It is great when people can get their degrees, but it hits home when they return and let you know you were part of the driving force behind their success.

SHARON WASHINGTON

EDUCATION SERVICES OFFICER TRUMAN EDUCATION CENTER FORT LEONARD WOOD

Responsible for the adult continuing education of all Soldiers, family members and civilians within the community.



Why did you choose to become a DA Civilian?

I got out of the military in 2005, which was a difficult transition. **Civilian life just wasn't my thing.** I had 11 jobs in less than 13 months. I was an educator before going into the service. It was one of the most rewarding jobs I had ever had in my adult life, so I decided to give it another shot. **I applied for a guidance counselor position at Fort Bliss, Texas, and was selected. I've been in education ever since.**

What is the most rewarding part about your job/career as a DA Civilian?

I find seeing everyone's accomplishments the most rewarding. **It is great** when people can get their degrees, but it hits home when they return and let you know you were part of the driving force behind their success. I also enjoy seeing other colleagues and educators grow professionally.

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

Do it. Don't give it a second thought. There's something for everybody as a DA Civilian, so it's an excellent option, especially if you've been in the military for quite some time. It keeps you close to that culture. In many cases, if you stay in the same area, you still have that camaraderie with people on the installation. It gives you the feeling of being stable and having the best of both worlds.

