

Q & A

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Responsible for forest resource management, and prescribed burning on Fort Leonard Wood.



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Why did you choose to become a DA Civilian?

I came from the private sector, where I worked for a timber corporation. My wife and I are both from Missouri, and had been living in Arkansas for seven and a half years. We wanted to get closer to home, but I didn't realize that Fort Leonard Wood hired foresters until I saw the job posting. I applied, and **it was the best decision I've ever made**, aside from my kids.

What is your favorite part about your job as a DA Civilian?

The best part about my job is that I'm not stuck behind a computer desk 24/7. **I get to go out and see the natural resources we have on Fort Leonard Wood, and see places a lot of people**

working in the cantonment don't get to see. There's a lot of opportunity outside of the cantonment area. There's a lot of forested land that needs to be managed.

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

Be patient. Things don't happen as quickly in the federal system as they do in the private sector, so **you have to really put things into perspective and realize that a lot of the frustrations are not in your control.** It won't happen overnight, so don't let those stressors add up.

What are the benefits of being a DA Civilian?

Being a DA Civilian is night and day compared to the corporate world. In the

private sector, there was always that expectation that you work for that corporation 24 hours a day. **Here, I can have a family life outside of my eight-hour shift.** Fort Leonard Wood is very family oriented from my family's perspective, and being a federal employee has been better for us all around.

