

AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL SPECIALIST

AVIATION DIVISION DIRECTORATE OF PLANS, TRAINING, MOBILIZATION & SECURITY

Provides safe, orderly and expeditious flow of air traffic on and around Fort Leonard Wood. Separates ground vehicles from both aircraft and helicopter operations, and coordinates with agencies, including law enforcement, fire departments, and General Leonard Wood Army Community Hospital during emergency situations.



After serving in the Air Force, I wanted to continue my career. Being an air traffic controller allows me to support the flying mission for the Army.

Why did you choose a career as a DA Civilian?

After serving in the Air Force, I wanted to continue my career as an air traffic controller. As a civilian, I don't have to PCS or deploy, which keeps me close to both my family and extended family.

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

Being an air traffic controller allows me to support the flying mission for the Army. During the pandemic, my mission expanded to include supporting the airliners that were bringing the new Soldiers to basic training, and other Soldiers who required training for their military careers. Seeing the new recruits walk off the plane gave me a sense of pride knowing I was instrumental to the mission.

What is your most memorable experience as a DA Civilian?

A couple years ago, **First Lady Michelle Obama, Second Lady Jill Biden, LeVar Burton and Mark Kelley came to Fort Leonard Wood** to read to elementary school children. Seeing about 30 SUVs and a SWAT vehicle in the parking lot was crazy. The air traffic part was pretty normal, but the high alert going on outside was cool to see from the tower.

What are the benefits of working as a DA Civilian?

Being able to have annual, sick, and ad-

ministrative leave alleviates the stresses of the job, and allows time with my family.

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

You have to apply to get hired. **Eight** years later,

I am a DA Civilian with a great career, co-workers, benefits and a future.

