyson Air National Guard Base, Tenn.

Lt Col Sanders' career progression has afforded her the opportunity to serve in a variety of positions throughout her military career, including stenographer, administrative specialist/technician, executive support officer, Chief of Disaster Preparedness, and Chief of Supply. Lt Col Sanders presently commands the organization in which she began her career in the Arkansas Air National Guard in 1978 as an administrative specialist.

Lt Col Sanders has distinguished herself with a number of awards and decorations, including the Meritorious Service Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal, two Air Force Achievement Medals, three Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards, two National Defense Service Medals and the Armed Forces Reserve Medal.

Major Shaun M. Scott Headquarters, 189th Airlift Wing

Major Shaun Scott is a traditional member of the 189th Airlift Wing Air National Guard. She is the Military Equal Opportunity (MEO) officer for the unit and has been working in this capacity for the past 10 years.

Prior to becoming an officer, Major Scott enlisted into the Air National Guard at Truax Field in Madison, Wisconsin in June of 1985, while still in college. After graduating from college with a major in Speech Communications and attending basic training, she was looking for adventure and wanted to further her education. Knowing no one she moved to Arkansas, with every intention of going to graduate school. In June of 1986, she enlisted in the 189th at Little Rock AFB. Once enlisted, Shaun was more interested in trying for a commission than attending graduate school. This led her to the 223rd Combat Communications Squadron in Hot Springs, Arkansas, which was in need of an Administrative Officer. After interviewing for the job and getting the test out of the way, she was off to officer's training - an adventure that was much more enjoyable than basic military training!

Major Scott spent two years in the Hot Springs unit before moving back to the 189th as an Operations Support Officer for the Resource Management Squadron. Two years later when the opening for a Social Actions Officer was announced, the public speaking and writing skills needed were those that she used on a regular basis in her civilian job, at Big Brothers Big Sister, so Major Scott felt very qualified when she assumed this position. Fast-forward 10 years, Major Scott is still working with the MEO office (what used to be Social Actions) and is still learning something every VTA (Unit Training Assembly). She has many additional duties and enjoys the challenge of learning them all.

While working with the Hot Springs unit, Major Scott married an active duty Air Force man whom she met through her civilian job at Big Brothers Big Sisters. They have two children. Balancing her military career, civilian career and her family life became quite a challenge for Major Scott. She states she felt such a strong commitment to the military and the Air National Guard and because she felt she was not able to effectively meet that commitment, she almost resigned twice. "My husband was stationed at Barksdale AFB and the kids and I stayed in Arkansas. There were many times I thought I could not continue to honor my commitment and be effective at my [civilian] job, Luckily I had some wonderful role models that were very encouraging." Major Scott will complete her 17th year this summer and states, "Every time I put on my uniform I feel such pride and honor! I enjoy sharing that sense of pride with my children and encourage them to think about joining the military someday also!"

Recently Major Scott has had the opportunity to speak to a high school ROTC class and a Junior High Civics class and feels those types of outings are a big way to reach potential recruits. "It doesn't happen the first time we speak to someone, we have to continually seek young people out and share our experiences and the benefits."

Staff Sergeant Dianne Seerey 189th Communications Flight

Staff Sergeant Dianne Seerey is a Visual Information Specialist at the 189th Airlift Wing. Staff Sergeant Seerey says her biography can be wrapped up in one sentence, "Devoted to God, Family and Country."

While that is a very powerful statement to the character of this airman, there is more to be said. She joined the Air National Guard in September 1996 with the 152nd Airlift Wing, Multimedia Center, Reno, Nevada, as a Photographer/Graphic Artist/Videographer. Dianne remained with the 152nd until September 1999. In October 1999, she came to the 189th Airlift Wing, where she works in the Multimedia Center.

Staff Sergeant Seerey's military career is not limited to the Air National Guard. She served tours of duty with the U.S. Army from 1977 to 1981, the U.S. Navy from 1981 to 1992 and the Army National Guard from 1995 to 1996. While in the Army, Dianne had the experience of serving in Seoul, Korea and Taegue, Korea as a photographer. In 1981, she switched branches of service and joined the U.S. Navy and gained valuable experience as a draftsman/photographer with the U.S. Forces Caribbean, Key West Florida (Joint Intelligence Command) from 1981 to 1986. She left the U.S. Navy in 1992, after serving in Fallon, Nevada and Norfolk, Virginia. Prior to joining the Air National Guard, she served in the Army National Guard May 1995-September 1996, as a CH-47D Refueler, in Stead, Nevada.

Sergeant First Class Connie G. Simmons

Recruiting and Retention

Sergeant First Class Connie G. Simmons is assigned the STARC(-) Recruiting and Retention Department in the Central Little Rock Area. SFC Simmons, presently, is the only female and black female that works in the department of recruiting. SFC Simmons duty station is located at Fisher Armory as the recruiter for Co D 212 th Signal Battalion.

SFC Simmons began her military career in the Army National Guard in 1981. She was assigned to the 148th Evacuation Hospital for 15 years as a LPN in the Intensive Care Unit. She served in the Persian Gulf during Desert Storm in 1990. After, Desert Storm her unit disbanded and she was assigned to AR Regional Training Institute in 1996. SFC Simmons was an administrative assistant and later applied to become an instructor for the Basic Non-Commission Leadership course. In January 1998, SFC Simmons was selected to the recruiting forces for the state of Arkansas, which is her current position. During, this tour SFC Simmons has received her Associate Degree in Applied Science, at Vincennes University, which is housed at Camp Joe T. Robinson. SFC Simmons plans to get back in school within the next few years to complete her education for a Bachelor Degree in Business Management.

SFC Simmons has received the following awards and decorations: Army Achievement Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster; National Defense Service Medal; Non-Commissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon with Numerical 3; Army Service Ribbon; Kuwait Liberation Medal; Armed Forces Reserve Ribbon with a hourglass and a "M" for mobilization; Southwest Asia Service Medal; Army Commendation Medal; Kuwait Liberation Medal (Government of Kuwait); Overseas Service Ribbon; Arkansas Recruiting Ribbon; Distinguished Service Award; Outstanding Classroom Consultant with Junior Achievement.

SFC Simmons is the fourth of five children in her family, and the first to join the military. She is a single mother with one daughter, Constance, who hope s one day to be a WNBA player.

Technical Sergeant Patti A. Thissen Headquarters 189th Airlift Wing

TSgt Patti Thissen is an Active Guard Reserve (AGR) member of the 189th Airlift Wing, Arkansas Air National Guard. She is the Executive Administrative Assistant for both the Wing and Vice Wing Commanders.

Patti signed on the dotted line and launched a lifelong career in October 1990. Her initial job was to work at the Command Post as an Airfield Management Specialist, but before she could get a school date, an opportunity for a full-time Air Technician position opened in Standards Evaluations (Stan Eval). She applied and was selected for the job and for the next two years worked as the Stan Eval Information Management Specialist. Later, another technician job opened in Scheduling and Patti went back to Airfield Management. She completed her first enlistment in this position.

When the time came to re-enlist, Patti was faced with a major decision. She had to decide whether to re-enlist or become a stay-at-home mom to care for her youngest son, who had a chronic illness. Family first has always been the rule with Patti, and though she thought this would probably end her military career, she chose to stay at home with her son.

After a year of ensuring her child was stable and the family situation was sound, Patti knew what she had to do. The Air National Guard was still in her blood, so she came back to the 189th Airlift Wing to work in the Safety Office. It wasn't long before the full-time job she was hoping for became available. She submitted her application, interviewed and was selected as an AGR Information Management Journeyman. In May 2000, she was selected as secretary to the Airlift Wing Commanders and the Headquarters section. Her job requires taking care of the HQ Orderly Room, "with help on VTA weekends from some other dedicated professionals," she readily states. When it comes to computers, you'll find Patti is also the Work Group Manager for the section.

In talking with her about her chosen career path, Patti will tell you she loves being an Executive Secretary. Being in the Command Section of an Airlift Wing is just a plus for her. She is proud of her unit and her contribution to its success, but most of all Patti is proud of her family.

Her husband, Steve, a 17-year member of the Arkansas Army National Guard, is a Sergeant at Camp Robinson. His brother, James, is a Master Sergeant in the Air National Guard and works in the same building with Patti. She laughs that the Guard is a "family thing" and that they will all be retiring at about the same time... at least that's their goal.

Patti shared some of the comments her family made when she wanted to come into the military. At the time, she decided to enlist, Patti was 27 years old with two children. Her mother thought that she was going through some kind of "Tom Boy" phase and that she would come to her senses before she did anything "stupid." That was then. Today, her mother is proud of the professional airman she raised. Patti's dad was behind her all the way from the start. He knew he had raised a daughter who could do anything she set her mind to.

Presently, Patti is managing to be a wife, mother, daughter and career airman all at the same time. Never failing to give credit where she says the credit is due, she says her husband Steve has supported her all the way. He has willingly taken responsibility for their home and two sons, first while she was at Basic Training and technical schools, and then through all her additional schools and TDY's. They have been married for 13 years and continue to be best friends. Like any couple, they hope to grow old together. Their two boys are now 10 and 15 years old. Patti will tell you they are her life and one of the main reasons for coming into the Guard was to provide stability for her family.

Her youngest son touched her heart when he returned from school on "Career Day." The teacher had asked him what his mother career is and he replied, "My momma wears combat boots and protects us." Patti swelled with pride, seeing herself through the eyes of her child.

TSgt Thissen's pride in her job and her unit shine through. She plans to become Command Chief before retirement. Seeing the determination of this NCO, she will probably do just that. Whatever she does, she says, "It will be the Lord's will" and for now, she and her family are happy!



Technical Sergeant Patti Thissen
Headquarters 189th Airlift Wing

Staff Sergeant Warisar Villarreal 189th Mission Support Flight



Staff Sergeant Warisar Villarreal is a Personnel Apprentice assigned to the 189th Mission Support Flight, Arkansas Air National Guard. SSgt Villarreal was born in Khorat, Thailand, and proudly represents her heritage as the Asian American/Pacific Islander Employment Manager for the 189th Airlift Wing.

SSgt Villarreal served in the U.S. Air Force, where she received the Basic Military Honor Graduate Award upon graduation from Basic Training. She then attended Greek Cryptologic linguistic technical school. She separated from the U.S. Air Force in 1998 and accompanied her spouse, who is on active duty in the U.S. Air Force, to Little Rock Air Force Base, Arkansas.

In March 1998, SSgt Villarreal enlisted in the Arkansas Air National Guard and became an Information Management Helper in the Base Education and Training Office. She transferred to HQ 189th Airlift Wing Command Support Staff and accepted a full-time Active Guard Reserve position in July 1999. Upon accepting a position in the Personnel Relocations Section of the 189th Mission Support Flight, she attended the Personnel technical school where she was the Distinguished Graduate. In addition to her normal Command Support Staff duties, she also served as an interim secretary in the 189th Airlift Wing Headquarters from January through May 2000.

SSgt Villarreal has many awards and decorations to her credit, which include the Air Force Achievement Medal, Arkansas Distinguished Service Medal, 189th Support Group Airman of the Year 2001, 189th Airlift Wing Airman of the Year 2001, 189th Airlift Wing Employee of the Year 2001, and the Arkansas Air National Guard Active Guard Reserve Employee of the Year 2001, to name a few.

Senior Master Sergeant Allison Walton 123rd Intelligence Squadron

Senior Master Sergeant Allison Walton is the NCOIC of 123rd Intelligence Squadron Photo Lab, Little Rock Air Force Base, Arkansas.

SMSgt Walton began her military career in 1988 as an Airman First Class, due to the number of college hours she had earned prior to enlistment. Upon enlistment, she was classified as an Imagery Production Specialist. This career field later merged with the Visual Information career field. In her current position, she is involved in developing and processing black/white and color imagery and photos for state and worldwide dissemination. Lt Col Stanton, Commander of the 123rd Intelligence Squadron, said of SMSgt Walton, "SMSgt Allison Walton, is the first female and African American in the history of the squadron to attain the rank of Senior Master Sergeant (E-8). She was also the first female to be promoted to the rank of Master Sergeant (E-7). She is an excellent role model and also serves as the squadron's assistant Career Advisor."

Her military awards and decorations include the Air Force Commendation Medal, Air Force Organizational Excellence Award, National Defense Service Award Ribbon, the Air Force Training Ribbon, Arkansas Service Ribbon with one device and the Arkansas Commendation Medal.

Speaking of her military career, SMSgt Walton said, "When I first joined the Air National Guard I didn't know what to expect. Once I set some goals for myself I began to see how I could benefit from the Air National Guard. Never did I think that the doors that are open for me now would be possible. I have matured these last 14 years and hopefully I can be a positive role model for someone who's interested in becoming a member of the Armed Forces."

Obviously not one to be intimidated by "non-traditional" roles, SMSgt Walton has been a Patrolman with the Little Rock Police Department since 1994. Her first assignment was with the Patrol Division – Southwest Precinct. She is currently assigned to the Training Division where she is the Personnel Background Investigator and Recruiter. Her responsibilities include recruiting applicants who meet the criteria to become police officers for the City of Little Rock. She also conducts pre-employment background investigations on applicants to ensure that they have no issues that would disqualify them from becoming a police officer.

SMSgt Walton is involved in professional organizations associated with both her military and her civilian career, including the Little Rock Police Department Fraternal Order of Police, the Little Rock Black Police Association and the Enlisted Association of the Arkansas National Guard.

In Allison's "spare time" she enjoys softball and basketball. She is a member of the Arkansas Air National Guard Co-Ed Softball Team. She was a member of the annual Air National Guard Softball Tournament Women's Open Division Champions for 2000 and 2001.

This tournament is held each year by a participating state. Air National Guard teams from as far as Panama and Hawaii have attended these tournaments to represent their state and unit.

SMSgt Walton is the youngest of six girls born to her parents. She graduated from Little Rock Parkview High school where she participated in the women's volleyball, basketball, and track teams. She attended Philander Smith College from 1985 to 1988. Allison is married to David Walton. They have two children, Donovan who is 9 years old and Karley, who is 5 years old. They are active members of Bethel A.M.E. church in North Little Rock,