



BOB DEGROOT

DPS Chief Procurement Officer since 1998
U.S. Air Force (1976-1996)

After basic training at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, DeGroot worked as a supply specialist at Loring AFB in Maine from 1976 to 1980. Then it was back to Lackland, this time for Air Force Officer Training School where he was commissioned second lieutenant on December 11, 1980. He then went to Plattsburgh AFB in northern New York and worked in aircraft maintenance and central supply as a lieutenant from 1981-1983. In 1984, he took a remote one year assignment to Barter Island in Kaktovik Alaska where he was quality assurance evaluator on the Distant Early Warning (DEWLINE) radar system contractor, traveling across the North Slope of Alaska and Arctic Canada. He was the only Air Force person stationed there working among civilians, that were mostly ex-military. He was tasked with inspecting the contractors to ensure they were performing to the federal contract requirements, “which was very challenging because I was frequently out of my comfort zone (radar, communications, civil engineering, vehicle ops/maintenance, airfield ops, etc.),” he wrote. It was “a very unique assignment.” In 1985, he was reassigned to the 8th Air Force Headquarters at Barksdale AFB in northwest Louisiana near the Texas border, which offered many contrasts with Arctic Alaska. There he worked as a supply staff officer. He made his escape two years later to attend the Air Force Institute of Technology at Wright-Patterson AFB in Dayton, Ohio, graduating in 1988 with a Master’s of Science degree in Logistics Management. Then he and his family headed back to Alaska where he spent the next 7 ½ years at Elmendorf AFB in the supply squadron where he supervised the warehouse, aircraft maintenance support, aircraft fuels, wartime support operations, and did his final assignment as deputy commander. In 1994, his unit won the Best Supply Squadron in the Air Force award. DeGroot retired at the rank of major in 1996, and then was hired to work at DPS in 1998. The DeGroot family just passed their 25 year mark living and prospering in Alaska with no plans to leave anytime soon.



LANCE JAMISON-EWERS

Alaska State Trooper since 2009
U.S. Marine Corps (1993-1998)

Jamison-Ewers was born and raised in New Jersey and knew he needed to leave “before I got myself into trouble.” After a very intense three month boot camp and two months at the School of Infantry in North Carolina, he was assigned to the 3rd Battalion 8th Marines as an infantry machine gunner. He was eventually selected to go to Small Craft Company and sent to the Naval Amphibious Base in Little Creek, Virginia for Riverine Assault Craft (RAC) Coxswain school. He said he learned how to operate 35-foot, heavily armed gun boats capable of “bringing hell, death, and destruction to any of America’s enemies on inland waterways, rivers and in deltas around the world.” He and others trained for seven weeks on the Chesapeake Bay and up the James River. After graduating coxswain school he was stationed in Camp Lejeune, N.C. and trained on the Intercostal Water Way up and down East Coast. He participated in two overseas deployments while with Small Craft Company – once to Panama in 1994 where he trained on the Panama Canal and its waterways and one to El Salvador and Honduras in 1995 where he lived on Tiger Island located on the Gulf of Fonseca and operated in Honduran and El Salvadorian waters. This was during President Clinton’s “War on Drugs.” He was a part of the mission to train friendly forces from Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador how to locate, identify, gather intelligence, and fight against drug traffickers. In 1996, he was given the opportunity to attend Marine Security Guard School, located in Quantico, Virginia. This very interesting six-week school has a reputation for having a 75 percent attrition rate. Upon graduation, he became a U.S. Marine Embassy Guard, which includes a Top Secret Security clearance and diplomatic immunity. As a Marine Embassy Guard, he was stationed and lived in Paris, France and Asunción, Paraguay. While living in Paris, he took advantage of the travel opportunities and visited England, Brussels, Germany, Italy, and Switzerland. He also had the pleasure of deploying to Tanzania Africa to help protect the U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher during the G-7 Summit. He ended his military obligation as a troop handler stationed on Marine Base Quantico until 1998.

