

Q&A

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Responsible for helping service members improve their financial situations by creating debt elimination plans and budgets, and assisting with credit repair.



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What is your favorite part about being a DA Civilian?

I enjoy helping the service members because I used to be bad about spending money myself, so **I know how much of a burden it can be.** Whenever I see that burden lift off their shoulders because they can see the light at the end of the tunnel, it makes it all worth it.

Why did you choose to become a DA Civilian?

The Thrift Savings Plan was the No. 1 reason. I made similar money as a contractor but wanted to be able to retire early, and TSP is the highest-performance retirement out there. Overall, it's super beneficial. The promotion

potential is another reason; this isn't a stale career – you can see yourself progress over time.

What advice would you give to others looking at becoming a DA Civilian?

Don't be afraid to work. **Don't be afraid to get your feet wet because you are worried about failing** – sometimes that's the best way to learn. I think unwillingness to try new things is what holds people back. Sometimes you must step out of your comfort zone to succeed, and that's okay.

What brought you to Fort Leonard Wood?

While I was in the Army, I came here to care for my father, who was termi-

nally ill. After 10 years in the Army, I transitioned out and stayed because the **cost of living** is relatively low, and the jobs pay well in comparison to other locations.

Who has inspired you throughout your career as a DA Civilian?

In general, **the service members have been, and are, my primary inspiration.** I'm always trying to do the best I can for them.

