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# Q & A

## MELISSA GOFORTH

**EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN**  
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES  
GENERAL LEONARD WOOD ARMY COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

Responsible for responding to accidents and other emergencies involving injury, sickness and mental health for both military and civilians; assisting with treatment and patient care in the Emergency Department; mentoring and training and instructing new employees



### Why did you choose a career as a DA Civilian?

I was working as a school nurse in 2007, when I received a phone call asking me if I would like to be a part of the EMS team here. I knew I would be stepping out of the comfort zone of a Monday through Friday job, but after weighing the pros and cons, I accepted the challenging opportunity of being part of this team. **The benefits, training opportunities and being able to serve our military were big factors in my decision.**

### What do you like most about your job/career as a DA Civilian?

There's something pretty amazing about being able to help our Soldiers and their spouses get through their rough patch while being

away from home. **In this line of work, it is rewarding knowing you helped your patient's condition turn around for the better and hearing the words 'thank you.'** When I hear those two words from a patient, I undoubtedly know I made the right career choice.

### What is your most memorable experience as a DA Civilian?

My partner and I responded to a young Soldier in full cardiac arrest. About a month later, we received a phone call saying there was someone requesting to meet us in the clinic. **The Soldier was there with his parents for an appointment, and when he spoke to us, shook our hands, gave us a hug and thanked us for saving his life, it was the biggest reward.** Gestures like that go a long way in this profession.

### What advice would you give to others considering becoming a DA Civilian?

Go for it. As a DA Civilian you will have great training opportunities, places for advancement and receive great benefits. **You will meet people from around the world and work alongside our military.**

