

SALUTE TO SERVICE

Veterans Day, 2013



Through the years, men and women answered the call to duty and donned a military uniform in support of their country. That willingness to serve is strong in the Alaska Department of Public Safety among both commissioned and non-commissioned people. There are numerous reasons why they chose to serve their country. Some wanted to serve their country, others joined to see the world or for money to pay for college. Others followed the path of family members before them or to spite a parent, while some were compelled after the attacks on the World Trade Center on Sept. 11. Some served in times of peace and others went to far-flung regions of the world to serve in support of a conflict. Regardless of the capacity served, if it was active duty, Guard or Reserves, whether it was as a soldier, sailor, airman, Marine or Coastie, this experience changed them. These are some of the stories provided by just a handful of the many veterans that work for DPS. These stories are a glimpse into past lives that have made them who they are today and has helped shaped our nation. Each year, Veterans Day gives us a great opportunity to thank those around us for serving their country. It also gives those who served, or are still serving, a chance to reflect on their memories of people they served with, things they accomplished and experiences they'll never forget.

- **PIO BETH IPSEN (U.S. AIR FORCE 90-94/RESERVES 94-98)**

STUART KIRKSEY

Alaska State Trooper since 2011
U.S. Marine Corps (1993-1997)
U.S. Marine Reserves (1998-1999) (2006-2008)
(pictured here on the right)



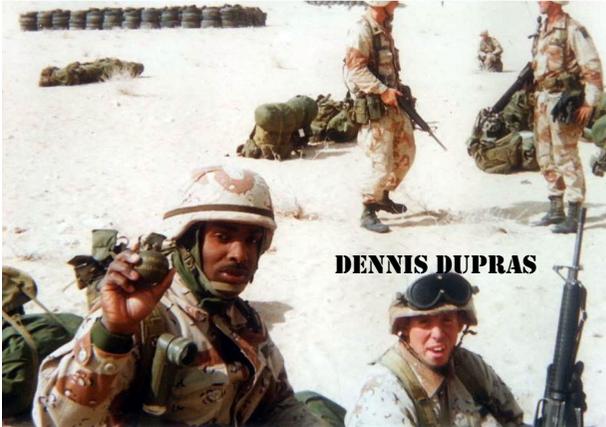
Kirksey and Phillips met in 1993 and literally served side by side in the same platoon in Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 4th Marine Expeditionary Unit at Camp Pendleton, Calif. "We were straight up 'grunts' or riflemen as it's properly called," Phillips said. The pair served together for four years, during which time they were attached to an amphibious readiness group and sailed from Camp Pendleton across the Pacific Ocean several times to the Persian Gulf and Somalia to "put out fires" as Phillips described it. "Everything was a show of force back then." They were a part of an operation to move the U.S. Liaison Office from Mogadishu, Somalia to Nairobi, Kenya in 1994. The pair was in the same Chinook CH-46 that flew around in circles, waiting to jump in and help if the situation escalated. Luckily, it never did. After serving in the same platoon for about two years, the company underwent a restructuring and they were placed in different squads. But that didn't prove to be the end of the working relationship or friendship. "One of the cute nicknames we've acquired over the years is 'peas and carrots' as Forrest Gump was called with his friend Bubba," Phillips said. Kirksey laughed at this and said, "Oh, I don't know about that." After they both left the Marine Corps, they started careers in ironwork construction in California. After a year of living in California, Kirksey, an Ala-

LEE PHILLIPS

Alaska State Trooper since 2009
U.S. Marine Corps (1993 - 1996)
(pictured here on the right)



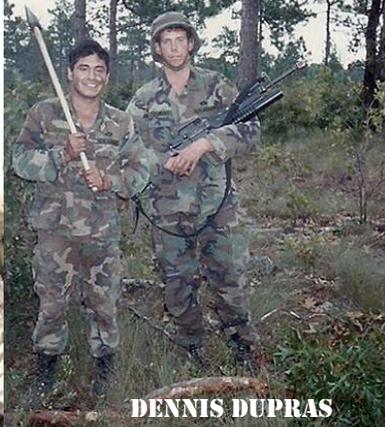
bama native, returned to his home state and started working for his family's commercial metal roofing construction company. By then Kirksey was married to a gal that went to school with Phillips that he had met through his friend. In 2008, Phillips moved in next door to Kirksey in Alabama and started working for his friend at the family business. Meanwhile, Kirksey joined the USMC Reserves twice. He was a member of Lima Company, 3rd Battalion, 23rd Marines out of Montgomery, Ala. for a year, and then went back to the Reserves for two years with the 3rd Force Reconnaissance Company in Mobile, Ala. He was activated for the last six months of this duty and sent to Camp Lejeune as his company built up for a deployment to Iraq. However, his military obligation ended just prior to the overseas deployment. In 2009, Phillips left Alabama and became an Alaska State Trooper. Kirksey, who served as a reserve Alabama State Trooper, turned down a job to be an Arkansas State Trooper while he was waiting to test to become an Alaska State Trooper. "It was a gamble," he admitted. It paid off. He became a Trooper in 2011. He and Phillips both worked out of the Mat-Su Valley for a short time before Kirksey transferred to Delta Junction post in 2012. Phillips has since transferred to Talkeetna. "Although I'm posted in Talkeetna and he's posted in Delta, we still make time a few times a year to hunt and fish," Phillips said.



DENNIS DUPRAS



DENNIS DUPRAS



DENNIS DUPRAS



PAULA DAVIS



**PAULA DAVIS
(AND HER HUSBAND ROB)**



DENNIS DUPRAS

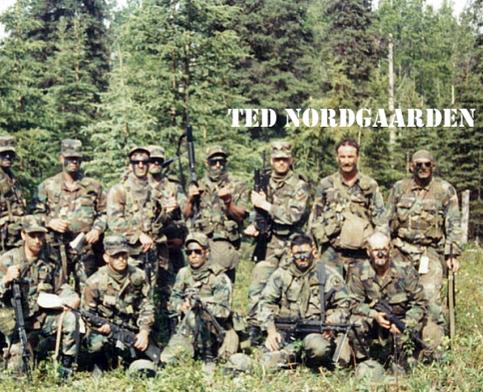
Alaska State Trooper since 1998
 U.S. Army (1988-1991)(1995-1998)
 Virginia Army Guard (1991-1995)
 Alaska Army National Guard (1999-2001)(2006-2011)
 Dupras was an enlisted soldier with the 82nd Airborne Division during the first Gulf War. He then joined the Virginia Army Guard in 1991-1995 while attending college at the Virginia Military Institute. Afterward, he went back to the Army as a commissioned infantry officer with the 1st Battalion, 17th Infantry at Fort Wainwright from 1995 until he became a trooper in 1998. At that time, he joined the Alaska Army National Guard and served for two different time periods. During that time, the Alaska Army National Guard was paired up with the Mongolian Armed Forces to assist the Mongols with training. He and a soldier from his unit were assigned as a military advisor and liaison officer to a Mongol Armed Forces infantry company in Iraq in 2006-2007. "We would assist with operations and logistics for the Mongols and often speak for them on the radio when they were working with US and Allied Units," he explained. "When they went out the wire one of us was always with them." There, the Mongols were part of a multinational task force that included troops from Poland, Latvia, Slovakia, Kazakhstan, and Romania with soldiers from the Ukrainian, Denmark, and El Salvador armies thrown in on occasion. The Mongol infantry company consisted of 100-130 soldiers with associated vehicles, weapons and equipment left over from the Soviet era. "Working and serving with Mongols was a great experience, but a lesson in diplomacy," Dupras wrote. He learned to say stop – "zucks" – in Mongol his first week after his Mongol driver almost crashed into a Slovakian Army vehicle while inside the wire. "The Mongols had several officers who spoke English and had been to US Army/Air Force schools. I acquired enough Mongol to speak and understand to give fire commands direction." However, he cannot read or write the language because it is too difficult to understand.



PAULA DAVIS

Fairbanks Dispatcher (2000-2010), Anchorage ABI (2010),
 Records & Identification Criminal Justice Technician (2011)
 U.S. Air Force (1994-2000)
 Davis was living in Kodiak before she left for Air Force basic training in Texas in February of 1994, so it was no surprise she "melted every time we stepped out of the barracks." She had a guaranteed slot in Security Forces. Instead of going to the law enforcement side as she was expecting, Davis was assigned to the security side. She started her career guarding the flight line in Mountain Home AFB in Idaho. "No one dared to cross my 'red line' on the flight line," she said jokingly. When the Security Forces combined Security Response Teams and Law Enforcement patrol, she was given the opportunity to train and work as a law enforcement patrolman, which allowed her to work both sides. She qualified on the 9 mm Beretta handgun, M-203 grenade launcher and M-60 machine gun including as assistant gunner. She wanted to qualify on all weapons and positions of the Mobile Response Fire Team in case she needed to fulfill any of these duties on short notice. This goal paid off when she was deployed to Prince Sultan Air Base in Saudi Arabia in February 1997. She spent five months in Saudi performing all aspects of military law enforcement. Upon her return to the U.S., Davis and her husband received orders to Dyess Air Force Base in Abilene, Texas. There, she applied and was moved to the Security Forces Office of Investigations where she was able to "dig into things and figure out mysteries" that she considered a great adventure, she said. After nearly six years in the Air Force, Davis and her husband decided to take all of the experience they acquired in the Air Force and return to Alaska. "Military service was an ultimate experience for me and I will cherish it forever," Davis said.





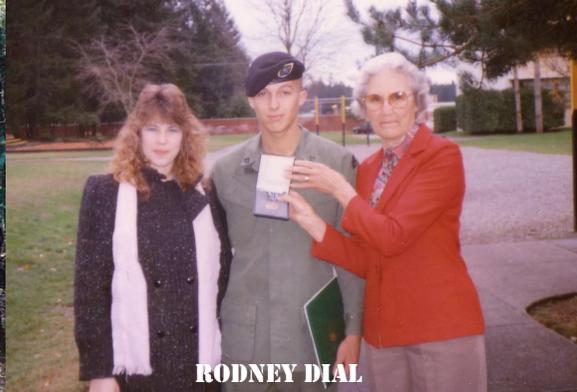
TED NORDGAARDEN



TED NORDGAARDEN



TED NORDGAARDEN



RODNEY DIAL



TED NORDGAARDEN

Alaska State Trooper since 2007

U.S. Air Force (1978-1982)

Idaho Army National Guard (1983-1999)

Nordgaarden first enlisted in the Air Force to become a law enforcement specialist. He was first based at 23rd North American Air Defense (NORAD) at Duluth Airport, Minnesota, which became the Tactical Air Command. After an honorable discharge as a sergeant in 1982, he joined the Idaho Army National Guard's 116th Cavalry Brigade, first as an enlisted soldier as a reconnaissance specialist for the brigade's combat engineering battalion. He was commissioned in 1988 and became the battalion logistics officer during the buildup and deployment to Fort Irwin National Training Center (NTC), the last preparation for a war time deployment. "I had to plan, prep, and get our 500 troops and gear there, fight the training war, and then get it all home," Nordgaarden said. The 116th Cavalry Brigade was 5,000 soldiers strong, was one of 14 enhanced Guard brigades in the U.S., and was the second National Guard battalion to deploy to NTC.

"That's as cool as it gets," he said. After the brigade returned from this deployment, Nordgaarden moved into the position of the battle captain in operations. He then retired as a captain after 22 total years in service – four in active duty and 18 in the Guard. Following, he did a stint as a contractor in 1999 as the director of police logistics for the Kosovo Police Service. There he arranged for 7,500 Kosovo officers to get equipment, uniforms, housing, and facilities while passing on his skills to a Kosovo police counterpart that would eventually take over the position. He did this again in 2003-2005 for the Bagdad Police Academy in Iraq by helping create the unit, then making sure the 7,000 students attending the academy each year were properly equipped and housed.



RODNEY DIAL

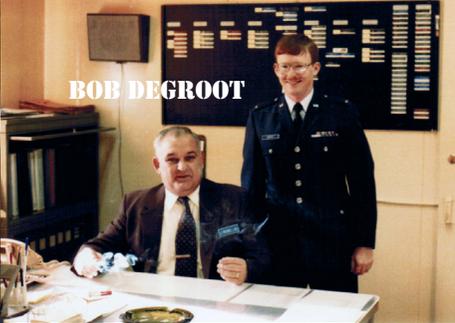
DPS Fish and Wildlife Aid in 1989

Alaska State Trooper since 1990

U.S. Army (1985-1989)

After going through Army JROTC in high school, Dial joined the U.S. Army Rangers at age 17 because "it seem the cool thing to do during that time. They had all those action Arnold Schwarzenegger movies." However, he learned that reality and perception are not the same thing. "It wasn't that cool when I was standing in the doorway of an airplane on my first jump." It was a scary start, but he ended up making more than 100 jumps in his Army career. Dial was a satellite communications officer for the 2nd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment out of Fort Lewis, Wash. He went on numerous overseas deployments throughout the world during his enlistment including one to conduct patrols with the Contra Rebels in Honduras in 1986. It was the first time he was issued live ammunition and grenades in an actual mission. "It was a show of force. We went and patrolled with the (Contra Rebels) and let the enemy know we're capable," Dial said. "We played cat and mouse games of tracking each other in the jungle." He also went to the Army's Jungle Warfare School in Panama and became a certified jungle survival expert. To do this, he had to go through training that including learning how to live off the land and eat plants, grubs and anything else that was edible. "You just close your eyes and eat them," Dial said of eating some of the things he found in the jungle." Then he got dropped in the middle of a jungle and had to successfully survive for a month without needing rescue. He'd navigate during the day, stop when it got dark and he could no longer see and try to sleep in place. "All night long you'd have insects crawling in your uniform," he said. He also deployed to Panama with his battalion prior to Operation Just Cause. He got out of the Army not long before the 2/75th took part in the ouster of General Noriega. By then, Dial was older and on his way to becoming an Alaska State Trooper like his father.





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

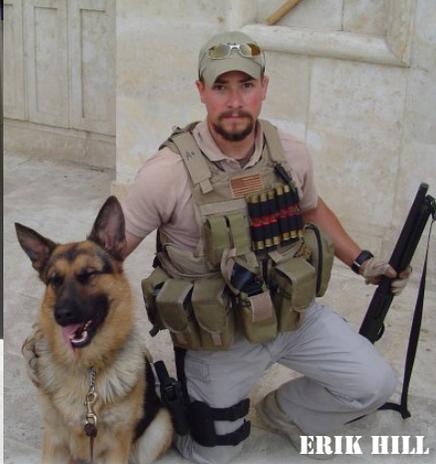
Alaska State Trooper since 2009
U.S. Marine Corps (1993-1998)

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.





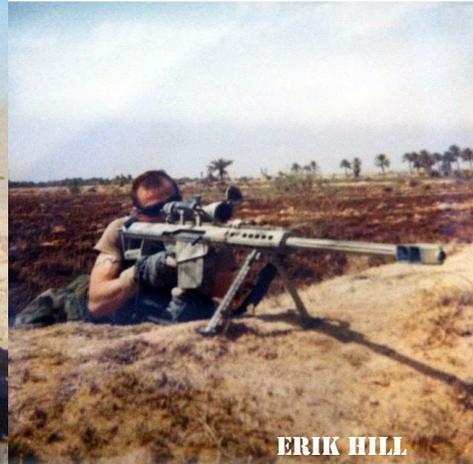
ERIK HILL



ERIK HILL



ERIK HILL



ERIK HILL



ERIK HILL



ERIK HILL

Alaska State Trooper since 2009
U.S. Army (1994-2005)

Hill grew up wanting to be in the military like his father, who was a Marine. "I picked the Army over the others because they seemed to have more of "Hooah" schools than the others," he said. Hill spent 10-1/2 years in the U.S. Army, first with the 101st Airborne Division at Fort Campbell, Ky., then with the 82nd Airborne at Fort Bragg, N.C. While on active duty, he was an infantry squad leader, a tactical commander, a counter vehicle assault commander, and a shift leader. He was in Operation Iraqi Freedom, and then worked diplomatic security with the State Department in Iraq from 2005 to 2007 through a private military company. He was an approved deputy detail leader. In total, he spent four years in Iraq. He wanted to become an Alaska State Trooper after reading an article about Alaska State Trooper Troy Duncan, a USMC veteran, who was killed in the line of duty during a SERT mission in 1984. "I really enjoyed the fact that we are land, sea, and air," Hill said. Hill's 8-year-old son, Duane, wants to be the third generation Hill in the military. The youngster wants to be a Navy SEAL.



ANDREW ADAMS

Alaska State Trooper since 2001
U.S. Coast Guard (1996-2000)

Adams was an Air Force brat who joined the U.S. Coast Guard a few months after turning 18 and graduating from high school in Anchorage. He went to Cape May, N.J. for boot camp and came back to Alaska where he was assigned to Loran Station on Saint Paul Island. At the time, Loran was used as a primitive Global Positioning System. Since many Coast Guard cutters are named after islands, Adams thought he was originally being assigned to a cutter, but later found out that Saint Paul Island is actually one of the Pribilof Islands in the middle of the Bering Sea. He didn't even see a Coast Guard vessel for the first year he served in the USCG. On his first day on the island he participated in his first search and rescue as one of two people needing rescued. In 1997, he was transferred to Small Boat Station Humboldt Bay, Calif. He had the opportunity to participate in heavy weather rescue, this time as the rescuer, and got his first taste of law enforcement. He also realized that he gets sea sick pretty easily. "It was an adrenaline rush to say the least and I learned to embrace my mortality," Adams said. "I loved my job, but I eventually decided to stick to land." He got out of the Coast Guard in January 2000.





**TIM WOLFF
(AND KARGO)**



**TIM WOLFF
(AND KARGO)**



**TIM WOLFF
(AND ROCKY)**



**TIM WOLFF
(AND KARGO)**



TIM WOLFF (AND KARGO)



TIM WOLFF

Alaska State Trooper since 2012
U.S. Army Reserves (2006-2012)

Canines have been a part of Wolff’s working life even before he became a Trooper. Wolff, who now works with a dual certified Trooper canine Scout in Soldotna, previously served with two other dogs while deployed as a military policeman in the Army Reserves and then as a civilian contractor in Afghanistan. Wolff served as military policeman with the 79th MP Company in Rochester, Minn. During that time he served in Central America in support of Operation New Horizons, a series of recurring U.S.-led operations in Central and South America and the Caribbean Islands. He was stationed in Honduras and provided security to engineering missions. He was also deployed to Iraq in 2009 as part of a pilot program to utilize combat tracking dogs to locate persons of interest and high value targets in and around the Baghdad area. There he was teamed up with Kargo, a 2-year-old German Shepherd. At the time, he was attached to the 1st Cavalry Division and later the 1st Armored Division, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. After completion of the program, he continued his work in Afghanistan as a civilian with an explosives detection dog in support of Operation Enduring Freedom providing force protection in the Kandahar Providence – this time with Rocky, a 3-year-old Belgian Malinois.



JIM ELLISON

Alaska State Trooper since 2009
U.S. Army active duty, Guard and Reserves 1983-1996

When Ellison first joined the U.S. Army in 1983, the public’s Viet-
nam-era sentiment toward military troopers still lingered. “Many people
hated us,” he said. This drastically changed during the Reagan admin-
istration as the 80s progressed. He spent his first 16 weeks in the Army
training at Fort Dix, N.J. before going to Fort Gillem, Ga. where he
worked in wheeled vehicle maintenance. He transferred to the Army’s
oldest active testing facility at Aberdeen Proving Ground in Maryland
and transitioned into aviation maintenance. Three years into his four-
year active duty obligation, he took a hardship transfer into the Re-
serves due to an illness in the family and joined a combat engineer unit
in Grand Junction, Colo. While there, he deployed to the Middle East
for about two months in support of Desert Storm in 1991. He ended his
military career with the Colorado Army National Guard while working
full time as a game warden for the Colorado Division of Wildlife. He
was a maintenance officer for Huey, Cobra, and OH-58 Bell helicopters
while with the 1/131st Air Assault Guard Unit at the High Altitude
Aviation Training Site in Eagle, Colorado.





USS VINCENNES



LUIS NIEVES



DARON COOPER



LUIS NIEVES



LUIS NIEVES

Alaska State Trooper since 2006

U.S. Navy (1988-1992)

U.S. Coast Guard (1995-2006)

After graduating from high school in Brooklyn, N.Y., Nieves joined the Navy and served as an operations specialist aboard the Aegis cruiser USS Vincennes. While serving aboard the Vincennes, Nieves deployed throughout the Western Pacific and the Persian Gulf in support of national security, the United Nations, and maritime interdiction missions. He ended his first military obligation in 1992 and spent a few years working security in San Diego until joining the Coast Guard in 1995. While in the Coast Guard, he served as a search and rescue boat operator as a small boat coxswain; a maritime interdiction boat operator aboard the 38-foot Fountain Interceptor; a law enforcement boarding officer; deployable team leader; maritime law enforcement instructor; Explorer post supervisor and founder of first U.S. Coast Guard Explorer post; training petty officer; and boatswains mate chief petty officer. During his time in the Coast Guard, he served aboard U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Vigilant at Cape Canaveral, Fla.; Coast Guard Station at South Padre Island, Texas; Pacific Tactical Law Enforcement Team at San Diego; and Maritime Safety and Security Team 91111 in Anchorage. His military and law enforcement duties required numerous deployments. He averaged approximately 270 days a year away from home. As a fluent Spanish speaker, Nieves was tasked with providing training in Spanish for law enforcement, most notably the Mexican Federal Police. At the time, the training was the Mexican government's response to wide spread corruption among its state police departments. He also provided training to foreign maritime interdiction organizations, in support of U. S. Embassy interests and operations. This training was provided within Panama and Mexico. After 16 years of active duty service, he left the Coast Guard in 2006 to become an Alaska State Trooper.



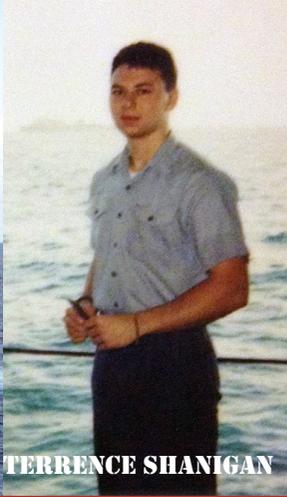
DARON COOPER

Alaska State Trooper since 2007

U.S. Coast Guard (2003-2007)

After going to college in Utah, Cooper looked to the military as a way to expand his knowledge. He considered a few other branches before “stumbling across the U.S. Coast Guard,” which at the time he, like many people, didn't realize was a military branch. After doing some research and speaking with a recruiter multiple times, he joined in 2003. He chose the Coast Guard because of its law enforcement mission. After the Sept. 11 attacks, Congress mandated that the Coast Guard create the Maritime Safety and Security Teams and placed 12 of these teams around the country, including Anchorage. His goal at the time was to eventually work for a law enforcement agency. After completing his gunners mate technical school, the Alaskan team was his top pick. What made this team unique was its number of potential deployments. He was assigned to a 14-person Law Enforcement/Force Protection team within the unit and in participated in multiple deployments and missions during his four year tour. He worked with then Petty Officer Nieves, who became a Trooper the year before Cooper. Knowing his contract in the military was soon ending, he looked into the Alaska State Troopers and was fortunate enough to get a job offer. He left the Coast Guard Aug. 2, 2007 and was at the Public Safety Academy in Sitka three days later. “I had just enough time to get everything on my pack list and head right back out of the door,” Cooper said. “Being in the military was an awesome experience and I thank those who have served and who continue to serve our country.”





TERRENCE SHANIGAN



JC ARRINGTON (WITH CHARLIE DANIELS)



TERRENCE SHANIGAN

Alaska State Trooper since 2004
U.S. Navy (1989-1992)

During his Navy career, Shanigan traveled to 31 countries. His favorite place was Perth, Australia. Following basic training at San Diego, Shanigan spent six months of and on playing the tuba with the Southern California Navy marching band. Afterward, he went to the Navy Master-At-Arms Academy at Fort McClellan, Ala., and then served with VP Submarine Patrol Squadron 19 stationed at Moffitt Field, Calif. The VP-19 was a P-3 Orion squadron that patrolled for foreign submarines in the Pacific and Indian oceans and the Arabian Gulf. In 1990, Shanigan transferred to the USS Okinawa based out of San Diego, Calif. as a master-at-arms (Navy police). In mid-1990, the USS Okinawa was tasked with drug interdiction along the western coast of Mexico near Baja, Calif. with Marines and Coast Guard personnel. In August of 1990, the USS Okinawa was deployed with the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) in support of Operation Desert Shield, then once again for Desert Storm and was the first U.S. Naval Ship to arrive in the Persian Gulf. The USS Okinawa was designated as the command ship for U.S. Naval Forces for much of the time during Desert Shield and Desert Storm. While stationed onboard the USS Okinawa, his unit was recognized for the longest deployment at sea without coming to port in naval history (305 days). While assigned to the USS Okinawa and the 13th MEU, Shanigan made two more deployments – to the western Pacific and Arabian Gulf in support of military operations in the Philippines, Thailand and the evacuation of Somalia a few months prior to the incident known as Black Hawk Down. Shanigan and the Okinawa shared their last day in the Navy. Shanigan attended the Okinawa's decommissioning ceremony on Dec. 17, 1992, the same day he was honorably discharged from the Navy.



JAMES "JC" ARRINGTON

Alaska State Wildlife Public Safety Tech II at Mat-Su West since 2008
U.S. Air Force (1986-2006)

Arrington spent 20 years in the Air Force as an aircraft maintenance scheduler. After basic training at Randolph Air Force Base in Texas, he received his job training at Chunte AFB in Illinois. His first duty station was at Myrtle Beach AFB in S.C. from 1986-1990 where he worked scheduling the replacement of expired parts for A-10 Warthog aircrafts. Afterward, he went to Kusan AFB in South Korea for a year to work on F-16s. He used this first overseas tour as a chance to travel. Then it was to Ellsworth AFB in South Dakota from 1991-1995 where he managed the maintenance on the nuclear armed B-1B bombers that were constantly on alert for national defense. He made his way to Alaska for his first time and "found out what cold weather really means" while stationed at Eielson AFB near Fairbanks from 1996-2000. While there, he attended the University of Alaska-Fairbanks in his spare time, earning an associate degree in management. His last duty station was at Mountain Home AFB in Idaho from 2000-2006. During that time, he spent five months deployed to Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson to arrange the transfer of 24 F-15Es to Mountain Home. He retired and moved to Alaska where he has been "enjoying the different challenges of assisting the state wildlife troopers" in the Valley since 2008.





DARIN "JET" JETTON



DARIN "JET" JETTON



DARIN "JET" JETTON



DARIN "JET" JETTON



DARIN "JET" JETTON

Alaska State Trooper since 2012
U.S. Air Force (1989-2012)

Jetton, or "Jet" as he is called, started as a supply specialist at Eglin Air Force Base in Florida, but soon retrained to become a surveillance operator on Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS) aircraft at Tinker Air Force Base in Oklahoma. This later turned into an assignment with the NATO AWACS, working with military personnel from different nations at the NATO Airbase Geilenkirchen E-3A Component in Germany. He moved to Robins AFB, Ga. to work with the Joint Surveillance and Target Attack Radar System, a joint project between the Air Force and Army to provide an airborne, off-range surveillance, and target radar and command and control. He took a break from flying to take a special duty assignment at USAF Academy in Colorado Springs, Colo. where he helped lead and shape future Air Force officers. While there, he was instrumental in the re-establishment of the Survival, Evasion Resistance and Escape school. During his career, Jet was deployed more times than he can count to help with Operation Southern Watch to enforce the no-fly zone in Iraq following the first Gulf War, then for operations in Bosnia and Kosovo, then after 9/11 and finally in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan and Operation Iraqi Freedom. "Every three years I did something different," he said. During his almost 24-year career, he traveled to more places than most people know about in the world. He ended his career as an in-flight refueler, getting to see some of these places from a boom pod in the belly of an air refueler tanker while flying overhead. However, out of all the places he's traveled, he considers Alaska his favorite because of the outdoor opportunities.

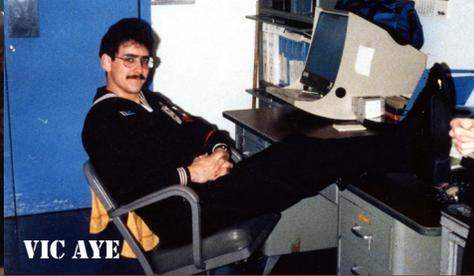


ROXANNE KUK

Criminal Justice Tech I – AFIS since 2005
U.S. Army (1975-1978)

Kuk still has the newspaper article highlighting her in honor of women in the military when she was sworn into the Army at Mount Rushmore, S.D. on June 14, 1975. She has a long family history of members in the military for every war and conflict back to World War II. However, she was the first female on both sides of her family to serve her country. She considers joining the Army "one of the best decisions I ever made." She originally joined the military to travel and see the world. Unfortunately, she only got as far as the East Coast. She went to basic training at Fort Jackson, S.C., then on to Fort Gordon, Ga. for school to be an avionics electronics technician. Afterward, she was "just lucky enough" to get stationed at Fort Bragg, N.C. While there, she repaired aircraft radios, mostly for helicopters. "I loved my job – the station, not so much," she said. Fort Bragg is the home to the 82nd Airborne. "Consequently, everybody is expected to run four miles every morning at 5 a.m." she said. "Even though I did accomplish this task every morning, it just never did quite grow on me." She spent every free moment enjoying the beauty of North Carolina by camping on the Outer Banks and Blue Ridge Mountains. When it came time to re-enlist, Kuk's company commander informed her she would probably have to serve it at Fort Bragg and still not get to travel. Instead, she told him she'd rather accept an honorable discharge from the Army.





VIC AYE

Alaska State Trooper since 1991

U.S. Navy 1977-83

Aye was a boy when he immigrated to the U.S. from Germany with his family. After graduating from high school in Texas and having been part of JROTC, Aye enlisted in the U.S. Navy to get his U.S. citizenship and eventually attended college with the assistance of the G.I. Bill. Aye was first assigned to the aircraft carrier USS Constellation out of San Diego, where he was eventually tasked with clerical duties for the deck division of the boat-swains' mates. Aye became a U.S. citizen after serving 1 ½ years on the carrier and was then recommended for the U.S. Naval Academy by his commanding officer. Instead, because Aye wanted to pursue life as a civilian after his Navy obligation was up and become an electrical engineer, he opted to extend his enlistment for two more years to attend the new U.S. Navy combat computer school in San Francisco. After two years of training, he became a data systems technician and was assigned to a naval installation in Tokyo, Japan. He worked on the computer systems for the P-3 air squadrons that deployed all over the Pacific and Indian Oceans patrolling for Soviet submarines. While his job did not require him to be on board during those missions, the flight crew would smuggle him on board and take him to tropical locations like Singapore, Mayalasia, Thailand, Hong Kong, Diego Garcia, and the Philippines to name a few. One memorable mission flew him over unfriendly Vietnam when the P-3 lost three of its four engines due to a tropical lighting storm. Fortunately, the crew managed to land safely in nearby Thailand where they were on the ground for two relaxing weeks in Pattaya Beach. While stationed near Tokyo, Aye pursued his love of motorcycling and ended up exploring much of Japan with his Japanese motorcycling friends. Aye left the Navy to attend the University of Washington, utilizing the G.I. Bill to get a Bachelor's of Arts in political science after changing his degree five times. After four years of college, Aye was once again given the opportunity to attend Officer Candidate School, this time for the Marines. He respectfully declined because he didn't want to wear a uniform ever again. Ironically, Aye has been a Trooper for 23 years.



JUDY SKAGERBERG

DPS Budget Analyst since 2006

U.S. Coast Guard (1978-1985)

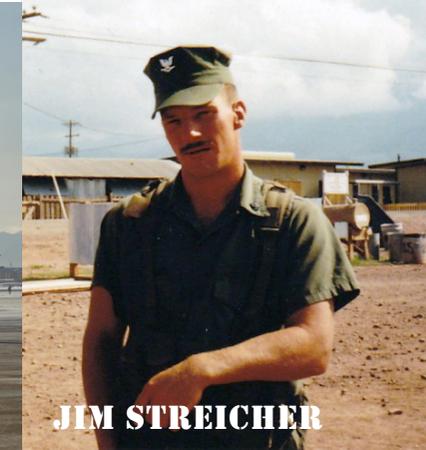
U.S. Coast Guard Reserve (1985-1992)

Skagerberg joined the Coast Guard in San Francisco in 1978 after three years of college. Women had only been in the Coast Guard for a year and she was fortunate to become a direct petty officer without any prior service, skipping the first three pay grades and attending just a two-week indoctrination class. She wore her petty officer crowns the first day in uniform. After three months in the reserve training command administrative office at Alameda, Calif., she drove across country to a six-month assignment with a task force on waterfront facility regulations at USCG Headquarters in Washington, D.C. New opportunities kept coming and she stayed at headquarters for five years, working in reserve training and mobilization, military personnel, and educational counseling. To her, headquarters was an exciting working environment and DC was a great city in which to live and work. She was able to finish her political science studies in the nation's capital, attending class when off-duty. In the meantime, she met thousands of other Coast Guard personnel, since headquarters and the other units gave the DC area the largest concentration of USCG members in one geographic area. Then she was offered a position in Alameda and was back in her car for the return trip across country to Pacific Area headquarters. There, she worked again in reserve training, and then for the Chief of Staff. She married a fellow Coast Guardsman, and they moved to Alaska where she joined the reserves and served in a port security unit. The unit performed harbor patrols, fuel transfer site inspections, fishing vessel safety inspections, and cruise ship safety inspections. She ended her career as a chief petty officer (yeoman). "I know how important the administrative work is that makes it possible for the folks in uniform to have the resources and training to do their jobs, and it is a privilege to work for Public Safety," Skagerberg said.





PATRICK SHEEHAN



JIM STREICHER



PATRICK SHEEHAN

APSIN/NCIC/UCR auditor and trainer since 2012
U.S. Air Force (2000-2012)

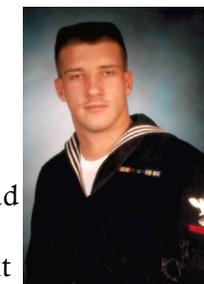
Sheehan enlisted to be USAF Security Forces out of high school in 2000. After his initial training at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, he was stationed at Nellis Air Force Base near Las Vegas, N.V. While at Nellis, he was a gate guard and patrolman; and completed two overseas tours under Operation Southern Watch – one at Prince Sultan Base in Saudi Arabia and the other at Al Dafra Air Base in United Arab Emirates. After three years in Vegas, Sheehan was stationed at Royal Air Force Station Mildenhall in Suffolk, England in 2003. During his time at Mildenhall he was assigned patrol duties and later promoted to staff sergeant. He also completed his first tour under Operation Enduring Freedom in 2004 at Bagram Air Base in Afghanistan as base security, and later served under Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2006 at Camp Bucca, Iraq as a correctional officer. He left England in 2008 to take a short tour in hopes the Air Force would send him to Alaska afterward. He completed his short tour at Incirlik Air Base, Turkey and was granted his assignment to Alaska afterwards. Patrick arrived at Elmendorf Air Force Base in 2009. He served as a lead patrolman for most of his time in Alaska until his final deployment to Afghanistan. He made his second trip under Operation Enduring Freedom again to Bagram, serving as a designated marksman in 2011. Shortly after returning, he turned his focus towards his entrepreneurial dreams and left the military to attend University of Alaska-Anchorage Business School. In Aug 2012, he was hired to be the APSIN/NCIC/UCR auditor and trainer. Sheehan is still attending UAA and is looking forward to completing his studies this semester.

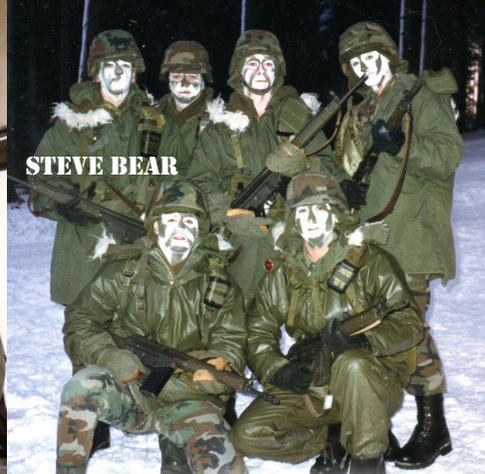


JIM STREICHER

Alaska State Trooper since 2007
U.S. Navy Reserves (1985-1987)
U.S. Navy (1997-2007)

Streicher followed in his family’s footsteps. His grandmother was in the Navy during World War II and his dad was a sailor in Vietnam. In 1985, Streicher joined the Navy Reserves as a Seabee equipment operator and went to drill in Oregon, Washington and Alaska before going active duty in 1987. He was a Seabee for his entire 22-year career and retired as a chief petty officer in 2007. “As if there was anything else” than being a Seabee, he said. He met his wife, Lisa (USMC-retired), on a Marine Air Ground Task Force to Honduras in 1989. Streicher deployed to Spain, Sicily, Guam, Tinian, Diego Garcia, and Kuwait while serving with the Amphibious Construction Battalion One at Coronado, Calif. and Naval Mobile Construction Battalion Three at Port Hueneme, Calif. His family was stationed for three-year tours in Iwakuni, Japan and Keflavik, Iceland. “It was a privilege to serve and lead Seabees, sailors and Marines during all those years,” he said. “I was so proud to be in a group with a unique esprit de corps ‘With compassion for others, we build, we fight, for peace with freedom.’ I’ve taken that motto with me as a trooper and it still fits for my new career.”





LANTZ DAHLKE

Cold Case Investigator in Fairbanks (2013)
Alaska State Trooper/Alaska Wildlife Trooper (1986-2013)
U.S. Army (1974-1979)
Dahlke joined the army during Vietnam War because “I couldn’t afford to go to college and they had a whopping \$10,000 educational benefit program.” The requirement was to enlist for three years and since he volunteered to serve, he got to pick his job and first duty station. He signed up to become a military policeman because he wanted to be a game warden after he got out of the Army. He completed basic at Fort Leonardwood, Mo. and attended the military police academy at Fort McClellan, Ala. He picked Alaska for his first duty assignment because his father was stationed here between World War II and Korea. He told stories about the hunting and fishing and his son knew it was the place for him. While attending the MP academy, one of Dahlke’s sergeants had been stationed at Fort Greely and convinced him to go there. It was a remote hardship tour when Dahlke first got here. He instantly loved Alaska and started trapping and hunting as soon as he could. After he got caught skinning a fox in his barracks room, his room was fumigated because of the fear of a flea infestation in the dorms. After that, Dahlke’s commanding officer figured he should be the game warden because of his outdoor activities. He became the game warden in 1976 and stayed in that position until he got out in 1979. This was all during the building of the pipeline. Military police would do town patrols in Delta Junction and he spent quite a bit of time with the troopers. This experience of working with troopers convinced him he should stay in Alaska and become an Alaska State Trooper. He joined the trooper ranks already seasoned from his involvement in death investigations concerning soldiers.



STEVE BEAR

Alaska State Trooper/Alaska Wildlife Trooper since 1990
U.S. Army (1985-1989)
The Michigan native joined the Army and trained as a welder and wrecker driver, first serving with the 3rd Armored Division in Kirchgoens, Germany, then with the 2nd Armored Division at Fort Hood, Texas. During his more than two years in Germany, he would spend two weeks a year training with foreign troops. The first year he and his fellow soldiers spent two weeks attached to a German Army unit along with a few French troops. Once they were done for the day, the American, French, and German troops would hang out together. Unlike American troops who discouraged fraternization between enlisted and officers, German troops often treated each other like regular people regardless of rank after the duty day was over. When asked what he did for those two weeks training with the German soldiers, his reply was “during the day we shot every German gun there was. In the evening we did what Germans are famous for.” The next year he spent two weeks in Holland training with NATO troops. Bear enjoyed his time in Germany and managed to travel a little around Europe. He spent New Year’s Eve going into 1987 in Paris and the following New Year in Amsterdam and he even spent some time one summer in Spain. After four years of active duty service, he went on inactive duty to round out the standard eight year commitment. During that time he voluntarily went back into service for two years with the 813th Engineers Reserve Unit headquartered at Fort Richardson after moving to Alaska in 1989. Forty-year trooper, Barry Ingalls, was his First Sergeant in the 813th.





SHERRY FERNO



SHERRY FERNO



SHERRY FERNO



SHERRY FERNO



TROY SHUEY

Alaska State Trooper since 2002
U.S. Air Force (1988-1995)

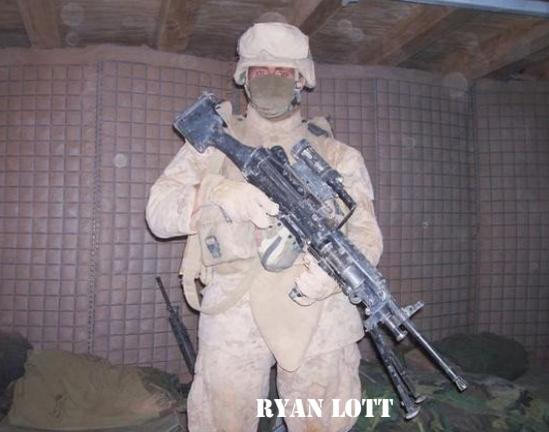
At least Shuey didn't need to change his stationary from EAFB during his military career. He was stationed first at Elmendorf Air Force Base in Anchorage, then Ellsworth AFB in South Dakota. He served as a law enforcement specialist during a time when the security and law enforcement careers in the Air Force had distinct and different job functions. "I performed the duties and responsibilities similar to any civilian law enforcement department in the country would and like we do today in AST," he said. He also performed dispatch duties and corrections during his Air Force career. He deployed to Korea in support of Foal Eagle, an annual combined field training exercise between the two countries that was used as a demonstration to deter war on the Korean peninsula. He was also deployed to work as a guard at Camp X-Ray, a temporary detention facility at the Guantanamo Bay detention camp in Cuba in support of the refugee crisis from Haiti and Cuba. In addition, he had all his bags packed and ready to go during the first Gulf War. He trained with and alongside Anchorage Police Department, AST, Rapid City Police Department, and many sheriff departments during his Air Force career. "I learned many things during this time that I have been able to utilize in my civilian career that has made me a better Trooper, sergeant and member of DPS," Shuey said. After his Air Force career ended, he worked for the Campbell County (Wyo.) Sheriff Department from 1995 until 2001 when he left to return to Alaska and become a Trooper. Shuey, who is from the East Coast, said, "My dad was stationed at Elmendorf prior to the '64 quake so I grew up hearing about Alaska my whole life."

SHERRY FERNO

Alaska State Trooper since 2004
Vermont Air National Guard (1990-1999) Security Forces
South Dakota Air National Guard (1999-2004) Security Forces

Alaska Air National Guard (2004-Present)
Ferno decided to go into the Air Force Security Forces area of the Air Forces because she was already working as a civilian police officer. At the time, the career field had only been open to women for three years. While with the Vermont Air Guard, Ferno deployed to England to back fill a position for an active duty troop. Later she went to Combat Arms Training and Maintenance (CATM) school to become a firearms instructor. In 1999 she moved to South Dakota and joined the Air Guard in Sioux Falls. While in the Air Guard there she went to Turkey for a few weeks as well as continuing to be involved with CATM. After 9/11, she was activated for two years. During that time, she deployed to Kuwait for six months where she served at the area supervisor and later took charge of the armory. Afterward, she served six months at Andrews Air Force Base in Maryland. While in Maryland, she was the non-commissioned officer in charge of the main gate and worked with the Secret Service on a few occasions. She was also working the flight line when former President Reagan died and saw the funeral procession. In 2004, she moved to Alaska to take a job with the Alaska State Troopers. Not wanting to leave her military career behind, she enlisted with the Alaska Air Guard. Ferno traveled to Mongolia twice to train with the Mongolian military as well as other nations' militaries. She also deployed overseas for another six month tour to the Middle East. She was promoted to master sergeant (E-7), and took on the responsibility of squad leader as well as CATM. She eventually transferred from Fairbanks to Palmer and a position with the Alaska Bureau of Investigation. Later she applied for and was selected to be the commander of the Security Forces Squadron and eventually assumed her current rank of captain. She continues to juggle both jobs and responsibilities with the support of both organizations.





RYAN LOTT



ROB FRENCH



ROB FRENCH



RYAN LOTT

Alaska State Trooper since 2010
U.S. Marine (2005-2009)

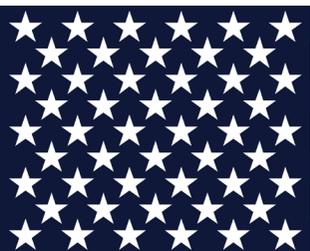
Lott, a Suttons Bay Michigan native, enlisted in the Marine Corps in 2005 “realizing this would be my opportunity to participate in ground war against a hostile country.” He then attended recruit training at USMC recruit depot San Diego. After recruit training he went to Infantry Training Battalion at Camp Pendleton, Calif. as well as Light Armored Vehicle Crewman’s course. Upon completion of job schools, Lott was assigned unit was 3rd Light Armored Recon Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center in Twentynine Palms, Calif. From there, he did two combat deployments to Al Anbar Iraq, first in 2006 and then in 2007-2008. Upon his return, he joined the Mojave Viper desert combat training group as an instructor and controller in urban warfare group-urban assault and building clearing. The Enhanced Mojave Viper exercises were large operations with a great deal of live-fire exercises and other training. Lott got out of the Marines as a corporal because “it was time for me to move on and pursue a LEO career.” He originally planned on applying with the Michigan State Police, however, in 2009 it went through a budget crisis and laid off 100 Troopers. He started looking at different states and its departments and found AST was by far the best option.



ROB FRENCH

Alaska State Trooper since 1996
U.S. Army Reserves (1987-1995)

French was never actually considered on active duty long enough to hit veteran status, but he completed Army ROTC while attending Colorado State at Fort Collins and has just under six months of training in the Military Police Officer Basic Course at Fort McClellan, Ala. After college and being commissioned as an Army officer, he moved to Jacksonville, Fla. where he joined a reserve MP Company. He served about two years in the company and came close to activating when his unit was told it was going to support the first Gulf War by guarding a parking lot full of equipment at Mayport Naval Air Station in Jacksonville. The equipment was staged there before being shipped to the Gulf and his unit was going to be tasked with providing extra security. The mission was cancelled before it began because Desert Shield and Desert Storm lasted only a few months. He went to inactive reserves after he moved to Fairbanks because he was married to a regular army soldier at the time. “I don’t have quite enough points to be considered a veteran, but it was my introduction to law enforcement,” he said. Like others, French credits the Army for teaching him discipline, organization, and responsibility, qualities he carried to his Trooper career. He joked that he “misses the smell of musty green canvas, but the Mat-Su Valley has helped make up for it.”



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE

