### **BARBARA MELTON**

FORT LEONARD WOOD CHILD YOUTH PROGRAM

Lead Child Youth Program Associate for Fort Leonard Wood Child Development Center 408.



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What do you like most about working with the Army?

Getting to know the families. Working with all the families and meeting everyone. I grew up a military brat so working with the families and children now is pretty amazing.

#### What advice would you give to others who might be looking at a career in the Army?

Truly have a passion for what you are doing. Working here and being with the children again after being a military brat, it's like a full-circle moment for me but at the end of the day we, as the caregivers, we are the first to see all of the changes and everything going on, whether it's with the mission or a PCS season, but just have passion for the families and what you are doing.

#### What is your most memorable experience working in the Army?

My very first day in my classroom, it was a group of 21 children. They didn't know me but it was an immediate connection with that group of children and just the love that they gave me from just walking into that classroom was pretty amazing.

# What are the benefits of working for the Army?

Just making friends, making those connections with the families and the

**children**. I am still friends with a couple of families from the very first group of kids I had and those children are now in third grade. So just those connections itself it's been pretty amazing."

## What made you decide to have a career with the Army?

After 20 years of working in our community outside of Fort Leonard Wood, I decided to try something new. I actually fell in love with giving back to the military and giving back to the mission. I love being with the families and being with the children. I just absolute-

ly love it; it's a great place to be and it's a great place to work.

