

Tuttle graduate begins Army journey as first in family to serve

By Jayson Knight
centraloklahomaweeklies.com

For Raeann Corralez, joining the U.S. Army was about doing something she had always wanted to do, and maybe getting the chance to blow some things up along the way.

Corralez recently completed Basic Training and is continuing her military journey as a 13J Fire Control Specialist, a role within the Army's Field Artillery branch responsible for calculating precise firing solutions that help guide rockets and cannons safely and

Raeann Corralez

accurately to their targets.

"My MOS is 13 Juliet," Corralez said. "Pretty much I will be calculating precise firing solutions that guide rockets and cannons to their target safely and accurately."

While the technical nature of the job appealed to her, Corralez admitted there was also a simpler reason behind her career choice.

"I wanted to blow stuff up," she said.

Asked what drew her toward artillery, Corralez said it was simply something she had always wanted to do.

"I joined because it's just something I always wanted to do," she said. "I thought it would suit me, and I honestly just wanted to blow stuff up."

Corralez said she has completed Basic Training but has not yet completed Advanced Individual Training, or AIT, where soldiers receive instruction specific to their military specialty.

For Corralez, military service also represents something bigger, becoming the first in her family to wear the uniform.

"I wanted to be the first one in my family to join," she said.

Her next assignment will take her to Fort Sill, Oklahoma, where she will continue training in the Army's Field Artillery branch. Fort Sill has served as the Army's home for field artillery training for generations, making it a fitting place for soldiers preparing to enter one of the military's most technically demanding combat specialties.

"My duty station will be Fort Sill, Oklahoma," she said.

Corralez currently holds the rank of private and said she is looking forward to what comes next as she begins her military career.

Although she joked about wanting to "blow stuff up," Corralez's decision to enlist also reflects a desire to challenge herself and blaze a new trail for her family. As the first member of her family to serve, she hopes her Army career is only the beginning of a tradition of military service.



Don Kuntze

1966-1970, Navy



Richard Libby

1974-1998, Air Force



Marie Enderton

1976-1987, Air Force



John Traffanstedt

1966-1970, Air Force



Barry Carrington

1983-2013, Army

Navy Veteran Finds Calling in Law Enforcement After Years of Service

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TPD Sgt. Kortney Terrell joined the U.S. Navy straight out of high school and it quickly became more than an opportunity to travel. It shaped the career path that eventually led him into law enforcement and nearly 13 years with the Tuttle Police Department.

Terrell enlisted in the Navy in 2006 and served eight years as a Master-at-Arms, the Navy's equivalent of military police.

"In the Navy, they call it your rate," Sgt. Terrell said. "Mine was a Master-at-Arms, pretty much just military policeman."

His service took him to Japan numerous times, an assignment he remembers fondly.

"Oh yeah, I loved it," Sgt. Terrell said. "It's just kind of a different culture, kind of a different style of seeing the world."

Although many people associate the Navy with ships, Sgt. Terrell said he spent his career on military installations providing security and law enforcement. One of his favorite memories was helping during an annual cherry blossom festival that welcomed thousands of local residents onto the base.

"They'd have kind of a little arts festival, a band, and just getting to know the culture around there and seeing the different aircraft and just the whole environment and culture was fun on its own," he said.

After leaving the Navy, Sgt. Terrell worked security jobs at hospitals, libraries and community centers before spending about four years at the Cleveland County Jail. He later joined the Tuttle Police Department, where he has now served for nearly 13 years.

"That pretty much branched off my whole career and lifestyle," Sgt. Terrell said.

Looking back, Sgt. Terrell said he has no regrets about serving.

"I loved my time in there," he said. "I wouldn't take it back for anything."

For young people considering military service, he encourages them to look beyond the challenges of basic training and consider the opportunities ahead.

"If you want to get out of your hometown," Sgt. Terrell said, "if you want to go travel, if you want to go see some things that your parents or relatives have never seen before, then definitely that's the best way."



Kortney Terrell



Jim King

1965-1972, Army



Jim Newman

1974-1995, Air Force



Ryan Buckles

Army



Larry Dellinger

1966-1969, U.S. Army MP