

# Q&A

## MICHAEL N. CURTIS

PHOTOGRAPHER  
FORT LEONARD WOOD  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

Responsible for taking promotion and command photos and documenting events at Fort Leonard Wood through photographs



“  
*The camera has allowed me to see and do some very interesting things. It is hard to call this career a job because I do what I love.*  
”

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

The camera has allowed me to see and do some very interesting things. What I enjoy most is photographing Soldiers-in-training – ‘in the trenches,’ as they say. **I enjoy the variety of different types of photographic assignments, and having my images published is very satisfying.** It is hard to call this career a job because I do what I love. **I will be retiring soon and will miss this.**

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

**I’m not sure if I chose this career, or if it chose me.** My dad was in the Army - and I should have chosen an Army career. I liked

everything about the Army lifestyle, but I was stubborn and didn’t want to do what my dad did at the time. **It’s ironic how most of my photography career has been photographing Soldiers.**

### What advice would you give to others who might be looking at becoming a DA Civilian?

The Soldier is your customer. **Give them your best each and every day.** Always take the opportunity to learn and improve your skill set.

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

My most memorable experience was **photographing the Best Sapper Competition.** Being out with the

camera at all hours of the day was hard, but very enjoyable.

### What are the benefits of working as a DA Civilian?

**Working with Soldiers as a small part of the team of teams is the biggest benefit for me.**

