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### **CONNIE PORTERFIELD**

#### STAFF ACTION CONTROL OFFICER

SECRETARY OF THE GENERAL STAFF FORT LEONARD WOOD

Acts as the single point of entry for all staffing actions going to the command group for signature, approval and concurrence; ensures all requirements are met and everything is accurate according to Army regulation and standard



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

Like many military spouses, I became a DA Civilian so I could have a career and travel with the military at the same time. I was a social worker, but every time I moved I would have to start over getting a job and certifications. We went to Germany and there wasn't much opportunity for me there, so I applied to be a DA Civilian and have been doing it ever since.

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

Learn about the options, requirements and best way to apply. Get training or schooling if required. For spouses, take advantage of military spouse employment assistance programs. You may have to take less than you want initially, but mobility and opportunity are there after you get hired.

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

Serving Soldiers. I feel honored to have the opportunity to do this. I get to serve our country's elite, and if I can do something to make their life better, easier or fix a problem, then it has been a good day.

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

I was working at a commissary in Germany on 9/11. We were all in shock. All incoming traffic was halted and there were concerns about supply trucks getting in so people ran to the commissary. My manager announced we would stay open as long as needed and we stayed open for hours after closing time. Everyone was quiet, calm and did their shopping and there was such a sense of unity, togetherness and a 'we'll make it through' feeling. It was dark as we were leaving, but along the perimeter of the

lighted fence you could see it was surrounded by flowers from the German people. It was touching and overwhelming - a scary but beautiful experience.

What are the benefits of working as a DA Civilian?

I got to have a career and travel with my spouse, but there are so many others aside from the obvious - pay, opportunity, growth and benefits. You can make it what you want it to be.

Not many jobs allow that. You can travel, move, train and see a different field and work towards it. You really get out of it what you put in.

