

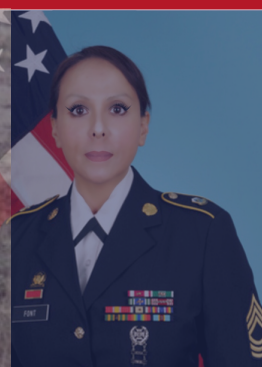


Hawk TALK

November 2023

Veteran's Day Special Issue

RECOGNIZING CIVILIANS FROM ACROSS THE
37TH TRAINING WING WHO HAVE
PREVIOUSLY SERVED IN UNIFORM





SPECIALIST DAVE WOODS

U.S. Army, Medically Retired

Years in Service: 3 years

MOS: Cryptolinguist

Current Position: DLIELC Instructor

"I called the recruiter on September 12, 2001, in response to the 9/11 attacks. I was 30 when I got to basic training. It was something I never expected to do in my life, but I have always been glad I did it. I trained at DLIFLC in California for Korean language. My Army experience helps me every single day as a teacher here at DLIELC."



"I enlisted in the Army to gain law enforcement experience."

SERGEANT FIRST CLASS DAMON JOHNSON

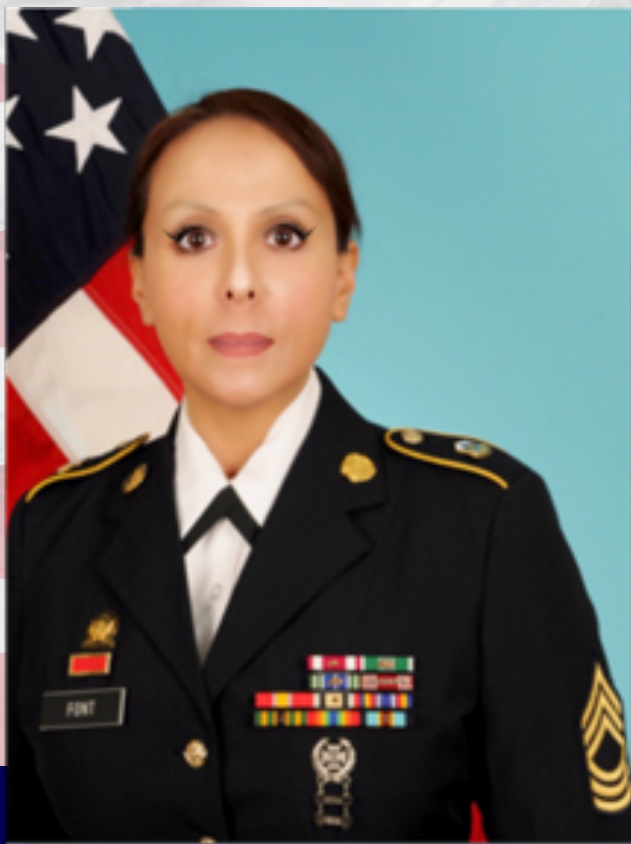
U.S. Army, Retired

Years in Service: 23 years

MOS: Military Police

Operations: Stabilization Force Bosnia 1999

Current Position: DLIELC Instructor



MSG

PATRICIA FONT

U.S. Army, Retired 2019

Years in Service: 23 years, 10 months, 27 days

MOS: Contracting Specialist

Current Position: 37th Training Wing
Acquisition Support Contractor

Master Sergeant Patricia Font distinguished herself through exceptionally meritorious service and achievements throughout her 23 years of service. She served admirably in positions of significant responsibility and demonstrated unparalleled leadership, loyalty, and love for our Army, country, and Soldiers. She concluded her military career with a master's degree in project management and has managed over an accumulative \$3 billion in contracts. MSG (R) Font held several leadership positions and embodied the Army values. She was the Fort Sam Houston NCO of the year in 2012, further validating her exceptional leadership. Through her support in promoting the representation of Hispanic women in the Army, she was the recipient of the 2014 Latina Style Distinguished Service Award. The award validated her exceptional character that distinguished her as an outstanding leader, mentor, and role model. Her dedication to the Army's mission and her mastery of the skillset required to be a Senior Non-Commissioned Officer have greatly impacted the readiness of every organization she has been a part of. Her contributions to the Army, the nation, and the Hispanic community have left a lasting impression and added to her outstanding legacy. She has made a positive impact for future generations of Soldiers. She also deployed in support of Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom, as well as with Special Forces and Colombia's Army to resolve contract administration, payment and delivery schedule issues.



1ST LT.

THOMAS KOCH

U.S. Marine, Separated in 1974

Years in Service: 3 years

MOS: Supply Officer

Current Position: DLIELC Learning Resource Center Specialist

"Marine units were withdrawn from Vietnam in the spring of 1971. I went on active duty in October 1971. I served with Marine units in Okinawa. 1971 - 1972 The Basic School, Quantico, VA; Ground Supply School, Camp Lejeune, NC; 1972 -1973. I was the XO of Supply Co. 3rd Marine Div. Okinawa; 1973 - 1974 LFORM Officer HQ, FMFLANT, Norfolk, VA. I was responsible for all USMC assets aboard US Naval Vessels for the East Coast, the Caribbean, and the Mediterranean Sea. I joined while a university student to fulfill my personal obligation to the USA."

VETERANS RECALL DECADES OF SERVICE

By Vanessa R. Adame

37th Training Wing Public Affairs

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-LACKLAND, Texas – **Eddie Molett** grew up in the Texas country, raising chickens and hogs as a young boy. It was the life his parents had imagined for their family, but Molett yearned for more. In 1960, just weeks before he turned 21, Molett enlisted in the U.S. Air Force.

“What I wanted to do was see the world,” Molett said. “I couldn’t wait to get away and join the Air Force.”

Molett served for 28 years and 16 assignments. His career took him to across the U.S. and overseas, where he developed a deep affection for the Germany and the hospitality he encountered there.

“The people were so nice, they’d invite you to their home and you’d have to eat, and eat and eat,” he said.

Molett was a dedicated service member. During his first few days in Vietnam, as rockets and mortars lit up the sky, Molett decided he would defend his country, even if it meant losing his life. He saw comrades injured, and others who never made it home.

“That was a hard year,” Molett stressed.

Despite the hardships, Molett found a sense of home in the Air Force. He retired in 1989, as a senior master sergeant, but soon returned as a civilian. Altogether, he’s served 63 years in civil service. While much has changed since he retired – a lot has remained the same.

“I still love it; I still wish I could wear my uniform,” Molett said.

Today, Molett works as a supply technician at Camp Bullis overseeing more than \$2 million dollars worth of equipment. Brian Pederson, 343rd Training Squadron, oversees Molett. He admires Molett’s dedication to his country.

“The fact that he comes to work every day and works as hard as he does – and the fact that he’s been doing it as long – is an absolute inspiration for service to our country,” Pederson said.

Molett isn’t ready to retire anytime soon. “I found a belonging, this is like my family now,” Molett said. “I love everything about it.”



Eddie Molett enlisted in the Air Force in 1960 and currently serves as a supply technician with the 343rd Training Squadron. (Courtesy Photo)



“What I wanted to do was see the world,” said Eddie Molett upon enlisting in the Air Force. He has 63 years in federal service.

(U.S. Air Force Photo by Vanessa Adame)



Oscar Clayton is a military working dog training evaluator at the 341st Training Squadron. He has served 48 years in and out of uniform. He will be retiring in December 2023.

*Left: Courtesy Photo
Right: U.S. Air Force photo by Vanessa Adame*

Oscar Clayton, also developed a deep admiration for his career. Clayton, now a military working dog training evaluator with the 341st Training Squadron, entered the military while still in high school, as part of the delayed enlistment program.

"I was not prepared at all, because they throw you into the barber's chair, I had an afro back then, and they asked, 'Do you want to keep your hair?' And they put it in a plastic bag and say here's your hair, since you wanted to keep it," Clayton recalled, still shocked at the memory.

Clayton decided to follow in his father's footsteps by joining security police. His father had become the first black police officer in Georgia. It inspired the younger Clayton to work as a military working dog handler in Thailand and Vietnam, where he spent three years. Clayton worked the next seven years procuring military working dogs for the Department of Defense, before he left the Air Force in 1980. After a short stint working in biomedical research, Clayton returned to work with military working dogs. His experience working with animals translated well into studying animal behavior. Reminiscing about his past experience, Clayton said he still gets "goosebumps" when people say "Welcome Home," as it was not something often said when he returned from South East Asia in 1975.

"It's been outstanding," Clayton said of his career. "I've trained a lot of people and passed down knowledge, teaching and training and figuring out problematic dogs."

Altogether, Clayton has served almost five decades in federal service.

"It's been very rewarding ... I'm fortunate to have done what I love for 48 years," Clayton said. "When you do what you love, you never work a day in your life."

Clayton is scheduled to retire in December. As for Molett, he started in security forces and plans to end his career in security forces.

"The military was the best thing that could've happened to me...I could've still been feeding the hogs."



SERGEANT MAJOR JUNE PUGH

U.S. Army, Retired in 2012

Years in Service: 28 Years

MOS: Logistician

Current Position: DLIELC Specialized Instructor



MSGT

CARLOS RAMOS

U.S. Air Force Reserve

Years in Service: 19 years (10 active)

AFSC: Security Forces

Current Position: 37 TRW Executive Program
Support



*"I was stationed at Ft. Ord, California
and I joined for the GI Bill."*

SPECIALIST JANE MARTINEZ- SCHOLZE

U.S. Army, Separated

Years in Service: 4 Years (1975-1979)

MOS: Dental Lab Technician

Current Position: DLIELC Instructor Supervisor



"With the first enlistment, I just wanted to do something different from High School. The second time (commissioning), serving the country, doing something meaningful, camaraderie, job stability and benefits all played a part in my decision to serve."

LIEUTENANT COLONEL TONY COE

U.S. Army, Retired

Years in Service: 23 Active, 28 including Guard/Reserve

MOS: Infantry (Enlisted), Field Artillery/Signal (Officer)

Current Position: DLIELC IT Flight Director



JAMES WHITE

U.S. Navy - 14 years

U.S. Army - 9 years

AFSC: Linguist

Current Position: DLIELC

"Initially I was a Hebrew Linguist with the Navy and later became an Arabic Linguist. I had numerous deployments with both the Navy and the Army throughout the Middle East to include Egypt and the nations of the Arabian Peninsula or Persian Gulf. I also spent 2 ½ years in Athens, Greece. My favorite assignment or experience was serving in the Gulf War in which I spent so much time working in a humanitarian role working with Iraqi refugees. Those days were often long, from before sunrise to well into the night, but very rewarding helping hundreds of people. I also met and had dinner with some famous people including the Saudi Ambassador to the US – Prince Bandar Bin Sultan."



On Monday, Nov. 6, several members of the Gateway Wing, civilian and military, paid tribute to Veteran's Day by wearing a uniform they had previously worn while serving in a deployed location. Wear of the uniforms was authorized wing-wide to pay homage to those who have previously served and to build camaraderie with those currently serving. (U.S. Air Force photo by Gregory Walker)

MSGT

GERARDO MARTINEZ

U.S. Air Force Retired

Years in Service: 22 Years

AFSC: Communications

Operations Supported: Desert Shield/Storm, Restore Hope, Enduring and Iraqi Freedom

Current Position: Housing Management Specialist, 343rd Training Squadron